



SANTA BARBARA COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF
Behavioral Wellness
A System of Care and Recovery

Request for Two-Year Extension for
MHSA Innovation RISE Project
(Resiliency Interventions for Sexual
Exploitation)

July 16, 2018
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Need for a Two-Year Extension

One of the overarching goals for the proposed two-year extension of the RISE Project is the development of toolkit to share statewide, *“How to Develop an Effective Multi-Disciplinary Approach for Exploited Youth.”* Based on our collaborative, multidisciplinary, cross-agency experiences, this toolkit will serve as an invaluable guide to assist other counties and providers in serving CSEC victims without spending precious time and resources to “reinvent the wheel.” To meet this goal, we request a two-year extension for six principal reasons:

1. *Additional time is needed:* Start-up of the program began slowly as initial infrastructure, staffing, and agreements between community partners were established. The process was labor- and time-intensive. The program planning and staffing began July 2015. The supervisor of the team was hired in August 2015 following formal approval from the Board of Supervisors. The supervisor developed a hiring plan and training guides for the RISE team, started hiring in January 2016 and completed hiring all staff summer of 2017. Due to the specific qualifications of staffing for services provided to those at risk of human trafficking and training necessary for clinical practice, the team faced recruitment and operational barriers. Challenges included leasing out a confidential service site in North County; developing and implementing training modules for public, first responders, and direct service providers; purchasing of vehicles; implementing security measures for staff and clients; a limited pool of applicants with expertise, etc.; confirming that the approach is a promising practice; accomplishing training goals; and providing effective mental health services based on the level of care indicated by the clients.
2. *Additional funding is needed:* Delays in start-up and the fact that outreach and engagement activities took longer than initially anticipated have meant that RISE goals have not been fully realized. An allotment of \$2,600,000 will support two years of additional programming from July 2018-July 2020. Funding for a two-year extension would enable us to:
 - *Develop a practical toolkit, “How to Develop an Effective Multi-Disciplinary Approach for Exploited Youth”* to help other counties replicate the program, avoid the costly and lengthy approach of “reinventing the wheel” and gain the capacity to effectively deal with common barriers to success. This toolkit will include effective interventions/supports, how to influence a countywide culture shift to a “CSEC Lens”, creating and sustaining effective and responsive CSEC MDT Teams, CSEC 101 & 102 training/education PowerPoint’s and data collecting tools/outcome measures.
 - *Meet an urgent and ongoing community need by continuing the program*, including staffing, operations, and evaluation, including continued work by the Behavioral Wellness’ evaluation team partners with the University of California at Santa Barbara.
 - *Deploy the recently developed multi-agency shared screening and assessment tool* to review usefulness across all systems.
 - *Continue training, education, and public awareness* regarding signs and risk of mental illness related to sex trafficking for 2,660 individuals. (At this time, over 1,000 have been trained.)
 - *Develop trauma-sensitive crisis interventions available 24/7 to a larger number of survivors* in community because the need is greater than originally anticipated.
 - *Increase Survivor Mentor outreach/supports through partnership with Runaway Girl/Carissa Phelps.*

- *Continue safe and therapeutic housing, temporary shelter and relocation efforts.* Resources are low, and costs are high. We are in the process of partnering and a new Exploitation Shelter for adult females that is showing promise, but intensive training and protocols still need to be completed.
 - *Increase outreach and engagement efforts for LGBT/GNC CSEC youth.* RISE and the University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB) are in the process of finalizing the LGBT/GNC tool, which will facilitate data collection for this mostly un-researched, high-risk CSEC population.
 - *Continue to provide specific specialized treatment space in all regions of county.*
3. *An extension would help us respond to community need by serving a larger population.* With increased training on exploitation and new education and screening efforts, we've observed a marked increase in youth identified with risk factors. According to local Child Welfare data (CSE-IT Tool), an estimated three in 10 youth involved in Santa Barbara County Juvenile Probation and Child Welfare systems are at risk for trafficking, substantially greater than the regional average of one in 10.

We have encountered a higher than expected population of exploitation victims age 18 and over exploitation victims with significant alcohol and other drug issues, domestic violence, developmental and/or cognitive and legal issues. Resources for adult exploitation victims have significant resource gaps compared to minor victims in our community. Also, migrants subjected to sex and labor trafficking are higher than expected and particularly difficult to reach due to their increased fear related to immigration issues/climate. Effective service delivery to this population require specialized culturally-specific efforts and cross-agency collaboration.

