



## Minutes November 1, 2023

<b>Present:</b>	Devin Drake	Dawn Ortiz-Legg
	Jon Nibbio	Melinda Sokolowski
	Lisa Fraser	Ian Parkinson
	Robert Reyes	Star Graber
	Jessica Yates for Dan Dow	Marina Bernheimer
	Dr. Penny Borenstein, MD	
<b>Excused:</b>	Dan Dow	Kayla Plourde-Reynolds
	Dr. James Brescia	Jill Bolster-White
<b>Staff:</b>	Linda Belch	Cherise Day
<b>Guests:</b>	Cassandra Rippy	Jeff Carlson, FCNI
	Laurel Weir	Meghan Boaz Alvarez for Jill Bolster-White
	Jessica Yates for Dan Dow	

### Introductions, Announcements, Critical Issues and Additions to the Agenda:

No additions.

**Announcements:** Devin announced Morgan Torrell as the new Homeless Services Division Manager. Morgan brings 18 years of experience to this position, and DSS is very pleased to have her as the head of the division. There will be more information regarding Kristin Ventresca at the next meeting.

**Additions:** Marina Bernheimer introduced herself as the Executive Director of SLO CASA. Marina has prior experience with Child Advocates of Northern California, managing 3 programs, including CASA for 9 years. Marina recently relocated to SLO County and has been working with children and families for over 30 years.

**Public Comments:** None

### Action Items:

#### 1. Approval of CSN August 2, 2023, Minutes

**Motion:** Robert Reyes

**Second:** Dawn Ortiz-Legg

**Motion Passed:** All approved

### Action Items:

#### 2. Nominate Marina Bernheimer Vice Chair

**Motion:** Dawn Ortiz-Legg

**Second:** Robert Reyes

**Motion Passed:** Unanimous

John Nibbio - Yes

Ian Parkinson - Yes

Robert Reyes - Yes

Penny Borenstein - Yes

Star Graber - Yes

Lisa Fraser - Yes

Melinda Sokolowski - Yes

Dawn Ortiz-Legg - Yes

Marina Bernheimer - Yes

**Information/Discussion Items:** Follow-up on Brown Act action item from August – Devin Drake

After communicating with County Counsel (CoCo), it was noted that CSN meetings are not following the Brown Act to the letter. Executive members will need to decide if we want to strictly adhere to the Brown Act rules or return to the Board of Supervisors (BOS), requesting they separate the CSN meetings from the BOS committee. CSN meetings also lack the presence of a presiding Judge of the Juvenile Court, which the legislation notes must be on this panel. Additionally, CSN would be required to meet monthly rather than quarterly and must be convened by a BOS appointed Executive Director, rather than our Chair/Vice Chair. If this meeting is to continue as we've been accustomed, we will need to work with CoCo, then return to the BOS to request separation from the Boards review.

- CSN members discussed moving forward as a non-Brown Act committee.
- Devin confirmed he will take this issue to CoCo for further discussion and direction.
- Devin also suggested First 5 should be added as members to the CSN Execs.
- All members agreed on the need to separate from the Brown Act.
- This item will be discussed further at the February meeting.

**Information/Discussion Items:** Impact of MHSA Funding – Megan for Jill Bolster White

The 2026 rollout of funding from MHSA to Behavioral Health Services and Support (BHSS), plans to reduce County discretion, which is likely to decrease funding for current programs, including school-based and specialty programs for youth groups, shifting the funding to school service partnerships as well as housing. The proposed shifts will be 35% to school partnerships and 30% to housing, with 50% of housing marked for chronically homeless individuals.

Melinda Sokolowski reports:

- If the proposed plan is implemented as noted above, CAPSLO would suffer many losses as follows; the loss of an advocate, the funding for the Safe System of Care would be reduced or eliminated, the current educator youth mental health clinic would be reduced or eliminated, as well as the loss of the social and emotional curriculum for childcare providers.
- Voting on this proposed plan is scheduled for November, 2024. Supervisor Ortiz-Legg will be attending the next CSEC meeting in 2 weeks regarding this matter and will report the findings in Feb.
- It was requested that this item be placed on the CSN agenda, with an update from **Frank Warren**.

