

## Alameda County SafetyNet Meeting: Memorandum of Understanding

### **A. Purpose, Goals and Expected Outcomes**

Convened and facilitated by the Alameda County District Attorney's Office (ACDAO), SafetyNet meetings are designed to provide an immediate response to Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC) in Alameda County. The purpose of these multi-disciplinary team meetings is to **ensure victim safety** for youth at the moment of their identification and throughout their potential interface with either 1) the juvenile justice system, and/or 2) their potential involvement as a victim witness in adult human trafficking investigations or prosecutions. The target population for these meetings are youth who are involved in the juvenile delinquency system and have been identified by government agencies, law enforcement and/or community based agencies as either being at risk for or involved in sex trafficking<sup>1</sup>.

### **B. SafetyNet**

**The goal** for these strategic case reviews is to accomplish:

- Develop immediate and ongoing safety plan for identified youth
- Determine the current safety status of the identified youth
- Confirm whether youth participated in a human trafficking police investigation
- Review extent of youth's previous or current involvement in sex trafficking
- Ensure immediate and ongoing stabilization of youth
- Confirm whether youth was previously referred to CSEC specific services
- Refer to immediate crisis counseling and/or other necessary services

**Expected outcomes** from this endeavor include:

- Enhanced safety and well-being of all CSEC victims identified in Alameda County
- Coordination of an effective multi-system response and services for CSEC victims on local and multi-jurisdictional level
- Increased participation of CSEC in the investigation and prosecution of their exploiters (when safe and appropriate)
- Identification of best practices for law enforcement and other child serving professionals responding to CSEC
- Evaluation of efforts to contribute to the youth's short and long-term safety and success

### **C. Participating Agency Roles and Responsibilities**

In order to create an immediate, ongoing, and effective multi-disciplinary response for identified CSEC, the ACDAO has convened representatives from agencies in the jurisdiction that directly

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<sup>1</sup> At risk factors for sex trafficking include (but are not limited to): involvement in juvenile justice system, runaway history, and/or previous or current victimization.

interface with this vulnerable population. As a requirement of their participation in SafetyNet, each partner agency will ensure a designated representative from their organization will attend these weekly meetings on an ongoing basis and will assist with the development of an individual case plan for each identified youth. The following are additional roles and responsibilities for agencies involved in this necessary endeavor:

Alameda County District Attorney's Office (ACDAO)

As the convening agency for this project, the ACDAO will provide the following support for these meetings:

- 1) The ACDAO will provide administrative support for meeting including receiving and making referrals, preparing case summaries, and assisting with follow-up that increases services, communication, and collaboration on immediate and ongoing safety plans for each identified youth.
- 2) The Deputy District Attorney (DDA) from the Juvenile Division will both refer and update CSEC cases that are handled by the Juvenile Division. The assigned DDA will also consider recommendations from the group regarding the safety needs of identified youth. They are also responsible for determining which youth will be eligible for referral to the Young Women's Saturday Program.
- 3) DDAs from the HEAT Unit will also provide updates at meetings regarding youth who have been reviewing in SafetyNet SafetyNetthat are identified as potential victim witnesses in adult human trafficking investigations and/or prosecutions. They will also work with agencies involved in SafetyNet to ensure youth who are victim witnesses in human trafficking prosecutions will remain and be provided with emotional support before, during, and after their testimony.
- 4) The ACDAO will also refer to SafetyNet partner agencies to provide follow-up services and support for identified youth.

Alameda County Public Defender's Office, Juvenile Division

A representative from the Public Defender's Office will receive information from the meeting regarding recommended services and safety plans for CSEC clients that will inform and impact their legal defense needs. They will also assist in determining which youth will be eligible for referral to the Young Women's Saturday Program. The Public Defender will also refer to SafetyNet partner agencies to provide follow-up services and support for identified youth.

Alameda County Probation Department (ACPD)

Representatives from the ACPD will make case referrals and provide updated case information regarding youth on probation who have been identified as either at risk for or involved in CSEC activity. The ACPD will also be responsible for providing follow-up information on the current

probation status of CSEC who are supervised by probation in Alameda County and/or other jurisdictions in the region/state. ACPD will also refer to SafetyNet partner agencies to provide follow-up services and support for identified youth.

#### Bay Area Legal Aid (BALA)

Representatives will make referrals, and receive and share information from SafetyNet meetings regarding recommended services and safety plans that will inform and impact the legal needs of clients. BALA will provide legal advice, limited scope legal services, and/or legal representation where appropriate in civil legal matters and within the BALA guidelines and eligibility requirements.

#### Bay Area Women Against Rape (BAWAR)

Representatives will provide immediate and ongoing first responder and advocacy services for CSEC who have been identified by law enforcement, the ACPD and/or other SafetyNet partner agencies. BAWAR will also provide updates on the status of identified youth who is currently receiving CSEC services while also protecting information related to client confidentiality. In partnership with JPG Consultants, BAWAR will also receive referrals and co-facilitate the Young Women's Saturday Program. BAWAR will also refer to SafetyNet partner agencies to provide follow-up services and support for identified youth.

#### Behavioral Health Care Services of Alameda County, Guidance Clinic

Representatives from the Guidance Clinic will provide information pertinent to the current stabilization and support of youth in custody whose cases are being reviewed in SafetyNet. At no time will information be provided in the meeting that may violate rules of confidentiality. Guidance Clinic staff will also refer to SafetyNet partner agencies to provide follow-up services and support for identified youth.

