COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
PROBATION DEPARTMENT

9150 EAST IMPERIAL HIGHWAY – DOWNEY, CALIFORNIA 90242
(562) 940-2513

GUILLERMO VIERA ROSA
Chief Probation Officer

October 7, 2025

TO: Supervisor Kathryn Barger, Chair
Supervisor Hilda L. Solis
Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell
Supervisor Lindsey P. Horvath
Supervisor Janice Hahn

FROM: Guillermo Viera Rosa
Chief Probation Officer

SUBJECT: **LOS ANGELES COUNTY CHILD TRAFFICKING LEADERSHIP TEAM (CTLT) REPORT (ITEM NO. 45, AGENDA OF APRIL 1, 2025)**

The last report to the Board from the CTLT was presented on April 1, 2025, which addressed an overview of the CTLT, Guiding Principles and Approach, Strategic Plan Integration, as well as the Subcommittees and Year One Priorities. This current report will provide updates on the following:

1. Integrated Strategic Plan
2. Subcommittee Year 1 Priority Updates
3. Child Trafficking Data
4. Report back on moving forward with recommendations to Reimagine Los Angeles County's approach to Human Trafficking (Item No. 6, agenda of February 4, 2025), specifically the feasibility of creating a countywide Human Trafficking prevention coordinating body recommendation and next steps.

1. INTEGRATED STRATEGIC PLAN

In the October 6, 2024 report to the Board on the Strategic Plan, two separate plans were presented—one addressing commercial sexual exploitation and the other focusing on labor trafficking, including forced criminality. In response, the Board requested, and the Child Trafficking Leadership Team (CTLT) committed to, integrating both plans to create a more comprehensive approach to human trafficking in Los Angeles County. The integrated strategic plan was completed on May 23, 2025,

and on July 17, 2025, it was further organized by subcommittee responsibility. Over the next few months, the subcommittees will develop clear timelines and prioritize action items within their respective areas, creating an accountability guide to direct implementation over the next four years.

As noted in the last Board report, integration of sex trafficking and labor trafficking efforts will be more straightforward in some areas were already underway, including expanding training, conducting resource mapping, and broadening community-based outreach and partnerships. In other areas, additional learning and collaboration with various community and county stakeholders is needed. These areas may also require the development of new protocols to ensure an effective and supportive response to victims of labor trafficking and labor trafficking by forced criminality.

2. SUBCOMMITTEE YEAR ONE PRIORITY UPDATES

The three CTLT subcommittees have been established and continue to meet regularly to address the key priorities outlined in the Strategic Plan. Each subcommittee engages community members and individuals with lived experience to ensure diverse perspectives are reflected in the prioritization, decision-making, implementation, and evaluation of deliverables. All identified priorities are being carefully reviewed with a focus on building clear, community-based pathways to services that connect youth and families to support without unnecessary system involvement. This approach aims to reduce the risk of further harm and ensure access to services in a safe, welcoming environment—free from fears of collateral consequences (e.g., immigration-related family separation, deportation) that might deter individuals from seeking help.

Below is an overview of the three subcommittees and their Year One priorities that have been preliminarily defined.

Education and Awareness Subcommittee – Lead by the Department of Public Health and Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE)

The Education and Awareness sub-committee year 1 priorities and updates are:

1) Identify, adapt, and/or develop inclusive human trafficking prevention curriculum/a to deliver in select schools, including training components appropriate for students, teachers and staff, and parents and caregivers.
2) Develop, adapt, or improve guidance to school districts for creating and implementing school safety protocols, which explain how to respond to human trafficking and comply with reporting laws.
3) Update Los Angeles County Human Trafficking Website with new content on trafficking of children and youth, reflecting key themes of new 5-year child trafficking strategic plan.

Priority 1/2:

The Education and Awareness Committee has focused our collective efforts on reviewing existing human trafficking prevention curricula, inviting committee members and guest speakers to share educational programming and digital resources. After several months of presentations and discussions, we have identified two existing curricula, offered by two non-profit organizations, which meet or mostly meet the criteria we established. These criteria include but are not limited to 1) coverage of all forms of child trafficking, 2) attention to diverse populations of children and youth, 3) framing that empowers children, promotes strength-based approaches, and protects their rights, 4) training program design and budget align with County needs and means.

We are exploring next steps to formalize and implement the training plan. One goal is to plan a 3-day train-the-trainer event in which we would certify a cohort of approximately 20 people to master a high-quality human trafficking training curricula they would present to schools and families, allowing us to cover middle school and high school students, their teachers and staff, and their parents and caregivers. Participants in the train-the-trainer may include County staff from DCFS, DPH, DMH, LACOE, and other departments; staff from community partner organizations; survivors and families; and advocates, We are also exploring another curriculum that would bring dynamic survivor trainers to schools, to engage youth in dialogue after they watch training videos, and also provide bilingual trainings for parents and caregivers.

Understanding that contracting and curriculum adoption and implementation are a lengthy process, the Education and Awareness Committee is finalizing a reference guide and list of online resources and tools. LACOE will circulate these resources to districts throughout Los Angeles County, including juvenile court schools, during the first few weeks of the 2025-2026 school year. Schools can immediately use these resources to increase awareness and understanding of trafficking, improve recognition of trafficking, and clarify their reporting and response roles. LACOE will also share with schools existing, county-wide child trafficking trainings by DCFS and Cast, so that educators may attend along with County staff and community partners. Information about training will also be housed on the updated county web page. (see next Priority).