CSE-IT Data for Santa Barbara County,
December 2015-December 2017*

Total Number Screened	302
Clear Concern	46
Possible Concern	49
No Concern	207

*Data gathered and reported by WestCoast Children's Clinic.
CWS policy is that all children age 10 and over will be screened using the CSE-IT within 30 days of case opening and every 6 months thereafter.
Children will also be screened when they return from an absence from placement.
Children in referrals are screened when the referral is flagged as potential CSEC at the hotline or when the investigator determines that there are risk factors present during the course of the child abuse/neglect investigation.

4. *More time is also needed to effectively document and share critical learning. A two-year extension would support the adequate compilation of data and depth of experiences to determine if cross-agency*

collaborations result in improved recognition and response to survivors' mental health issues. We are using several baseline tools (ACE, SEHS, CANS, MAYSI, SBARA, arrest records, the length and frequency of incarceration and placement stability reports and consumer surveys). The University of California, Santa Barbara is in the process of gathering and assessing the data, but we need more consistent participation and larger sample size. We have found that girls involved in the Juvenile Justice (JJ) system need more intensive outreach and engagement supports than girls in Child Welfare and those not involved in the system.

JJ Girls tend to exhibit more with behaviors of oppositional, extreme avoidance, significant relationship conflict, reckless behaviors, impulse control issues, aggression, anger, difficult-to manage symptoms of PTSD, etc. They also tend to be exposed to more violent and criminal peers, including gangs. JJ girls tend to be more difficult to engage and don't tend to see themselves as capable of being exploited or abused. As a result, they are less likely to ask for help or talk about their trauma.

Preliminary data suggest that a lack of early intervention and misdiagnosing of JJ girls contributed to their being more frequently directed into the JJ System, as opposed to Child Welfare or Mental Health. The lack of early intervention support, the longer time being exploited before identified, more extreme exposure to domestic and community violence contribute to JJ girls feeling more blamed and criminalized for being exploited. An extension of the RISE Project would enable us to increase the sample size to determine more effective interventions for this challenging population.

5. *We would like to create a shared database* with partner agencies to improve identification efforts, data collecting, ensure proper and timely service delivery.
6. *We would like to complete the collaborative development of Medical Community ID Tool* (currently in process with the University of California, Santa Barbara, Public Health, Dr. Carrick Adam and Cottage Hospital). Our exploited youth have higher-than-expected medical needs and have often had numerous contacts with medical professionals prior to being identified as CSEC and obtaining help.

Background

According to the Office of the Santa Barbara County District Attorney, "California is ranked as one of the top four U.S. human trafficking destinations. Our central coast has been identified as a natural transit corridor for trafficking activity between major metropolitan areas to the south and north. Santa Barbara County, a tourist attraction with conference venues, a transitory population, and migrant labor makes it vulnerable to trafficking activity as well. It is estimated that 55% of forced labor victims and 98% of sexually exploited victims of human trafficking are young girls and women. These victims are stripped of their freedom and are frequently isolated and without social and family support. They are unsure of where to turn for assistance and are often too intimidated to ask for help."¹

On May 28, 2015, the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC) voted to approve \$2,507,749 to fund the Santa Barbara County RISE (Resiliency Interventions for Sexual Exploitation) Innovation Project for three years. The RISE Project is the first multidisciplinary program in Santa Barbara County to focus on the behavioral health needs of victims of child sexual exploitation.

RISE is committed to the restoration and empowerment of female and LGBT/GNC youth exposed to, or at risk of, sexual exploitation and trafficking. Through trauma-specific services, collaborative partnerships and community outreach, RISE works to restore and reintegrate survivors, eradicate sexual exploitation and reduce the stigma surrounding sexual trauma in Santa Barbara County. RISE is committed to promoting hope and resiliency for female and LGBT/GNC youth, guiding them to be leaders in their pursuit of meaningful and enriching lives.

RISE deploys a staff of 1 FTE team supervisor, .25 FTE psychiatrist, 1 FTE psych tech, 2.0 FTE practitioner interns, 2 FTE case workers, 1 FTE rehabilitation specialist, one extra help case worker, and one extra help administrative office professional (4 bilingual/bicultural staff)

Collaborating with several other Santa Barbara County partner agencies, community-based organizations and community groups, the RISE Project delivers a survivor centered multi-layered approach consisting of specific, trauma-focused, and biopsychosocial interventions and supports to address the hierarchy of needs and restore, reintegrate, and empower young females and LGBT/GNC youth experiencing, or at risk of, sexual exploitation and trafficking.