**Presentation:** Bezos Funding Update – Melinda Sokolowski

CAPSLO received \$5M from the Beos Foundation to address Homeless Family Needs in SLO County. Since October, the CAPSLO Team has completed a community needs review, then surveyed existing families using services, using the 2022 Point in Time (PIT) data, as well as school district data in the County-wide review.

CAPSLO has family forms available at 40 Prado and is currently able to serve 14 families. This is a facility serving all age groups, as well as Recuperative Care Clients. We have SLCUSD Family Advocate and Early Head Start partnership at 40 Prado, to assist with meeting family's needs for pregnant and parenting families. The need has been ongoing and extends above the 14 families we have capacity to serve.

CAPSLO is moving forward with targeting services in the city of SLO and has identified a property for use. We plan to release an RFP for a concept to build a plan that would create 25 non-congregate units to serve families and create a family friendly campus with additional children's services from Early Head Start and SLCUSD school family advocacy.

We've currently added a full time Housing Navigator to focus on existing families at 40 Prado and we would expand family-based case management services once the new campus is built. We encourage our partners to provide services at this new location, as we plan to have children's areas, service provider offices and meeting rooms as well as the individual units for family shelter services. We look forward to continued partnership with service providers, the city, county and school districts.

**Standing Agenda Item: Homeless Services for Children and Families – Laurel Weir for Kristin Ventresca**

- The biannual Point in Time (PIT) count is scheduled for January 23, 2024, as required by the US Dept. of Health and Urban Development, where we count the number in shelters and transitional housing, but also those unsheltered. Most of the data is obtained from those accessing services, so this gives an additional account of those not coming through regular assistance.
- We will need volunteers to assist with the count and will send more information by email.
- We're also looking for guides who have experienced unsheltered homelessness, and will have a separate youth count, requiring young people to participate as guides if possible. There will be compensation, vouchers or stipends for those serving as guides or surveyors. If you know anyone who would like to participate, please contact Laurel Weir.
- We're forming a youth advisory board, to meet regularly with youth in the Foster Care system, as well as youth attending Cuesta College. However, we're still looking for youth involved with the Juvenile Justice system.

**Standing Agenda Item: SLO County CSEC Collaborative – Linda Belch**

- Since the last meeting, CSEC has had one additional referral. The trend we're seeing in our County is runaway youth at being at risk for trafficking. We have a new database to track referrals that we're screening for our in-care youth.
- Since August of 2022 we've screened a total of 266, and 28 of those were high risk, 168 were low to moderate, and 74 were low risk.
- We separated out in July 2023 our non-system involved youth who have emergency response referrals and screened 193. So far, none have been screened as high risk, 145 were low to moderate and 48 at no risk. We continue to provide services and referrals to families who are screening in all these categories.
- We continue to have a robust youth engagement project and are working with the local non-profit "See Something Say Something" campaign, which is one of our youth ambassador projects.
- We've recently launched Tri-county listening sessions in Santa Barbara and Ventura Co. to learn from our peers.
- There are a number of training courses available. CSEC 101 is available online, however, CSEC 102 is currently only available in the Bay area and Northern California.
- We're also offering the "Cool Aunt" series regarding trafficking. If you need additional information, please contact Linda Belch, or refer to the handout.

**Standing Agenda Item: Child Advocacy Center (CAC) of SLO County – Lisa Fraser**

- The CAC began as a 5-year VOCA funded project that seeded the Child Advocacy Center model in 2019. Sadly, due to limited funds, the project ended in 2023. This has led us to fund a component that was previously missing, which is a family advocate to follow up on children under 12 and their families, and it has been very successful. With the support from Public Health and the SART medical program, it's working to fill a gap for the KATE advocates who support the families.
- It's become apparent that we should no longer have forensic interviews in the courthouse, especially since children are subjected to intimidating imagery, such as metal detectors and uniformed officers, with the additional stress of encountering their abuser. It's also more important than ever to have bilingual advocates. We aim to find a way to get the forensic interviews for children out of the courthouse.

**Jessica Yates reports:**

- We have acquired a CFI from the DA's office and have recently located office space within the Walter Building, which we believe can be a safe space for children. We have found that some law enforcement agencies believe they're completing a CFI, when in actuality, it's been conducted by an officer, with a gun, late at night, which is overwhelming, intimidating and confusing for children, and can seriously alter the outcome. This practice subjects many children to being reinterviewed and therefore, retraumatized. Within this new office space, we will be able to do a SART exam, along with the CFI's, and the advocates will be housed within the space along with a

therapy dog. It's been proven that children are more open and honest when in the presence of a therapy dog, and it's been easier to prosecute with their testimony.