In addition, Cast, under its training contract with DCFS, is developing a 15 minute-maximum length educational video for junior and senior high school students that will serve to educate and empower them on the issue.

Priority 3:

The website workgroup under the Education and Awareness subcommittee has developed new materials to live on the County's Human Trafficking Website, including the reference guide referred to above, a myths vs facts sheet on child and youth

trafficking, new flyers, and other resources. These materials are being reviewed and finalized to be shared with the full Education and Awareness subcommittee, and then with the Child Trafficking Leadership Team coordinator and committee for review and discussion. A presentation to the CTLT will be held in September.

The Education and Awareness Committee continues working closely with the other committees for alignment and advancement of the county-wide plan.

Community Resources and Services (CR&S) Subcommittee – Lead by the CTLT Coordinator, the National Center for Youth Law (NCYL), and Department of Mental Health

The CR&S sub-committee year 1 priorities and updates are:

Community resource mapping – The subcommittee is continuing community resource mapping to identify trusted and vetted service providers in the community in all areas of identified need for youth and families, and to build relationships among those providers. In June, the committee co-chairs held an introductory meeting for new providers who had not been involved previously in the subcommittee. In addition, co-chairs sent out a survey to subcommittee participants to gather additional information about services offered, eligibility, location, and other key information. In the coming months, the subcommittee will be identifying champions within each SPA to support more localized mapping of available resources.

Learning opportunities – Over the past six months, the subcommittee hosted a series of learning sessions to address identified gaps in knowledge among community members and service providers, with the goal of building community capacity to respond to trafficking without system involvement. Sessions featured presentations from agencies including Thai CDC, Casa De La Familia, Survivor Justice Center, 1736 Family Crisis Center, and the Department of Labor, along with ongoing engagement in the County's Mandated Supporting Initiative and the Community Pathways Collaborative. In alignment with the Board's request to engage and leverage existing county resources, the subcommittee will continue to meet with community members and service providers to identify emerging training needs, schedule targeted learning sessions, and expand partnerships with additional agencies.

Peer navigator summit – On October 30, 2025, the subcommittee will host a peer navigator summit aimed at building ethical and sustainable youth leadership in anti-trafficking work. Young people with lived experience of trafficking, system involvement, homelessness, and other adversities bring critical insight and motivation to improve both direct services and system reforms. However, without clear ethical guidelines, strong support structures, and safeguards, youth leadership opportunities can unintentionally result in exploitation or re-traumatization. This one-day convening will establish safety protocols, ethical frameworks, and capacity-building strategies to

ensure youth leaders are supported, empowered, and meaningfully engaged. The summit will also focus on developing leadership skills, fostering peer support networks, and promoting a culture of empowerment grounded in trauma-informed practices. The information gathered will inform future practices of County agencies and community-based partners with respect to ethical and sustainable youth leadership.

Additionally, under the umbrella of the Community Resources and Services subcommittee other workgroups have been established to carry out specific action items within the Strategic Plan.

Youth Commission Initiatives– Lead by the Los Angeles County Youth Commission (LACYC)

In continued support of the child trafficking five-year strategic plan implementation, the Los Angeles County Youth Commission (LACYC) incorporated awareness videos in their hosted youth/community engagements events. The LACYC hosted district listening sessions in Whittier (district four), Compton (district two), and Valley Glen (district three) and child trafficking awareness videos were shared during those events. In addition, as a standing agenda item, child trafficking awareness videos were presented during the LACYC's monthly regular meetings.

The LACYC continues their partnership by serving as the lead of the Youth Empowerment Committee (YEC) to ensure youth voice is uplifted, supported, and empowered. The YEC is a youth-led body that intends to develop engagement strategies to support the implementation of the five-year strategic plan and create safe spaces for youth to connect, grow, and learn.

To date, the LACYC year one priorities have included hosting the inaugural 1st Annual CSEC Empowerment event led by Commissioner Brittianna Robinson, displaying child trafficking awareness videos during the LACYC's regular meetings and community events (district listening sessions), and leading the Youth Empowerment Committee (YEC).

Parent Empowerment Program (PEP) Workgroup – Lead by the Department of Mental Health

In Year One, the Parent Empowerment Program (PEP) work group prioritized the review and enhancement of the existing curriculum with a focus on integrating a stronger prevention lens. This included engagement with past facilitators and curriculum developers to assess structure and content, resulting in the recommendation to develop two curriculum tracks: one for prevention and another for parents of youth who have experienced trafficking. Eight parents were recruited to

actively participate in the curriculum review, receiving the full 10-week program and tools for feedback. A follow-up meeting confirmed their commitment to review the materials and provide detailed input throughout July and August.

Next steps include gathering and analyzing parent feedback, reviewing historical PEP exit surveys, and conducting focus groups and surveys with community partners to better understand parent priorities. A comprehensive curriculum revision process will begin in fall 2025, with content updates informed by parent input, service provider feedback, and identified best practices. The revised curriculum will be available in both English and Spanish and aligned with current community needs. A pilot of the updated curriculum is planned for Year Two, targeting both system-involved and non-system-involved youth and families through strengthened community partnerships.