As of July 1, 2018, 101 girls and 1 LGBT male, in addition to typically 1-3 family members, were served by RISE. Additional in-depth information about participants for the current fiscal year will be reported in depth in a forthcoming FY17/18 annual evaluation report.² During the evaluation period (July 2016 to June 2017), 62 girls, in addition to typically 1-3 family members, participated in the RISE Project. Demographic information was available for 27 of the girls. The majority of girls were classified as Latina or Hispanic ($n = 21$; 81%), approximately 19% ($n = 5$) were classified as White, and 4% were classified as Black or African American ($n = 5$). Girls' ages ranged from 12 to 17 (mean age = 14.7 years).

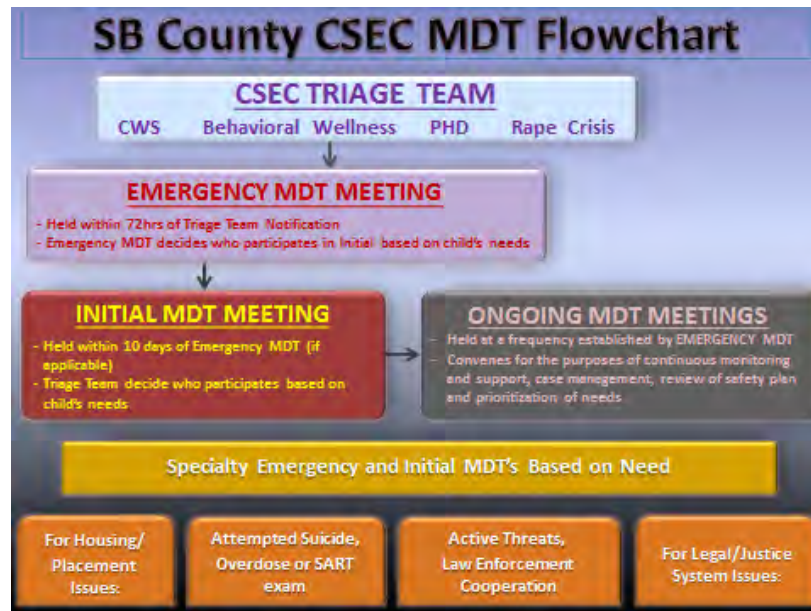
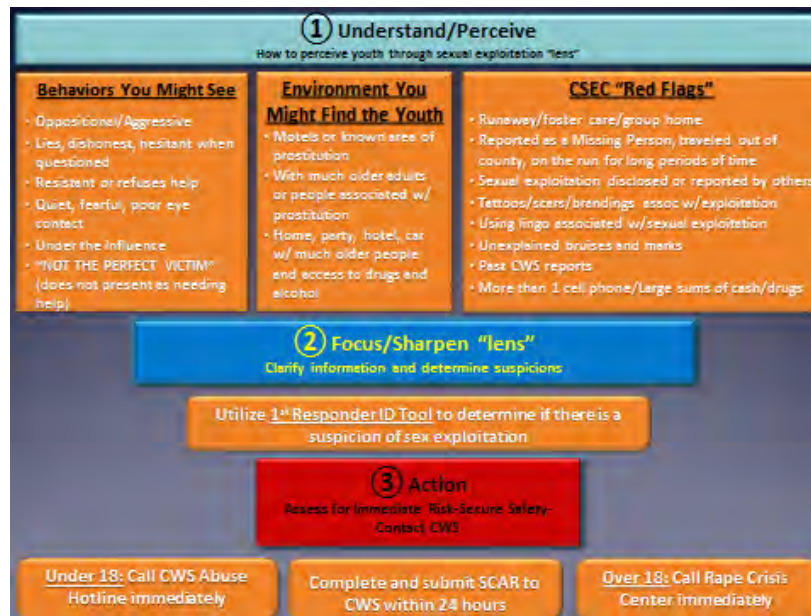
RISE Summary of Services