- We have secured seed money from the DA's office for the buildout and the initial first year's lease. However, we're headed to BOS for a consent agenda item to cover the lease for years two, three and four, as well as accreditation. We will also continue to work toward acquiring outside funding.

**Future Agenda Items:**

1. Devin will take the issue of separating from the BOS issue to CoCo for their direction.
2. Frank Warren to speak about MHSA funding.

**Board Round Table:**

**John Nibbio:** City of Atascadero approved Home Safe, and we look forward to having 3 extra beds.

**Robert Reyes:** Probation partnered with Cuesta College for a grant to provide classes at juvenile hall, for youth who have graduated High School.

**Dr. Penny Borenstein:** PH received funding from State to expand the nurse home visiting program for pregnant women. And for the first time, PH will be able to hire Social Workers for our community.

**Lisa Fraser:** Wants to give thanks to the Parent Connection Project, which is funded by the Mental Health Services Act. We were able to expand since we have two dedicated parent coaches and want to ask people to use it as a resource.



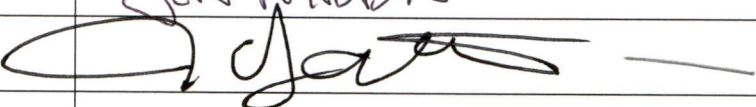

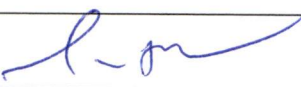
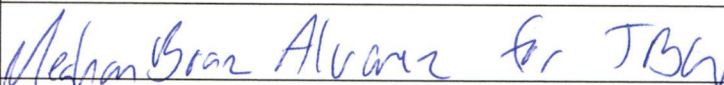

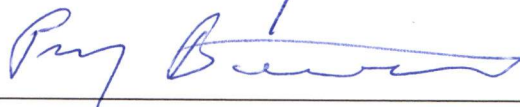




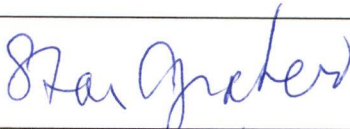
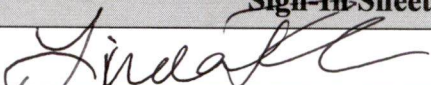
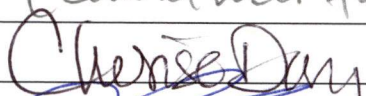

**Melinda Sokolowski:** We received a grant to train people how to host "Parent Café's" and will be sending letters for staff and community partners to attend and become certified over the next two years. I am co-chairing a sub-committee solely on the Mandated Reporter State Task Force training, in which there will be public comments, so please join us to include your input on reform.

**Marina Bernheimer:** As stated, we're preparing for large VOCA budget cuts from 3 grants and are trying to sustain the monies as long as possible. We're currently focused on the recruitment of male CASA volunteers, since young men and boys don't have positive male role models in their lives. Looking for more Hispanic male volunteers by bringing recruitments to churches or flea markets and the community in general.



**Devin Drake:** DSS launched CalSAWS on Monday, which will be the first time all 58 counties in the State have been on the same Welfare system, where all records will be accessible throughout the State. Please be patient with our staff during this learning curve.

**Adjournment: 2:41**

**Children's Services Network  
Executive Council  
Attendance November 1, 2023**

<b>REPRESENTATIVES</b>	
<b>Board Members' Names:</b>	<b>Sign-In Sheet</b>
Devin Drake – DSS Director (Chair)	
Jon Nibbio LMFT – COO, FCN (Vice Chair)	
<i>Jessica Yates</i> Dan Dow – District Attorney	
Dr. James Brescia – COE/Latino Outreach Council	
Ian Parkinson – SLO County Sheriff	
Jill Bolster- White – Transitions Mental Health	
Robert Reyes – SLO County Probation	
Dr. Penny Borenstein, MD – Public Health Director	
Lisa Fraser – Center for Family Strengthening	
Melinda Sokolowski – Community Action Partnership	
Dawn Ortiz-Legg – SLO County District 3 Supervisor	
Marina Bernheimer – CASA of San Luis Obispo	(signed 2nd page)
Kayla Plourde-Reynolds – Juvenile Justice Commission	
Star Graber, Ph.D., LMFT – Behavioral Health Director	
<b>Guests &amp; Observers:</b>	<b>Sign-In-Sheet</b>
Linda Belch – CSN Manager	
Kristin Ventresca – Homeless Services	(Laurel Weir for Kristin)
Cherise Day – Network Secretary	
<i>Jeff Carlson FCN+</i>	