Safe Youth Zone (SYZ) Workgroup - Lead by the Department of Health Services

The Safe Youth Zone (SYZ) Workgroup's Year One priorities include updating the SYZ Poster and Quick Reference Guide, developing a toolkit for non-county organizations, expanding county partnerships to include Parks and Recreation, producing a training video for community partners, and conducting focus groups with system-involved youth, trafficking survivors, the Los Angeles County Youth Commission (LACYC), and the Department of Youth Development (DYD) to create an effective youth-focused messaging strategy. Additional workgroup priorities include: (1) Safe Youth Zone updates through targeted outreach to faith-based organizations, community-based organizations, the City of Long Beach, and LA County Parks and Recreation; and (2) updates to SYZ materials, including posters, placards, quick reference guides, and protocols.

The County of Los Angeles Library has fully implemented SYZ at all 85 library facilities, with signage posted, staff trained, and finalized protocols in place, along with a public FAQ. SYZ was also implemented at the Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services Ron Arias Health Equity Center and the Office of Youth Development, with signage, staff training, and protocols completed. Additional outreach highlights include presentations to multiple faith-based organizations through the LAC Faith-Based Collaborative and at the Faith-Based Vendor Fair in Long Beach (March 2025), as well as presentations to LAC Parks and Recreation, which, upon approval, is scheduled to implement SYZ in fall 2025. Staff also met with the DPH Youth Advisory Council to explore partnerships in developing youth-focused messaging strategies.

Safe Healing Centers – Lead by the Department of Youth Development (DYD)

In alignment with the strategic plan action item, *Collaborate with DYD in development of Safe and Secure Healing Centers as alternatives to detention to ensure they are equipped to identify and serve youth impacted by child trafficking*, in July DYD launched its first Safe Healing Center partnership with Zoe International, an

organization that serves young girls and gender expansive (GGE) youth who have experienced commercial sexual exploitation (CSEC). Safe Healing Centers (SHCs) are small, community-based therapeutic homes offering a crucial alternative to traditional juvenile halls or camps for court-ordered youth. They embody DYD's commitment to creating healing alternatives to incarceration and are a core component of the Youth Justice Reimagined initiative. DYD has expanded Zoe's program and staffing model to be able to house more justice-involved girls and gender-expansive youth.

DYD has also partnered with Beloved Village, Boys Republic, and A New Way of Life to launch SHCs for young women, all of which are at various stages of property renovation and acquisition and are scheduled to launch within the next year.

Systems and Protocol Subcommittee – Lead by the Department of Children & Family Services (DCFS) and the Probation Department

The Systems & Protocols sub-committee year 1 priorities and updates are:

Policy and Protocol Development:

DCFS is updating the language in relevant internal policies to be inclusive of all forms of child trafficking: child sex trafficking, child labor trafficking and labor trafficking by forced criminality. Policies that are taking priority for review and updating include the DCFS Assessment of Exploitation policy, Child Protection Hotline policy, and the Multi-Agency Response Team policy. In addition, the Child Trafficking Desk Guide for DCFS Social Workers is currently being updated to include guidance on the assessment of child trafficking and best practices when working with children, youth, and families impacted by all forms of trafficking. The goal by the end of the year is for 100% of all DCFS policies that address trafficking and identified in the first-year implementation plan will comprehensively address all forms of trafficking.

Progress on Policy Development

The Committee first tackled reviewing and updating DCFS' Assessment of Exploitation policy, which was finalized and submitted to the DCFS Policy Section on July 22, 2025. The policy originally focused on the assessment of the commercial sexual exploitation of children and youth, but the policy has now been updated to provide comprehensive guidance on how to identify, assess, report, and document children who are victims of labor trafficking and labor trafficking by forced criminality. DCFS and Probation collaborated with the Systems and Protocols Committee members to update the policy and incorporate feedback from the committee as appropriate. The final draft of the updated policy has been enhanced to fully integrate the assessment of labor trafficking and labor trafficking by forced criminality to equip DCFS social workers with the information needed to do a more comprehensive, accurate assessment of children and youth who are at-risk or victims of child trafficking. Updated child trafficking potential indicators, enhanced description of

interviewing techniques and questions, and investigative elements to address were enhanced. Further, the policy now provides direction to document incidents of child labor trafficking and labor trafficking by forced criminality on the child welfare services case documentation system, as CDSS created new Statewide Special Project Codes (SPCs) which can be utilized to document the labor trafficking of children. The updated policy states that child labor trafficking may involve serious physical harm or a substantial risk of serious physical harm to a child resulting from the failure or inability of the parent or guardian to adequately supervise or protect the child, which may be grounds for the child to be removed from the home and/or come under the jurisdiction of the juvenile court (Welfare and Institutions Code section 300(b)(1) California Code, WIC 300. This may include children who are labor trafficked by a parent or guardian. The policy has also been updated to reflect that while there does not need to be a finding of negligence/failure to protect by the parent when filing a petition in dependency court alleging commercial sexual exploitation of a child, parental negligence/failure to protect and/or parental absence/abandonment does need to be present in order to file a petition for children who are being labor trafficked. The DCFS Policy Section is expected to have the Assessment of Exploitation policy reviewed and approved by November, 2025.

