Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children: A Community Awareness Training for the City of Long Beach: A Grant Proposal Project

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May 2014
Introduction

Problem

- Globally: 20.9 million children are in forced labor of which 960,000 are victims of sexual exploitation (International Labour Office, 2013).
- Nationally: 300,000 children nationwide, are at risk for falling victim to commercial sexual exploitation. (Estes & Weiner, 2001).
- State Wide: California was among the top four states in which victims of CSEC were found, with 6.5%. (Kotrla & Wommack, 2011).
- City: According to the County of Los Angeles Probation Department, 84% of those who were arrested for prostitution, and who were underage, were from the Long Beach and South Bay area (M. Guymon, personal communication, November 5, 2013).

Goals: Fund a series of prevention and community awareness raising workshops to:

- Increase awareness and knowledge of commercial sexual exploitation of children among residents in Long Beach, California.
- Increase City of Long Beach resident involvement to reduce the commercial sexual exploitation of children in Long Beach, California.
- Increase awareness and prevention of commercial sexual exploitation of children among Long Beach residents ages 10-19.
• Social workers use their skills to facilitate social change. In this instance social workers need to help organize the community to create awareness regarding CSEC.

• Social workers may come across a potential victim in various settings of the social work profession, including schools, group homes, detention facilities, hospitals and community settings.

• Social workers are committed to service, social justice, dignity and worth of the person, importance of human relationships, integrity and competence (National Association of Social Workers [NASW], 2008), core values that are essential in serving commercially sexually exploited children who have not been treated with dignity by their traffickers or the people who use them.

• Social workers can be an asset in the efforts against CSEC in supporting and advocating on behalf of victims on various levels. For example, advocating for better treatment of CSEC survivors, conducting outreach work with potential victims and developing and implementing educational awareness campaigns (Kotrla, 2010).
Cross-cultural Relevance

- Long Beach is known for its cultural diversity; the city of Long Beach residents are made up of 12.9% Asians, 13.5% Blacks, 40.8% Hispanics and 46.1% Whites (U.S. Census Bureau, 2010).

- The research has shown that anyone can fall victim to CSEC. Thus, it is important for the Long Beach community residents to become aware that regardless of their race, sex, or age, they can become victims of human trafficking (Gozdziak & MacDonnell, 2007).

- It is also important to educate the residents that while everyone is at risk for falling victim to human trafficking, the youngest in society are the most vulnerable (Gozdziak & MacDonnell, 2007; Kotrla, 2010).

- This project took into consideration the diversity of residents throughout the development of the grant and program. For example, outreach will be specifically targeted towards each group through posting and speaking about the workshops at community churches, centers, public schools and libraries.
Methods

Target Population

- The target population for this project is the city of Long Beach which is made up of the following ethnicities: 46.1% White, 13.5% Black, 40.8% Hispanic and 12.9% Asian (U.S. Census, 2010).

- This program will also focus on youth ranging between the ages of 10-19 years of age, comprising 14.9% of the City of Long Beach population (US Census, 2010).

Strategies Used to Identify and Select a Funding Source

- Potential funding sources were identified via Internet research, including researching both federal and state grants. In addition, the Google search engine was utilized to research grants and foundations for potential funding sources as well as to identify grants that fund similar programs that have an interest in education and outreach for the community members and youth who are at risk for CSEC.

- Keywords used: “community programs,” “grant,” “funding,” “outreach,” “Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children prevention,” and “health prevention,” “youth prostitution,” as well as “education”

Funding Source

- Upon review of all potential funding sources, the Joseph Drown Foundation was select because its focus is in education, medical and scientific research; community, health and social services as well as the arts and humanities. Furthermore, the Foundation is interested in programs that break down barriers that prevent people from growing and learning (Joseph Drown Foundation, n.d.).
Methods

Sources Used for the Needs Assessment

- In order to assess the current needs of this population, statistics and information in national and local studies was reviewed by using Google and PsycINFO database. Keywords included “statistics for CSEC,” “prostitution studies,” “California prostitution” and “number of youth prostitutes in Long Beach, CA.”