Children's Services Network  
Executive Council  
Attendance November 1, 2023

Guests & Observers:	Sign-In Sheet
Cassandra Rippey	
Marina Bernheim	MD 
Laurel Weir	S. Weir





COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO  
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES  
DIVISION NAME  
Linda Belch *Deputy Director*

October 27, 2023

Good afternoon,

Please see information below on upcoming training opportunities.

1. CSEC 101

- a. Is offered virtually through [CalSWEC](#), this is a self-paced online course. The training provides an overview of CSEC and the psycho-social dynamics, which contribute to the ongoing victimization of young people by sex traffickers. To register for training please follow [registration link](#).

2. CSEC 102

- a. A more in-depth training building upon skills learned in CSEC 101 including but not limited to: an exploration of common dynamics when serving and supporting commercially exploited youth and how these dynamics impact the work and the providers.
- b. West Coast Children's clinic is working on scheduling in trainings for the Southern California region, for those interested in attending please join upcoming trainings in either the Bay Area or Northern California regions all trainings scheduled at this time are offered [virtually](#). Online trainings are broken into four days on the following dates:
  - i. Bay Area and Central California – [November 28, 29, December 5, 6](#)
  - ii. Northern California – [December 12, 13, 19, 20](#)
  - iii. Southern California – To be determined, please join another region in the interim.
- c. **\*PLEASE NOTE\*: you must register for all four days that are being offered to your region at one time.** If these dates do not work for you, please keep in mind that the training will continue to rotate through the regions on a rolling basis so there will be another opportunity to sign up shortly.

3. The Cool Aunt Series

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County of San Luis Obispo Department of Social Services

3433 South Higuera Street, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401-7301 | P.O. BOX 8119, San Luis Obispo, CA 93403-8119  
| (P) 1-800-834-3002 | (F) 805-781-1361 | [slocounty.ca.gov/dss](http://slocounty.ca.gov/dss)

- a. Resource available to any vulnerable youth in our county, as well as parents and staff. This training is self-paced online course that can be completed on any smart device. For more information on this great resource, please reach out to Leann Eddy [leddy@co.slo.ca.us](mailto:leddy@co.slo.ca.us)

For more information, please feel free to reach out to Leann Eddy, [leddy@co.slo.ca.us](mailto:leddy@co.slo.ca.us) or Julie Kadis [jkadis@co.slo.ca.us](mailto:jkadis@co.slo.ca.us)

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**County of San Luis Obispo Department of Social Services**

3433 South Higuera Street. San Luis Obispo, CA 93401-7301 | P.O. BOX 8119, San Luis Obispo, CA 93403-8119  
| (P) 1-800-834-3002 | (F) 805-781-1686 | [slocounty.ca.gov/dss](http://slocounty.ca.gov/dss)



[View this email in your browser](#)**WESTCOAST CHILDREN'S CLINIC****WESTCOAST CHILDREN'S CLINIC**

## CSEC 102 TRAINING

The CSEC 102 training will provide an advanced and comprehensive curriculum on best practices for serving youth that are commercially sexually exploited. In this 16-hour training, we will build on the skills and concepts learned in CSEC 101, including but not limited to: an exploration of common dynamics when serving and supporting commercially exploited youth and how these dynamics impact the work and the providers.

- Describe practices and interventions to support exploited youth at different stages of change.
- Describe the ways complex trauma impacts behavior, health, help-seeking and general engagement and healing of youth impacted by sexual exploitation.
- Discuss trauma informed care (TIC) principles as they apply to work with exploited youth.



Shenelle Jackson



Faith Fabiani



Sable Horton



For more information, please email  
[csec102@westcoastcc.org](mailto:csec102@westcoastcc.org)

**This notice will be sent out frequently and updated as each training is completed.**

Dear Partners,

You're invited to WestCoast's CSEC 102 Advanced Curriculum Training! Please see below for the full training calendar and registration links. **Locate your**

county below and then register for your region's training.