The second policy under review is the Child Protection Hotline policy for any updates that may be needed to ensure that it is in alignment with the Assessment of Exploitation policy. Training for the Child Protection Hotline is set to launch by September, 2025, to ensure that hotline staff understand how to screen for both sex and labor trafficking, as well as document incidents of sex and labor trafficking and labor trafficking by forced criminality. It is expected that a final updated Child Protection Hotline policy will be completed by November, 2025, and submitted to the DCFS Policy Section for final review and approval

The third policy that will undergo review starting in September is the Multi-Agency Response Team policy. The goal is to submit a final updated policy by December, 2025. An updated Child Trafficking Desk Guide for Social Workers is currently undergoing a revision to fully integrate labor trafficking and will be reviewed and discussed during the Child Trafficking Steering Committee meeting on August 27, 2025, and the Systems and Protocols committee meeting on September 9, 2025. This updated desk guide is expected to be completed by September, 2025. The Desk Guide pulls information and guidance from the Assessment of Exploitation policy, but takes a deeper dive into the dynamics of child trafficking, best practice approach guidance, serving underserved populations, addressing traumatic impacts, supporting caregivers, and providing resources that are available through County and community-based resources.

Integrated Training/Curriculum Development:

Comprehensive, integrated training on child trafficking using a public health approach was developed by Cast in collaboration with the Committee and was launched on

March 6, 2025. The training is provided for free for County staff and a wide array of community partners. The training, entitled the "Human Trafficking of Minors and Youth 101" provides Continuing Education Units for free and is offered on a monthly basis. The updated training addressees the specialized needs of under-served populations, including LGBTQ+ youth, foreign-born, immigrant and Native American youth through a culturally responsive and linguistically relevant lens.

In addition, the launching of Human Trafficking of Children and Youth 101 for Resource Parents begins on September 3, 2025. Further, an integrated Human Trafficking of Minors and Youth 102 (advanced training) is launching on October 1, 2025.

Education and Awareness training for DCFS/Probation Youth:

DCFS currently has a Human Trafficking Training contract with Cast that will be extended for a fifth and final contract year covering May 1, 2025, through April 30, 2026. A new request for proposal for Child Trafficking Training Services was released on June 10, 2025 to establish a new installment of a training contract so LA County can continue to provide free trainings to a wide array of system, County and community partners, as well as children, youth, and families. A mandatory proposer's conference was held on July 15, 2025, and proposals were due on August 5, 2025. The Training Contract will be utilized to support the delivery of child trafficking education and awareness curriculum to both system involved and non-system involved youth, parents and multi-sector partners. DCFS and Probation will provide prevention education and awareness in an effort to divert youth from becoming victims of trafficking and exploitation.

DCFS and Probation, in collaboration with Cast and the Power Project, and with the feedback from the Systems and Protocols Committee, developed a new education and awareness training for teens and parents, which was finalized on August 6, 2025, and scheduled to launch on August 13th, 2025. The newly integrated curriculum, entitled "Straight Up 101: Empowering Youth and Parents Against Human Trafficking" shares the myths and realities of both sex and labor trafficking, potential signs of child trafficking, risk factors, online recruitment, vulnerabilities that traffickers take advantage of, prevention strategies, and resources that are available. The curriculum is appropriate for all genders between the ages of 12 and 24 years old. The curriculum will initially be provided via a webinar to increase accessibility. The invitation was shared with DCFS and Probation staff to share with teens and parents, resource parents, transitional housing programs, and community-based organizations. The plan is to also test the new curriculum in-person with youth living in congregate care.

Youth Empowerment, Peer Mentors, and Youth Leadership:

On Friday, July 25th, 2025, DCFS and the Youth Commission, in partnership with Advocacy Services for Commercially Exploited Youth contracted providers, Vista Del Mar, Optimist, and DMH launched the Youth Empowerment Committee 2.0, with Commissioner Brittianna Robinson and Youth Leader, Talya Thompson, leading the meeting. The committee exists to empower, uplift, educate, and support youth. Through structured programming, leadership development, and community bonding, the committee aims to foster healing, growth and resilience, while building future leadership. The committee will meet monthly to learn about and acquire leadership skills to develop our future youth leaders and advocates. The committee members will be applying their leadership skills during an upcoming Disneyland outing this September by assisting with the implementation of this special event for DCFS and Probation youth.

3. CHILD TRAFFICKING DATA

Law Enforcement First Responder Protocol (FRP) Overview, Expansion and Data

FRP Overview - The Los Angeles County Law Enforcement First Responder Protocol for Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (FRP), launched in 2014, ensures that when youth are identified as experiencing or at risk of commercial sexual exploitation, law enforcement, county agencies, and community-based advocates deliver a rapid, coordinated, service-based response. The Protocol emphasizes intensive engagement during the critical first 72 hours, including an expedited 90-minute response by law enforcement using victim-centered, trauma-informed approaches, urgent medical assessments, and immediate basic needs support. A multidisciplinary team meets with the youth to establish a safety plan, with follow-up check-ins over the first three days. Advocates remain connected to the youth for a minimum of 90 days, providing ongoing case management, crisis intervention, and guidance through county systems.

Law Enforcement Expansion - In 2014, the Protocol was implemented in a pilot area consisting of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD) Compton and Century Stations, and the Long Beach Police Department. In late 2015, implementation expanded to the Los Angeles Police Department's (LAPD) 77th and Southeast Divisions, and by the end of 2016, it had rolled out to all LASD stations. As of August 15, 2025, the Protocol has further expanded to include the Pomona, Inglewood, Hawthorne, Gardena, El Segundo, Bell Gardens, Pasadena, and South Gate Police Departments. The team continues to actively engage with additional law enforcement agencies with the goal of ongoing expansion.