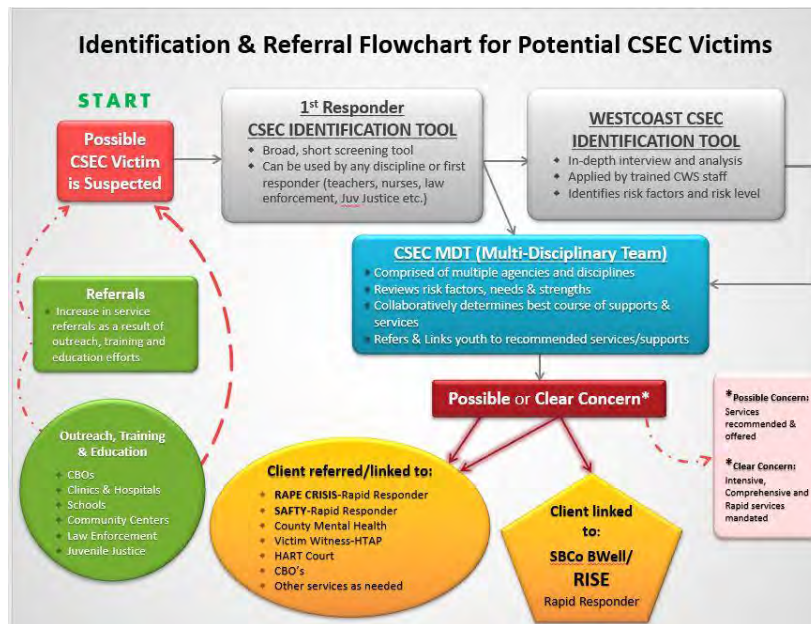
Rehab (Indiv, group family)	Therapy (90832 - Psychotherapy, 16-37) Therapy/IHBS(indiv, group,family)	Assessment
AOD Support	Art Expression	ACE
Art Expression	Attachment	Brief And Formal Intake Checklist
Check In-Rapport and Stabilization	Check In-Rapport and Stabilization	CANS Assessment (Nonbillable)
Client Engagement	Client Engagement	Eligibility Screening
Client Outreach	Client Outreach	Formal Intake
Client Support-non medical covered Tx	Coercion Resiliency	Formal Intake Paperwork
Coping Tools	Coping Tools	Health and Hx. Questionnaire
Creative Writing	Creative Writing	Informal Intake Checklist
Educational	EMDR	Medical Assessment
Financial Management	Grief Support	Research Case Information
Guardian Outreach	Guardian Engagement	RISE Openings
Guardian Support	Guardian Outreach	Tx Plan & Assessment Updated Addendum
Housing Support	Identity Work	UCSB Participant Survey
Legal Support	Orientation To Ending the Game	
Life Skills	Safety Planning/SSP (Self-Care Support Plan)	
Orientation To ETG	Stabilization	
Prosocial Supports	Transition Support	
Psychoeducation	Trauma Focused Tx	
Restoration Support	Warm Handoff	
Social Media Support	Relationships	
System Support/Advocacy	Boundaries	
Transition Support		
Vocational		
Warm Handoff		

Case Management/ICC	Client Support forensic, informational etc. (non-billable codes)	Rehab/Health & Wellness
Brokerage (W/ Client Billable)	Birthday/Celebration Reward	Alcohol/Drug
Check In	Forensic	Care Pack
Linkage/Referrals (W/O Client Not Billable)	Informational Note	Medical Appts.
Missing Person Filed/CSEC Flag	Interpretation	Meditation
Partner Collaborations	Parent/Family Support	Physical Activities
RISE Program Information	Partner Collaborations	Psychoeducation
ROI	RISE Closings	Reproductive Health
SCAR	Scheduling	System Support/Advocacy
Transportation/Access To Tx	Transportation	Yoga
Tx Plan Signed	Vocational Services	

Plan Development	Medication Support
CFT	Med Consultation
Formal Case Staffing	Med Evaluation
Hart Staffing	Med Referral
Informal Case Staffing	Med Screening
Interagency Tx MDT	Med Support
Medical Tx Plan	
Planned Break	
Present At PRC	
SSP-Self Care Support Plan	
Tx Plan Development	

RISE Co-Created MDT Flowcharts & Tools





The RISE Project and recent efforts to address commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) in Santa Barbara County have been featured in several local media outlets:

- Bartos, L. (August 23, 2016). [Confronting child sex trafficking on the Central Coast](#). *California Health Report*. (Appendix X).
- Briggs, A. (March 13, 2017) . [Hustlers for Humanity vows to fight sex trafficking](#). *Santa Barbara Independent*. HOPE Refuge. (September 13, 2016). Group Offering Refuge from Sex Trafficking to Screen Documentary on Friday. *Noozhawk*.
- Payne, J. (September 7, 2016). [Out of the shadows: As human trafficking becomes more visible on the Central Coast, authorities are collaborating in an unprecedented way to prosecute abusers, help victims, and end the cycle](#). *Santa Maria Sun*, 17(27) Cover Story.
- Scully, J. (July 21, 2016). [Men sentenced to more than eight years prison in sex-trafficking case](#). *Noozhawk*.