**\*PLEASE NOTE\*: you must register for all four days that are being offered to your region at one time.** If these dates do not work for you, please keep in mind that the training will continue to rotate through the regions on a rolling basis so there will be another opportunity to sign up shortly.

**Regions:**

- **Region 1: Los Angeles County only (Please look out for LA specific training information and registration info in a separate announcement)**
- **Region 2: Southern California** (Orange, Riverside, Ventura, Santa Barbara, San Diego, Imperial, San Bernardino, Inyo, San Luis Obispo, Kern, San Benito)
- **Region 3: Bay Area and Central California** (Santa Cruz, San Benito, San Francisco, Santa Clara, Alameda, San Mateo, San Francisco, Contra Costa, Solano, Marin, Napa, Sonoma, Mendocino, Monterey, Tulare, Kings, Fresno, Madera, Merced, Mariposa, Tuolumne, Stanislaus, Calaveras, San Joaquin, Mono)
- **Region 4: Northern California** (Lake, Colusa, Sutter, Yuba, El Dorado, Placer, Nevada, Sierra, Plumas, Butte, Glenn, Tehama, Humboldt, Trinity, Shasta, Lassen, Modoc, Siskiyou, Del Norte, Alpine, Amador, Sacramento, Yolo)

**Registration Links by Region:**

**Region 2: Southern California (October 10, 11, 17, 18)**

Eventbrite Link to Register: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/csec-102-advanced-curriculum-tickets-672728819007>

**Region 3: Bay Area/Central California (November 28, 29, December 5, 6)**

Eventbrite Link to Register: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/csec-102-advanced-curriculum-tickets-677720780097>

**Region 4: Northern California (December 12, 13, 19, 20)**

Eventbrite Link to Register: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/csec-102-advanced-curriculum-tickets-694405023117>

\*Each series is prioritized to each specific region, but all are welcome!

**[Click here to view the training calendar](#)**

Thank you for your ongoing collaboration and coordination in support of the youth you serve and support. We look forward to seeing you at a future training.



Warmly,

The Training Team at WestCoast Children's Clinic

### ***About WestCoast Children's Clinic***

We are a community mental health clinic located in Oakland, California that provides psychological services to vulnerable youth and their families; trains mental health professionals; and conducts research to inform practice and public policy.

Part of our mission is to support sexually exploited youth through our C-Change Program, which serves 125 exploited youth annually in Alameda County. We have over a decade of experience working with youth who have experienced exploitation, including youth who identify as female, male, or nonbinary, and including youth with and without child welfare involvement.

In 2014, we developed and validated the [Commercial Sexual Exploitation - Identification Tool](#) (CSE-IT) to improve early identification of indicators of trafficking.

**Contact:** [CSEctraining@westcoastcc.org](mailto:CSEctraining@westcoastcc.org)



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**Our mailing address is:**

P.O. Box 7026  
Oakland, CA 94601

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You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

# THE COOL AUNT SERIES



***FREE RESOURCE***  
**The Cool Aunt Series-  
A Sex Trafficking  
Prevention Experience  
for Teens**

## In these pages

About The Cool Aunt Series -2  
Why it's needed -3  
Your part -4

Hi I'm Rachel Thomas. Before starting my anti-trafficking organization in 2012, I was a high school English teacher. Even now, after having trained over 100,000 professionals from around the world and being an appointed member of the United States Advisory Council on Human Trafficking, teaching and mentoring teens is still what I love.

Throughout these years I've met hundreds of US-born sex trafficking survivors of various ethnicities, socio-economic backgrounds, neighborhoods and genders. My heart breaks every time I hear their stories... they're mostly full of the same avoidable risk factors and recognizable red flags. [My story included.](#)

If only someone had told me.

**The Cool Aunt Series is a weapon to fight sex trafficking where it matters most: before it begins.** Thank you for your joining me on this mission to help to keep our youth safe. Let's do this!