Data - From August 14, 2014, through August 13, 2025, the First Responder Protocol (FRP) recorded 1,557 recoveries of missing and exploited youth, drawn from the Child Welfare System/Case Management System, the Probation Case Management

System, and intake forms completed by community-based advocates. Of these recoveries, 84% were unique youth, meaning they were recovered only once, while 13% were recovered between two and four times, and 3% were recovered between five and fourteen times. Annual totals by FRP year were: 2014–15: **39**; 2015–16: **145**; 2016–17: **192**; 2017–18: **225**; 2018–19: **205**; 2019–20: **180**; 2020–21: **185**; 2021–22: **136**; 2022–23: **50**; 2023–24: **105**; and 2024–25: **95**.

Ages ranged from 9 to 18, with 33% age 15 or younger and 67% being 16–17-year-olds. Cisgender girls represented 99% of recoveries, and girls of color comprised 85%, underscoring the ongoing need to improve identification of boys and LGBTQ+ youth. Most youth (70%) were living at home with a parent, relative, or guardian at the time of recovery, while 30% were missing from foster care.

Jurisdictional data shows 28% of recovered youth had an open DCFS case or referral, 13% were dual-status youth, and 14% had prior DCFS involvement without an open case. Another 5% were new to DCFS, 5% were probation-only youth, 24% were from out of county, and 11% were from out of state—a combined 35% consistently coming from outside the county or state. Medical clearance at the time of recovery occurred in 40% of cases, with the remainder either not receiving one due to returning home, refusal, going missing again, or lack of documentation. This highlights the ongoing need for consistent medical follow-up and clear messaging to youth about its importance.

Law enforcement recovery data shows that LAPD accounted for the majority of recoveries at 65%, followed by LASD (22%), Long Beach PD (8%), Pomona PD (4%), and other participating agencies combined (1%). The vast majority of recoveries (77%) occurred after hours—Monday through Friday evenings/nights and on weekends—reinforcing the need for 24-hour advocacy and system response.

Regarding recovery locations, 75% of youth were recovered from the street, 12% from hotels, 7% from situations where the youth or family called law enforcement for help, and 6% from other scenarios such as community member calls, hospitals, schools, or traffic stops. Of those recovered from the street, nearly half (48%) were identified on the Figueroa Corridor, a well-known trafficking area. These findings emphasize both the geographic concentration of exploitation and the importance of sustained, coordinated responses between law enforcement, community-based advocates, and service systems.

This 11-year dataset underscores both the persistence and complexity of commercial sexual exploitation in Los Angeles County. While coordinated efforts have led to significant recoveries, the high proportion of repeat recoveries, concentration of cases in specific geographic areas, and overrepresentation of girls of color point to the urgent need for sustained, 24-hour, community-driven interventions. The data is a call to

action for continued collaboration, targeted prevention, and comprehensive services that address both immediate safety and long-term stability for every youth.

Child Protection Hotline Data

The DCFS Child Protection Hotline has collected data on commercial sexual exploitation since 2013. Attached is a snapshot of the data from 2013–2024, including Referrals and New Case Openings; Referrals by Sex Assigned at Birth; Referrals by Ethnicity; Referrals by Age; Referrals by Reporting Party; and Service Planning Area from which referrals were received. Refer to **Attachment A** for detailed numbers and trend analysis.

4. REPORT BACK ON MOVING FORWARD WITH RECOMMENDATIONS TO REIMAGINE LOS ANGELES COUNTY'S APPROACH TO HUMAN TRAFFICKING (ITEM NO. 6, AGENDA OF FEBRUARY 4, 2025), SPECIFICALLY THE FEASIBILITY OF CREATING A COUNTYWIDE HUMAN TRAFFICKING PREVENTION COORDINATING BODY AND RECOMMENDATION AND NEXT STEPS

On February 4, 2025, the Board of Supervisors adopted a motion directing the Chief Executive Office (CEO), in collaboration with various County departments and the Los Angeles County Regional Human Trafficking Task Force (LARHTTF), to conduct a feasibility study on establishing a Countywide Human Trafficking (HT) prevention coordinating body within the Department of Public Health (DPH). The intent was to shift toward a preventative public health model, strengthen collaboration with the County's existing HT task forces and community-based organizations (CBOs), and enhance support for HT victims.

On August 15, 2025, the CEO's reported back to the Board included a recommendation that, over the next 90 days, the child trafficking consultant from the Child Trafficking Leadership Team (CTLT) and a local CBO co-convene a focused workgroup to develop a proposed structure and action plan for improving coordination among existing task forces. This approach was recommended due to current fiscal constraints and DPH's inability to assume the lead role in establishing a Countywide coordinating body at this time.

Based on the CEO's recommendation, a workgroup will be established with representatives from County Counsel, the District Attorney's Office, the Department of Consumer and Business Affairs (DCBA), Public Health, human trafficking organizations supporting adults impacted by sex and labor trafficking, individuals with lived experience, and other appropriate stakeholders. The workgroup will focus on non-carceral approaches, with additional advisors providing input on strategies that advance the County's commitment to a comprehensive, public health–centered approach to adult trafficking.

