

Release for Information
Community Collaboration Services for Addressing Sexually Exploitation Service Needs
Question and Answer Session
Friday, July 15, 2016

Attendance: Kyli Larson (Uffizi Order), Rich Sanders (Uffizi Order), Alison Wales (North County Rape Crisis), Anne McCarty (North County Rape Crisis), Stacy McCrory (Behavioral Wellness), Lisa Conn (Behavioral Wellness), Yaneris Muniz (Behavioral Wellness), Annie Chen (Behavioral Wellness)

Q: What does it mean to be an MHSA Innovation (INN) program?

A: In a nutshell, INN must be something new. It duplicate something we are already doing. It has to serve an underserved or unserved population. The program's outcomes must be measureable, as the state will be seeing which parts of the program works and which do not. It can eventually evolve into a recognized program, and serve as a model for other programs to replicate. We currently do not have any programs in the Department or in the County specifically to address the needs of commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) youth. Everything we do has to be new to the Santa Barbara County behavioral health system and innovative.

What makes RISE new is not necessarily that we create all programmatic elements from scratch. We are able to borrow, piece-meal and combine components of various different programs into the RISE program. The borrowed program therein becomes a sub-component of the overall RISE program. This specific combination of elements of different programs and services, which has not existed before, is what makes the RISE program new. The goal is to create a program centralizing all services beneficial to CSEC girls. Right now, services are being spread among the different County government agencies and programs, local nonprofits, and community-based organizations. We hope to use new ways to do outreach, and start outreach with the schools. Also to clarify, RISE is responsible for ensuring that the program elements are new; the programs we borrow from, or use, are not responsible for ensuring the innovativeness of the program.

Q: Does RISE already have committed partners for the service center space or transitional placement options in Lompoc?

A: No. The most we have are the Behavioral Wellness Lompoc clinics, which provide office space. However, it is not what we would like for our girls. We have no space for respite care and transition placement. We don't want to hand out vouchers to motels, which is where many girls are being sex trafficked. That's why we want to find safe, therapeutic places with supportive services. We welcome new and innovative ideas, such as building tiny homes on properties.

Q: How do you want the response to be formatted? Bulleted, narrative?

A: Both narrative and bulleted. Add many concrete details. Draw a clear connection between what RISE is asking for and what the respondent can provide. If possible, provide timelines and measureable outcome goals.

Q: After the RFI response is written, what happens afterwards?

A: After we receive the RFI on July 29, we will convene a panel to review the response. The review panel will determine which respondents responses best addressed our needs, and

recommend next step actions. One of those next steps recommended may be to establish a contract with the respondent or multiple respondents. The review panel will then submit recommendations to executives for approval.

Q: We would like to work with the faith community, how amenable is the County to collaborating with the faith community?

A: We are amenable. However, we want to make sure that services are not exclusive to people of faith, and that the faith community partners will not preach to our clients. Also, we don't want to be exclusive of people who aren't of faith, but want to be a part of the effort. Keep in mind that we also partner with many Catholic charities, which are under less scrutiny and are more accepted partnerships.

Q: We want to create a faith community collaborative who will help raise awareness of CSEC in all over the county.

A: We are in agreement with that. The Department of Behavioral Wellness is a County agency. The County is comprised of residents of 8 cities – Buellton, Carpinteria, Goleta, Guadalupe, Lompoc, Santa Barbara, Santa Maria and Solvang. RISE is a countywide program, meaning we will serve residents of all who reside in the County.

Q: Do we have concrete numbers on how many clients need to be served?

A: In the 2013 human sex trafficking report in Santa Barbara County, we found at least 22 of 44 CSEC youth. All Lompoc cases were confirmed CSEC. There is a high rate of gang activity in Lompoc, which is causing much of the trauma CSEC girls face.

Q: Can we call you for any additional questions beyond this time?

A: Not likely, as we would like to post the questions by Friday 7/22. All questions and responses will be posted for the public to view. We would like to only post one posting. We apologize for the inconvenience this may cause.