Facebook: @RachelCThomas  
Instagram: @RachelThomasWasHere





# About The Cool Aunt Experience



## 12 Videos

Engaging,  
Instructor-Led  
Video Episodes



## Certification

25 Quiz Questions &  
Certificate of Completion



## Risk-Assessment

10 Self-Assessment  
Questions for teens to  
assess their level of risk



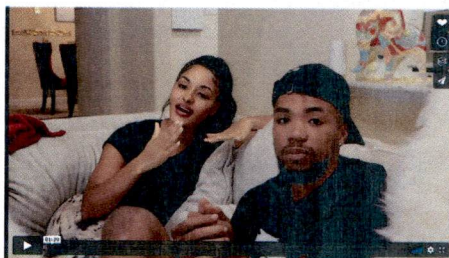
## Resources

1-on-1 Support and  
Ongoing Resources

“

*All teens should watch this series.  
It's so informative and critical  
for our lives nowadays. And  
Rachel made it all super fun!  
The music and filming  
techniques were so amazing! :)" –  
Samara Freedman, 17 years old*

Click [here](#) to watch the  
**Series Intro**



## *\*Key Course Concept\**

### STREAMS of Influence™

*the 7 risk factors that  
lead to sex trafficking*

Survival  
Trafficker  
Recruiter  
Environment  
Abuse  
Media  
Solicitation

“I’m blown away. It felt so real, like something straight out of my life.

**STREAMS is phenomenal.**

I sincerely believe that every child in America who is 15 or older should see this as a part of requirement for being 15 years old, and at-risk kids probably 12 or 13 since they have probably already had exposure to some of these things.

It’s so incredible.”



**HARMONY DUST**

Anti-Trafficking Expert and Leader,  
Founder of Treasures LA, Mom of 2



# Why It's Needed

## #1 Crime Worldwide

Human Trafficking is the  
#1 fastest growing crime  
in the world.

## Online Recruitment

Advocates report a  
growing trend of traffickers using  
**SOCIAL MEDIA TO RECRUIT**  
targets of human trafficking.

## 12-14 years old

The average age a child is  
sex trafficked in the United States  
is 12 to 14 years old.

"2019 Trafficking in Persons Report." United States Department of State.  
<https://www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/2019-Trafficking-in-Persons-Report.pdf>.

**"One of my most powerful moments in this work was when a Long Beach Poly High School counselor told me about the impact of my Human Trafficking Prevention efforts..."**

The weekend after I spoke to their student body, one of their students was approached by a modeling agent at the Starbucks near their school. He gave her a business card and told her he could make her a successful model. Remembering what she had learned about red flags, trafficker strategies and safety tips, she didn't give the man any of her information. Instead, she took his card and gave it to her counselor on Monday morning. The counselor gave the information to the school police. Upon investigation, they found that the number belonged to a felony sex offender and predator.

I get chills every time I think about this story-- one child safer and one community stronger against human trafficking.

**This is why I do what I do."**

- Rachel Thomas



# Your Part

## BEFORE

- Reach out to Leann Eddy  
leddy@co.slo.ca.us for  
enrollment information.
- Encourage youth to  
watch the trailer  
below

## DURING & AFTER

- Help youth access the series:
  - A) IF youth has an email address, invite them  
using "Send the Series" located near the bottom  
of the homepage
  - B) If youth does NOT have an email address, sit  
down with youth to complete the series from  
your account. Be sure to report youth's  
completion using "Manually Enter Series  
Completions" located near the bottom of the  
homepage
- Be attentive to youth's responses and help  
them access resources as needed



Watch  
[The Cool Aunt Trailer](#)  
(for teens).



### SAN LUIS OBISPO CHILD ABUSE HOTLINE

Call 1-800 834-KIDS (1-800 834-5437)

### LUMINA ALLIANCE- SLO HT & DV RESOURCE

Call 1-805 545-8888

### REPORT MISSING CHILDREN TO NCMEC

<https://cmfc.missingkids.org/reportit>

Call 1-800-THE-LOST (1-800-843-5678)