RISE Training, Education and Awareness-Raising Accomplishments

- **CSEC 101**-Juvenile & Adult Probation, Santa Maria Juvenile Hall Staff, North County Juvenile Court, Law Enforcement, Casa Pacifica, CALM, CASA, North and South County Rape Crisis, Sant Barbara Junior League, all Behavioral Wellness Clinics in all regions, HEAT Watch, Ventura County Task Force, Washington DC Shared Hope Presentation, Santa Barbara City College, University of California, Santa Barbara, Cottage Hospital, Public Health, Fighting Back, AmeriCorps, SBAct Community Collaborative (non-denominational spiritual organization for exploitation), Changing Faces group homes, SMVY&F (Santa Maria Valley Youth & Family)
- **Ending the Game:** Coercion Resiliency Training for CSEC youth-Runaway Girl--two trainings conducted for direct treatment providers. (Local Group Homes, Rape Crisis, Casa Pacifica, CALM, Behavioral Wellness, CBO's)

- **Survivor City:** Similar to CSEC 102. Facilitated by Runaway Girl and focuses on how to engage and support CSEC youth along with education of course.
- **CSEC 102**—North County Rape Crisis, all Behavioral Wellness Clinics in all regions, Casa Pacifica
- **Trace the Case:** With--DA/VW-HTAP, Law Enforcement and RISE—open to partners, CBO's and all community members
- **First Responder ID Training (informal pilot roll out)**—Law Enforcement, Behavioral Wellness, Juvenile Probation, CBO's, SARB, Fighting Back, Local Schools, Medical Community (Public Health/Cottage Hospital)
- **Trauma Informed Treatment Training**-- All Behavioral Wellness Clinics in all regions, Casa Pacifica, all CBO's
- **Think Trauma**—Juvenile Probation (Trauma Informed training specifically designed for Juvenile Probation)
- Presented Santa Barbara County's CSEC/Sexual Exploitation efforts at [JuST Conference](#) for *Juvenile Sex Trafficking* in Washington DC.
- All RISE staff attended in three-day DC CSEC workshops; some assisted in the presentation.
- Additional outreach and education efforts since Innovation funding awarded: [California Health Report](#); [Santa Maria Sun Times Interview](#); [Forensic Mental Health Association California](#); [UCSB CSEC Training](#); [Our Kids: Sexual Exploitation in Santa Barbara County Documentary](#); [Santa Barbara Independent CSEC Article](#); [ACJRCA Conference](#); [Santa Barbara Junior League-CSEC Focus](#); [Partnerships for Wellbeing Institute](#).

In September 2015 the Santa Barbara County District Attorney and Sheriff were awarded a \$1.3 million grant focused on human trafficking. This county collaborative effort indirectly supports RISE and builds capacity for addressing CSEC.

Empowering Female and LGBT/GNC Youth

There is no “typical” RISE Project client. Each RISE client is unique, with individual histories, strengths, personalities and challenges. However, to better understand the enormity of the difficulties and barriers faced by victims of commercial sexual exploitation, and the array of supports and services required to turn their lives around, it is helpful to learn about the history of one of clients:

JS is a 19-year-old female who has been subjected to significant sexual exploitation since she was 11 and who did not graduate from high school. She had no income outside of exploitation, no positive community supports, a parent in recovery who could not help her and a pimp who isolated her and controlled her friends. Her self-esteem was extremely low, and she expressed feelings of helplessness and isolation. She had numerous unserved physical and behavioral health needs. By the time JS was recovered in a law enforcement sting, she was highly suspicious of “helping” professionals due to a long history of failed system involvement. JS needed safe housing and because, as an adult, she was not eligible to receive supports from Child Welfare.

Regular shelter care and low-income units are unsafe for vulnerable exploitation survivors. Safe housing required costly 24/7 supports and safety accommodations.