#### Child Advocacy Center (CALICO)

Representatives will be responsible for determining if CSEC identified in meeting have been previously interviewed by CALICO. Also responsible for confirming and/or tracking Victim of Crime (VOC) claim status for youth interviewed by CALICO. If referred by Law Enforcement, DCFS or the District Attorney's Office, CALICO will also provide forensic interviews of identified CSEC regarding current or past victimization histories. CALICO will also refer to SafetyNet partner agencies to provide follow-up services and support for identified youth.

#### East Bay Children's Law Offices (EBCLO)

A representative from East Bay Children's Law Offices will receive information from the meeting regarding recommended services and safety plans for CSEC clients that will inform and impact their legal representation. EBCLO will also refer to SafetyNet partner agencies to provide follow-up services and support for identified youth.

### Medical Services (Highland Hospital, Children’s Hospital of Oakland)

Representatives will be responsible for providing information about CSEC who have received medical services and are in need of continued care while protecting information related to medical provider/client confidentiality. Medical services will also refer to SafetyNet partner agencies to provide follow-up services and support for identified youth.

### Motivating, Inspiring, Serving and Supporting Sexually Exploited Youth (MISSEY)

Agency representatives will provide and receive information about identified CSEC that are currently receiving case management support and services while also protecting information related to client confidentiality. MISSEY will also refer to SafetyNet partner agencies to provide follow-up services and support for identified youth.

### Oakland Unified School District (OUSD)

Representatives from OUSD will receive information and provide updates on at-risk or identified CSEC. This includes attempting to make contact with elementary, middle and high school personnel in the district or outside the district if necessary, who are in contact with youth identified in SafetyNet meetings as either at risk for or involved in sex trafficking. At no time will OUSD representatives provide information that may violate rules of confidentiality with their students. OUSD will also refer to SafetyNet partner agencies to provide follow-up services and support for identified youth.

### Private Counsel and Legal Services Agencies

Representatives will make referrals and receive information from the meetings regarding recommended services and safety plans that will inform and impact the legal needs of clients.

### Social Services Agency of Alameda County (SSA)

Representatives from SSA will receive information and provide updates on identified CSEC who are active wards of the dependency system in the jurisdiction. This includes attempting to make contact with social workers in other jurisdictions regarding out-of-county youths who are wards of the dependency system that are identified in SafetyNet meetings as either at risk for or involved in sex trafficking. At no time will SSA representatives provide information that may violate rules of confidentiality with their clients. SSA will also refer to SafetyNet partner agencies to provide follow-up services and support for identified youth.

### West Coast Children’s Clinic (WCC)

Agency representatives will provide and receive information about identified CSEC that are currently receiving mental health services, including case management, while also protecting

information related to client confidentiality. WCC will also refer to and receive referrals from SafetyNet partner agencies to provide follow-up services and support for identified youth.

#### **D. Confidentiality**

Since the main purpose of these meetings is to establish an immediate and ongoing safety plan for the identified youth, the multi-disciplinary team model of this meeting allows for an exchange of information between participating agencies that might otherwise be considered confidential. In order to support the sharing of necessary information between identified partners, the following areas related to confidentiality will be protected and/or not discussed at this meeting<sup>2</sup>:

- Attorney/Client Privilege
- Rape Crisis Counselor/Client Privilege
- Therapist/Client Privilege
- Medical Provider/Client Privilege
- Information covered by HIPPA regulations

All participants in the meeting understand and agree to maintain the confidentiality of what is discussed during these multidisciplinary team meetings. Furthermore, to the extent that information is provided by the Alameda County Social Services Agency regarding youths in the dependency system, participants understand that they are bound by the same legal requirements of privacy and confidentiality as the Social Services Agency itself, according to Welfare & Institutions Code sections 830.1 and 827. In other words, the information may be passed onto the following persons: the district attorney, the youth, the attorneys for the parties that are actively participating in criminal or juvenile proceedings involving the youth; and persons or agencies providing treatment or supervision of the youth. However, disclosure of information discussed with anyone not directly associated with the youth's case (as outlined above), may be a violation of the law and subject to criminal penalties. Participants are directed to Welfare & Institutions Code section 827 for further guidance.

Furthermore, in order to protect the confidentiality of individuals reviewed in these meetings, information related to their identity will also be protected and/or encoded so it is only available to agencies who are members of this project and who have also signed off on this confidentiality agreement.

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<sup>2</sup> Please refer to California's Welfare and Institutions Code, Sections 827, 830.1, and [www.hipaa.com/](http://www.hipaa.com/) for more specific information on referenced confidentiality restrictions.

The following agencies agree to be partner agencies in this necessary endeavor<sup>3</sup>:

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*Name*

Alameda County District Attorney's Office

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Name*

Alameda County Probation Department

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Name*

Alameda County Public Defender's Office

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Name*

Bay Area Legal Aid

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Name*

BAWAR

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Name*

Behavioral Health Care Services of Alameda County

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Name*

CALICO

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Name*

Children's Hospital

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Name*

East Bay Children's Law Offices

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
<sup>3</sup> This MOU will be reviewed and renewed on an annual basis.

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*Name*  
Highland Hospital

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Date

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*Name*  
MISSEY

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Date

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*Name*  
Social Services Agency of Alameda County

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Date

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*Name*  
West Coast Children's Clinic

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Date