Within 90 days, the workgroup will complete the deliverables outlined below and provide the Board recommendations and next steps:

- Propose a feasible structure for strengthening coordination across the existing HT taskforces and bodies focused on HT efforts;
- Identify needs and deliverables to support adults impacted by both sex and labor trafficking using a public health approach;
- Ensure diverse perspectives on response to adults experiencing HT and labor exploitation are integrated into the proposed structure; and
- Explore external funding opportunities at the federal, State, and local levels, as well as work with the Center for Strategic Partnerships to identify potential philanthropic support for this work.

The Los Angeles County Child Trafficking Leadership Team will provide the following updates in the next report scheduled for April 2026:

- Strategic Plan Subcommittee Year 1 updates and Year 2 priorities
- Update on workgroup regarding labor trafficking and labor trafficking by forced criminality

Should your Board have any questions or require additional information, please contact CTLT Coordinator Michelle Guymon at (323) 797-1598.

Attachment

GVR:JR:MG

c: Fesia Davenport, Chief Executive Officer
Edward Yen, Executive Office, Board of Supervisors
Dawyn R. Harrison, County Counsel
Lisa H. Wong, PSY.D., Director, Mental Health
Christina R. Ghaly, Director, Department of Health Services
David J. Carroll, Director, Youth Development
Brandon Nichols, Director, Department of Children and Family Services
Barbara Ferrer, Director, Department of Public Health
Tiara Summers, Executive Director, LA County Youth Commission
Family & Social Services/Child Welfare Deputies

CSEC Referral Data

CSEC Referrals and New Case Openings and New Entries into Foster Care as a result of those CSEC referrals called into the Child Protection Hotline (CPH):

LA County has been experiencing a downward trend in the number of CSEC referrals received through the CPH since FY 21-22. However, the number of case openings for FY 24-25 is a little higher than the previous two fiscal years and the number of new placements resulting from all CSEC referrals remains about the same as the previous two fiscal years. Overall, DCFS has seen a reduction in the number of referrals, and this includes a reduction in the number of CSEC referrals.

The decrease in CSEC referrals may be due to a combination of factors: The dismantling of LAPD's child trafficking unit in 2020, reduction of law enforcement resources, the impact of SB 357 that became effective on Jan 1, 2023; changes in how the Child Protection Hotline screens referrals, stronger community-based responses to child exploitation that do not require child welfare intervention, and perhaps other factors that have not yet been realized and require further discussion with stakeholders.

Fiscal Year	Referrals	Case Openings	% Case Openings	Placements	%Placements
FY 2013-2014	239	14	5.9%	16	6.70%
FY 2014-2015	529	54	10.2%	29	5.5.%
FY 2015-2016	654	60	9.2%	35	5.40%
FY 2016-2017	796	69	8.7%	69	8.70%
FY 2017-2018	777	73	9.4%	33	4.2%
FY 2018-2019	665	92	13.8%	32	4.8%
FY 2019-2020	930	89	9.5%	40	4.3%
FY 2020-2021	979	217	22%	37	3.8%
FY 2021-2022	737	57	8%	21	3%
FY 2022-2023	549	34	6.2%	17	3.1%
FY 2023-2024	572	46	8%	17	3%
FY 2024-2025	480	53	11%	15	3%

Data Source: CSW/CMS Datamart,
This data includes EO and In-person Referrals.

CSEC Referrals by Sex Assigned at Birth and Fiscal Year:

Los Angeles County continues to see great disparity in reported victims of sex trafficking, with a much greater percentage of females being reported as victims of commercial sexual exploitation compared to males. This can be attributed to several factors, including: 1) Gender Roles and Social Norms: Societal attitudes often view women and girls as more vulnerable and objectified, making them more likely to be targeted for sex trafficking; 2) Demand for Commercial Sex: There is a significant demand for female victims in the commercial sex industry. This demand drives traffickers to exploit women and girls more frequently than men; 4) Underreporting of Male Victims: Male victims of sex trafficking may be less likely to come forward due to stigma, societal expectations of masculinity, and a lack of awareness about male victimization. This can lead to an underrepresentation of males in trafficking statistics; 5) Types of Trafficking: Many trafficking cases involve forced prostitution, which predominantly affects women and girls. Conversely, males may be more frequently involved in labor trafficking or other forms of exploitation that are less visible or less reported; 6) There may be a lack of legal protections and support systems for male victims, which can further discourage them from seeking help or being identified as victims. 7) Media and Awareness: The narratives surrounding trafficking often focus on women and girls, which can create a perception that trafficking predominantly affects females. This can lead to a skewed understanding of the issue, overshadowing male victimization.

Addressing these disparities requires a comprehensive understanding of the dynamics of trafficking, increased awareness and education about male victims, and the implementation of supportive measures for all victims, regardless of gender. L.A. County continues to regularly provide training on the exploitation of males and LGBTQ population, and will be providing prevention and awareness education to all genders and market services and supports so that it more engaging to male identifying youth.