JS's dire situation clearly required the intensive multidisciplinary, collaborative, team-based, whatever-it-takes approach coordinated by the RISE Project. Within two hours after she was recovered by law enforcement, JS began to receive RISE Project outreach supports. Within 24 hours RISE helped secure safe housing in a women's shelter with an exploitation case worker on site 24/7. JS was also provided:

- Basic necessities (food, clothing, phone, shoes, grooming/hygiene needs, bus passes, etc.) and transportation to numerous appointments and interviews.
- Support for her medical needs from the RISE nurse
- Assistance in obtaining identification and social security cards
- Vocational supports and resources, including assistance in accessing school funding and registering at community college
- Intensive trauma-focused treatment (EMDR/TF-CBT/Coercion Resiliency/Survivor Mentor Supports)
- Intensive case management, crisis services, daily check-ins, trauma-informed yoga
- Collaborative work with her child's guardian to begin reunification process
- Pro bono laser tattoo removal, which substantially contributed to JS's employability

As a result, positive outcomes for the client were numerous. Within three months, JS secured a full-time job at grocery store. She registered at a community college. She also obtained all personal identification forms, opened a bank account, accessed food and financial resources and had a facial tattoo removed. JS was reunited with her child moved out of a shelter into an independent living apartment and learned healthy coping skills to manage symptoms of PTSD. Her vulnerability to exploitation was reduced, and her self-esteem substantially increased. JS also improved her parenting skills, which resulted in a feeling of greater competence. JS is one of many RISE clients empowered to overcome serious sexual exploitation to pursue self-directed goals. Although she reached Leadership Phase, she suffered another trauma (unrelated to exploitation) and is currently disengaged from treatment. (Program phases are explained below.)

The Four Phases of Recovery

RISE clients experience four phases on the road to recovery – stabilization, coping, maintenance and leadership. For some clients, the journey is not necessarily linear; relapse may occur. So far all of our clients have moved back and forth at different times between the first three phases. Some have briefly advanced to the last phase – leadership, and then fallen back. We were only able to provide the full spectrum of RISE supports beginning in Summer of 2017 when all of the full-time staff were hired. Consequently, we have not been able to amass a sufficiently large and consistent sample to determine how the phases align with specific characteristics of our clients. We feel that an extension of the RISE Project will yield a stronger sample size with data on an array of "full" RISE services to assess the efficacy of the program. Specifically, we will be able to collect the depth of experiences necessary to evaluate how exploited girls and young women effectively engage in stabilization, develop coping strategies, maintain recovery and acquire and demonstrate leadership skills.

RISE Project Phases-CSEC Hierarchy of Needs

BIO PSYCHO SOCIAL MODEL

	PHYSIOLOGICAL ¹	SAFETY ²	LOVE/BELONGING ³	ESTEEM ⁴	SELF-ACTUALIZATION ⁵	TOOLS
STABILIZATION: "Out of the Fire"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Food and clothing Hygiene Immediate medical care Gynecological care Immediate sexual trauma support: Rape Crisis and/or SART exam Substance abuse intervention Immediate placement and planning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Self-care safety plan Suicide intervention Daily check-ins 24/7 Crisis Response information Trauma-informed DBT Crisis Interventions Self-soothing supports and tools Short-term goals and initial treatment planning "Warm handoffs" Moving On: Am I ready for the next step? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rapport building with first responder What Makes Me Shine? Assign systems Navigator Welcoming intake process into RISE program Begin to create sense of belonging Identify primary care providers (i.e. therapist, counselors, peer advocate, family, teacher, friends, etc.) "Warm handoffs" 			First Responder CSEC ID Tool, SEHS Self Care Safety Plan
COPING STRATEGIES: "Rise and Shine"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Long-term placement Assign Health and Wellness Advocate Mind/Body/Spirit Wellness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Triggers and coping strategies plan Accepting reality Short and Long-term goals Client driven Treatment Plan Interact with Peer/Survivor Advocate. "Warm handoffs" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued rapport building with treatment team Outreach to families and community supports Reconnect with primary care providers Social/emotional skills building "My Social Inventory" Identifying therapy interfering behaviors Challenging thought distortions "Warm handoffs" Moving On: Am I ready for the next step? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Social/emotional skills building Short Term Goal Attainment Improved relationships Returning to baseline sooner Building trust in others and self Gaining knowledge through Ending the Game Resiliencies are building 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CANS SEHS Identify Needs and Strengths Short and Long Term Goals Client Driven Treatment Plan Begin Ending the Game Curriculum

1 Physiological needs: food, clothing, shelter, water, and homeostasis.

2 Safety needs: security of body, employment/education, resources, morality, family, health, environment.

3 Love and Belonging needs: friendship, family, intimacy, connections to others or group

4 Esteem needs: purpose, confidence, self-efficacy, positive self regard and self-esteem.

5 Self-Actualization is the need to "become the most one can be" through mastering how to meet all previous levels of need.