### REPORT HUMAN TRAFFICKING

National Human Trafficking Hotline

Call 1-988 3737 888 or text 233733

### GET HELP TO ESCAPE TRAFFICKING

Rescue America

Call 1-713-322-8000

### HOTLINE TO TALK ABOUT SEXUAL ABUSE

RAINN

Call 1-800-656-HOPE

### REPORT ONLINE SOLICITATION

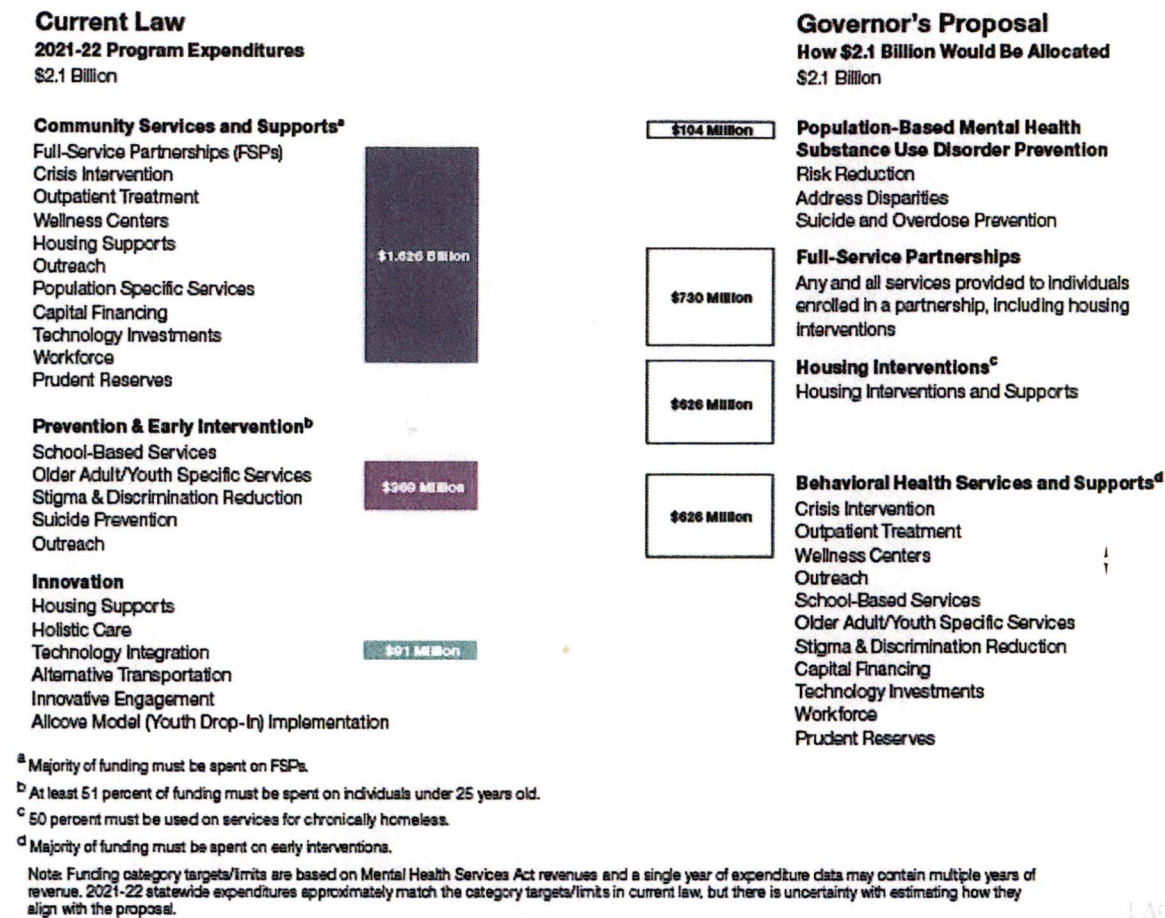
Cyber Tip

<https://report.cybertip.org/>



Figure 3

## New Categories Would Reduce County Flexibility



**Governor's Proposal Reduces Overall County Discretion by Focusing Funding on FSPs and Housing Interventions.** The right side of Figure 3 shows how a total expenditure amount of \$2.1 billion (the 2021-22 total) would be broadly allocated under the Governor's proposed funding categories and spending targets/limits. As shown, the Governor's proposal creates a category for FSPs (where before they were a subcategory within CSS) as well as housing interventions. While counties have some discretion in how to focus funding within these two new categories, the proposal is fairly prescriptive in the types of programs within these categories eligible for MHSA funding. As a result, a large portion of programs currently funded across the CSS, PEI, and Innovation categories would only be eligible to be funded through the newly created BHSS category under the Governor's proposal. While the current categories have some restrictions on what programs may be funded, they are