FY	Female	Male
FY 18-19	93% (618)	7% (47)
FY 19-20	91.4% (850)	8.5% (79)
FY 20-21	92% (904)	8% (75)
FY 21-22	91.5% (674)	8.4% (62)
FY 22-23	89.4% (491)	10.6% (58)
FY 23-24	90.6% (518)	9.4% (54)
FY 24-25	92.08% (442)	7.7% (37)

Data Source: CSW/CMS Datamart

Referrals by Ethnicity and Fiscal Year:

85% of children and youth referred to the Child Protection Hotline are Black and Hispanic children. The higher rates of sex trafficking among Black and Hispanic girls can be attributed to a complex interplay of social, economic, and systemic oppression factors, including socioeconomic disparities, racial and ethnic discrimination and marginalization (which increases vulnerability). Traffickers often target vulnerable populations, including girls from marginalized communities. Cultural and racial stereotypes exist and contributes to the perceptions that Black and Hispanic girls are more “grown” or “promiscuous” and therefore may be perceived by that they are in need of less protection.

Understanding and addressing the prevalence of sex trafficking among Black and Hispanic girls requires a multifaceted approach that includes addressing systemic inequalities, providing education and resources, and fostering community support networks.

An increasing number of Hispanic youth are being referred for exploitation. During Fiscal Year 18-19, 41% of CSEC referrals were for Hispanic children. This number has steadily increased during the past 5 fiscal years, reaching a high of 50.6% in FY 22-23. This increase could possibly be attributed to the rise in immigration, unaccompanied minors crossing the borders, and the increase in child labor violations seen across the U.S. due to the Covid-19 pandemic that created labor shortages. In many instances, there is intersectionality between children who are both sex and labor trafficked.

There has been a *12.5% change decrease* in the percentage of Black children referred to the CPHL from FY 18-19 to FY 24-25, going from 44% in FY 18-19 to 38.5% in FY 24-25. However, there remains disparity and disproportionality among Black children in CSEC referrals, as they represent 10% of the LA County population, yet make up 38.5% of all CSEC referrals in FY 24-25.

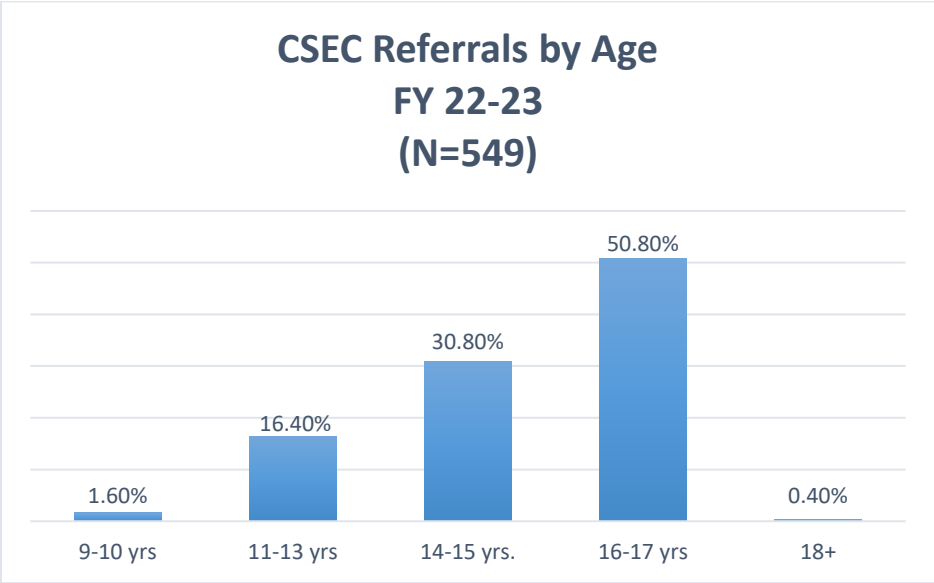
See breakdown on the next page

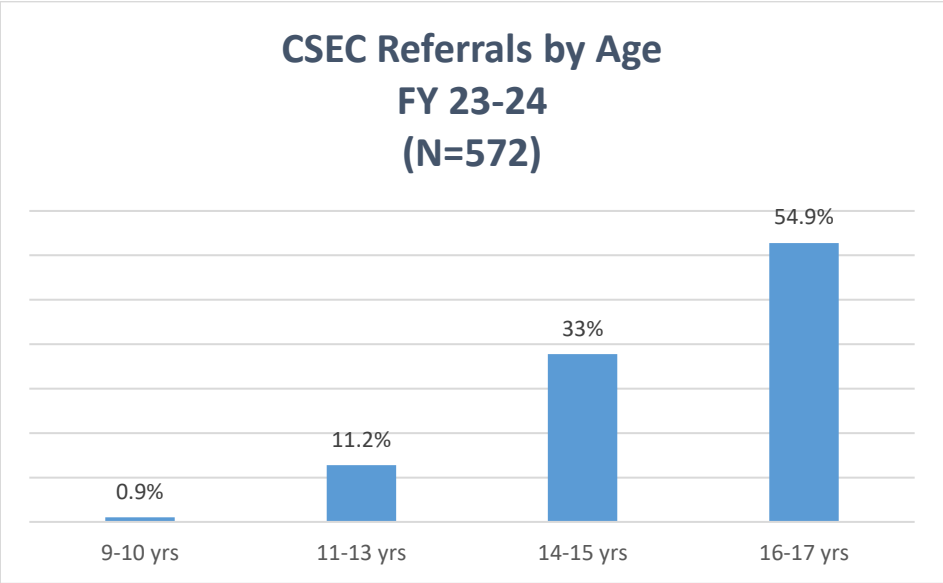
Referrals by Ethnicity and Fiscal Year:

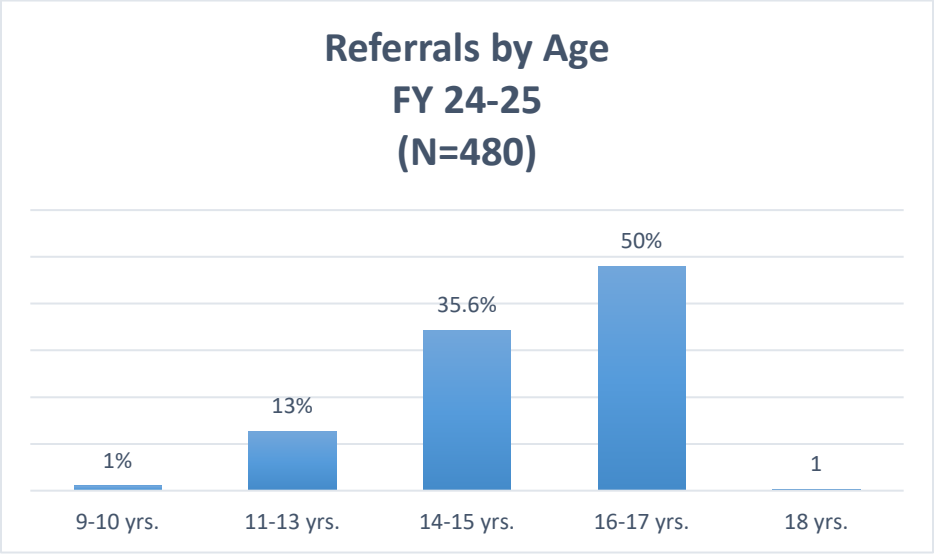
Ethnicity	FY18-19	FY19-20	FY20-21	FY21-22	FY22-23	FY23-24	FY24-25
Hispanic	41%	42%	42%	43%	50.6% (278)	46.2% (264)	46.3% (222)
Black	44%	38%	33%	38%	35% (192)	38.1% (218)	38.5% (185)
White	11%	15%	20%	12%	9.3% (51)	9.6% (55)	11.3% (54)
Asian/PI	1%	1%	1.5%	2%	1% (6)	2.1% (12)	0.4% (2)
Am. Ind	.1%	.5%	.1%	.4%	0%	0.3% (2)	0%
Other	2%	4.2%	4%	.4%	4% (22)	3.7% (21)	3.5% (17)

Data Source: CSW/CMS Datamart

CSEC Referrals by age: Note that *18% of referrals in FY 22-23, 12% of referrals in FY 23-24, and 14% of referrals in FY 24-25 are for 9-13 year olds,* indicating that prevention work needs to start early. *Early intervention/prevention is key*.







Data Source: CSW/CMS Datamart

CSEC Referrals by Reporting Party:

The top four disciplines that report commercial sexual exploitation for the past five fiscal years are law enforcement, mental health, DCFS, and professionals working in the community. One of the most critical strategic priorities of the five-year strategic plan to prevent and address child trafficking is providing education to school staff, students and parents in order to better equip schools with the ability to identify and support youth who are at-risk or victims of trafficking. We would expect to see a higher number of children and youth referred by schools, given that children and youth spend a significant amount of time in the school setting. And, if youth are not attending school, the School Attendance Review Board would ideally be assessing and addressing the reasons why youth are not attending school regularly. It will be imperative to include those involved with SARB to determine if the youth is at-risk or possibly a victim of commercial exploitation, as truancy is one of many potential indicators associated with child trafficking. Further, LA County continues to conduct training on a quarterly basis for medical professionals to also boost their ability to identify and support victims of trafficking in a trauma informed manner.

REPORTER TYPE	FY 20-21	FY 21-22	FY 22-23	FY 23-24	FY 24-25	Grand Total
	29	14	16	9	9	77
Aunt	2					2
Aunt (Maternal)				1	1	2
Aunt (Paternal)		2		1	1	4
Child Advocate/CASA	9	5	2	1	2	19
Clergy		1				1
Counselor/Therapist	161	117	96	96	61	531
Cousin (Paternal)		1				1
DCFS Staff	123	74	72	98	89	456
Day Care Staff	2		1			3
Friend	2	2	4	1		9
Government Agency	9	3	1	1	4	18
Grandparent	5	1				6
Grandparent (Maternal)		1	1			2
Grandparent (Paternal)				1		1
Great Grandparent (Maternal)				1		1
Guardian Ad Litem	1					1
Landlord				1	1	2
Law Enforcement	269	208	135	157	165	934
Medical Professional	81	45	36	41	32	235
Neighbor	4	3		1		8
No Relation	3	8	1	6	4	22
Not Available	43	39	23	19	17	141
Other Professional	170	131	90	75	63	529
Probation Officer	27	8	5	3	3	46
Relative	11	3				14
Relative (Maternal)		8	4	6	2	20
Relative (Paternal)			1		1	2
School Personnel	19	51	54	44	24	192
Sister	2					2
Substitute Care Provider	6	7	4	4		21
Teacher	5	6	3	4	1	19
Uncle	1					1
Uncle (Paternal)				1		1
Grand Total	984	738	549	572	480	3323

**Data Source: CWS/CMS Datamart, 8/19/25*