- Pertinent information from service providers who are providing services to CSEC victims was also considered, including CAST located in Los Angeles California, and GEMS Uncovered in the city of Long Beach. The Long Beach community center, specifically the Bixby Park community center was utilized to gather information regarding community needs.

Program Budget

- The estimated budget and funding request for the proposed program and evaluation plan is $106,583.45. The funding will include salaries for a licensed clinical social worker, a master level social worker. Include are direct program expenses such as office and program supplies. Indirect expenses for this program include administration and evaluation.
Grant Proposal

Program Summary

In efforts to prevent more child involvement in CSEC, outreach and education of the Long Beach City residents will be achieved through two separate awareness raising workshops that will be two hours in duration. The workshops will be held at the Bixby Park Community Center. The workshops will focus on what commercial sexual exploitation of children is, how victims are lured, root causes that lead a juvenile into being sexually exploited, resources, and what the community can do to help alleviate commercial sexual exploitation of children. Each workshop will be two hours in duration.

There will also be two “My Life My Choice” (MLMC) groups. A ten-week group for teens that will increase the teens’ awareness regarding the commercial sexual exploitation of children and the risks associated with CSEC. Topics include, recruitment, reducing personal risk, substance abuse and self-esteem building. Each group will meet for 90 minutes, one time per week for 10 weeks.

Population Served

All Long beach residents who wish to learn about the commercial sexual exploitation of children.

Young females, age 10-19 years old who are at risk for commercial sexual exploitation and who live in the City of Long Beach, California.
Grant Proposal

Program Objectives

The high number of victims, the high prostitution arrest rates in the city of Long Beach, the negative effects caused by commercial sexual exploitation, and the lack of outreach and education warrant an intervention to work against CSEC.

- Advertise the commercial sexual exploitation of children awareness workshops in public libraries, community centers, and public schools located in Long Beach, California.

- Provide two commercial sexual exploitation of children awareness-raising workshops and outreach to 100 Long Beach, California residents.

- Workshops will incorporate engaging activities that will encourage participants to outreach to at risk youth and educate about the available resources to victims of commercial sexual exploitation of children.

- Engage in outreach to youth ages 10-19 in Long Beach, California via posting flyers at public schools, public libraries, community centers, and counseling centers.

- Educate youth about risk factors and the negative effects of the commercial sexual exploitation of children using the My Life My Choice curriculum.

- Engage the youth in activities that will help them increase self-esteem.

Program Evaluation

The program will use several methods of evaluation and to enhance the validity of the program results an external evaluator will be contracted.

- In order to evaluate the CSEC community awareness workshops a seven item retrospective survey will be utilized. The survey will be administered to the workshop participants at the end of each of the presentations.

- The youth workshops will be evaluated using the “My Life, My Choice Pre-Questionnaire” and the “My Life, My Choice Post-Questionnaire.”

- All data will be analyzed to determine program outcomes and strategies to modify future programs. A final report will be provided to the agency and funding source.
Lessons Learned

• Social workers, as a way to engage in preventative work, should know the different types of circumstances that lead a child to become victims of CSEC. For example, looking at the societal, community, trafficker, family, and individual level factors that increase the risk of CSEC victimization (Coy et al., 2011; Reid, 2011; Kennedy et al., 2007; Kramer & Berg, 2003; Mitchell et al., 2011).

• Social workers play an important role in helping individuals with the mental and emotional challenges that are left from the victimization. For example, PTSD, depression, and other mental and physical challenges (B. Wilson & Butler, 2013; Kennedy et al., 2007; Hom and Woods, 2013).

• Social workers play an important role in bridging connections and conducting outreach between at risk youth/survivors and the necessary resources that will help prevent future victimization.

• The proposed program will prove valuable to the social work profession and to the development and implementation of new policy to better protect and prevent youth being commercially sexually exploited as well as caring and helping for those who have already been victimized.
References


