

Child Sex Trafficking Conference

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**KING COUNTY'S RESPONSE TO CHILD SEX TRAFFICKING:
OR, WHAT ARE WE DOING TO HELP THE VICTIMS?**

**TERRI KIMBALL, SEATTLE HUMAN SERVICES
DEPARTMENT
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT
PREVENTION DIVISION**

Presentation content

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- 1.WHY NOW?**
- 2.THE NEED**
- 3.THE PLAN**
- 4.NOW WHAT?**
- 5.ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

Why Now?

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the Stranger

March 21, 2007

NEWS

Incarcerate the Victim

King County Seeks Harsh Punishment for Teen Prostitute

by JONAH SPANGENTHAL-LEE

Why Now?

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- 2007: Initial stakeholder meeting to scope the problem and the need: prosecutors, police, providers, survivors, policy makers – need better data/information
- 2007: Seattle Human Services Department commissioned a local researcher to
 - Estimate # of youth involved in prostitution in King County area
 - Trends and patterns in CSEC
 - Assessment of service use and gaps
 - Degree of current coordination between systems/providers
 - Recommendations for service models and interventions

The Need

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**Who Pays the Price?
Assessment of Youth Involvement
in Prostitution in Seattle**

Commissioned and funded by:

**City of Seattle
Human Services Department
Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Prevention Division**

Report Provided
by
**Debra Boyer, PhD
Boyer Research
2235 Fairview Ave. E.
Seattle, WA 98102**

June - 2008

The Need

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- Report findings:
 - We can name 238 prostituted youth in King County in 2007
 - The planning estimate is 500 youth
 - 82 juveniles were arrested and referred to King County Juvenile Court for prostitution in 2007
 - Youth with prostitution convictions reoffend and are seen repeatedly in the court system: 31 youth from 2004-2006 had an average of seven additional court referrals.
 - Providers report younger victims 13 to 14 years of age
 - Providers report an increase in gang affiliated prostitution

The Need

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- Assessment of service gaps
 - Early intervention services are understaffed and there is a lack of service coordination and collaboration
 - Key providers readily acknowledge their need for training in order to be more effective in working with these victims
 - Youth released from juvenile detention facilities require dedicated housing with specialized support services.

The Need

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- Report recommendations vetted by community:
 - Safe house/residential recovery services for trafficked youth are needed locally and state wide
 - Training for all stakeholders on how to identify, engage, motivate, and serve prostituted youth: courts, probation, police, prosecutors, Children's Administration workers, mental health providers, chemical dependency providers, local service providers, etc.
 - Community response plan to coordinate the work of all stakeholders to better serve these victims

The Need

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- Research indicates the need for:
 - Comprehensive assessment for prostituted youth
 - Need for mental health services: those in prostitution have high rates of psychological symptoms that are likely to impact their physical, mental, occupational and relationship functioning , and their likelihood of success at exiting from prostitution (see next slide)
 - Need for substance abuse services

The Need

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Violence Against Women

<http://vaw.sagepub.com>

Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and Disorders of Extreme Stress (DESNOS) Symptoms Following Prostitution and Childhood Abuse

Hyunjung Choi, Carolin Klein, Min-Sup Shin and Hoon-Jin Lee

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN 2009; 15: 933 originally published online Jun 10, 2009;

DOI: 10.1177/1077801209335493

The online version of this article can be found at:
<http://vaw.sagepub.com/cgi/content/abstract/15/8/933>

Published by:



<http://www.sagepublications.com>

The Need

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Article:

- Title: Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and Disorders of Extreme Stress (DESNOS) Symptoms Following Prostitution and Childhood Abuse
- Choi, Klein, Shin and Lee
- Violence Against Women 2009, 15; 933

The Plan

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- Created a plan to:
 - Develop and implement an emergency shelter that will link with
 - A residential recovery services program for prostituted youth in King County
 - A comprehensive community-wide training plan
 - Development of a community response plan

The Plan

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Funded for two years by:

- ✦ \$480K per year, King County Mental Illness and Drug Dependency \$
- ✦ \$100K per year United Way for the emergency shelter component
- ✦ \$46K per year, City of Seattle Sex Industry Victims' Fund

The Plan

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- City of Seattle issued an RFP on July 9, 2009
- Applications were received on August 7, 2009
- Received notice on August 7, 2009 that the King County Executive had cut the funding for this project (MIDD supplantation)

The Plan

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- Plan components:
 - Assessment using the Global Assessment of Individual Needs (GAIN)
 - Safe House/Residential Recovery program with 6+ beds for 14 to 17 year olds
 - Therapeutic philosophy that views and treats prostituted youth as vulnerable children who have been exploited by others and who are in need of interventions, care, nurturing and assistance to heal from the trauma in their lives and to regain, to the extent possible, through fun and age-appropriate programming, their childhoods.

The Plan

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- Plan components continued
 - On site mental health and chemical dependency treatment using evidence-based treatment services
 - Other supportive services: intensive case management, therapeutic activities, life skills assessment and training, education assistance, employment assistance and other services.
 - Prior to working with prostituted youth, all staff must have at least 40 hours of specific training.

Now What?

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- United Way's shelter project may go forward in some form
- New residential recovery program is now on hold until...??
- Stakeholder training will likely go forward
- Community response plan will likely go forward

Now What?

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- Youthcare's application to the Federal Government
- Seattle's Human Services Department's application to the Department of Justice for training and coordination
- King County Council's review of Executive's plan to cut funding for the residential recovery services program – may restore the funding: November 2009

Acknowledgements

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The many who work with and care about these kids

- ✦ Prostitution Prevention Network
- ✦ Experiential women
- ✦ Criminal Justice responders
- ✦ Community based providers
- Dr. Debra Boyer
- Bobbe Bridge
- State Office of Crime Victims Advocacy
- United Way of King County
- Representative Mary Lou Dickerson
- Seattle City Councilmember Tim Burgess