<p>MAINTENANCE-Practice Being the "REAL ME": "Walking in my new shoes"</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Psychosocial education: Reconnecting with the body • Assign Health and Wellness advocate • Mind/Body/Spirit Wellness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meditation • Trauma-informed group therapy activities • Family therapy • "warm handoffs" • Individual and group counseling • Emotional regulation skills development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interpersonal skills building and repairing relationships • Group and individual counseling • Group therapy activities • "warm handoffs" • Trauma-focused family therapy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practice being the REAL ME • Building positive self-regard • Reframing life story • Radical acceptance • Psychosocial education: gender oppression, racism, socioeconomic inequalities, effects of trauma, coercion resiliency • Sharing testimonies • Group therapy activities • Reproductive/wellness education and consultation • Short and Long term goal attainment • Moving On: Am I ready for the next step? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self-efficacy and advocacy • Self-Acceptance • Starting to experience internal validation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CANS • SEHS • Complete Ending the Game Curriculum
<p>LEADERSHIP: "Don't talk about it, be about it"</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mind/Body/Spirit Wellness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing trauma-focused counseling • Seeking Safety 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New healthy and markedly improved relationships • Increased opportunities to participate in the facilitation of RISE services • Strong rapport with treatment team • Has specific leadership role within RISE and the community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leadership roles within RISE and own life • Mentoring other survivors or those in need • Vocation/Education/Financial Life Skills • Employment/Education attainment • Fine tuning coping strategies and skill development • Life Skills • Wellness-Mind-Body-Spirit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Automatic Pilot • Living the authentic self • Moved from external validation to internal validation • Reality testing and revisiting goals • Identifying skills that need strengthening or patch work • Discharge Planning/Referrals • Graduation Certificate • Moving On: Am I ready for the next step? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CANS • SEHS

¹ Physiological needs: food, clothing, shelter, water, and homeostasis.

² Safety needs: security of body, employment/education, resources, morality, family, health, environment.

³ Love and Belonging needs: friendship, family, intimacy, connections to others or group

⁴ Esteem needs: purpose, confidence, self-efficacy, positive self regard and self-esteem.

⁵ Self-Actualization is the need to "become the most one can be" through mastering how to meet all previous levels of need.

Initial Lessons Learned

We have learned a number of valuable lessons that will equip Santa Barbara County providers to better meet the behavioral health needs of sexually exploited girls and young women:

- The population size of CSEC is higher than originally expected, and the County Department of Behavioral Wellness' staffing resources are insufficient. Fortunately, county partners have been increasing their CSEC resources to contribute to our collaborative efforts.
- We need additional community-based CSEC supports to help stabilize and support youth. Fortunately, several newly trained staff members from other agencies have begun to work with us more consistently.
- Multi-system involvement often creates significant barriers to treatment and treating clients is very labor intensive. Victims of sexual exploitation are often incarcerated, ordered into other treatment, placed in group homes, have warrants out for their arrest, have frequent court dates and legal obligations and inconsistent and ill-equipped guardians. Consistent participation in intensive RISE supports (two-to-four times per week) may be quite challenging, given clients' competing obligations.
- Youth often have several support persons on their team from other agencies, and they quickly get overwhelmed and start to disengage.

- Youth often have serious trust issues; outreach and engagement for the transition from stabilization to developing coping strategies can be a lengthy process.
- CSEC youth run away often, causing additional legal and placement issues, as well as additional trauma. CSEC often return with numerous additional sexual assaults and new experiences involving violence and threats.
- Substance addiction often creates significant barriers to consistent treatment.
- When youth are incarcerated, which happens often, RISE personnel have very limited access to them.
- Incarceration is traumatic, and we often see regression in clients.
- Some of the girls have engaged in assaulting and recruiting other girls, restricting their participation in certain activities and groups until the threat is mitigated.
- Some youth have very controlling pimps who actively threaten them or their families for participating in mental health supports.
- Most of our youth have experienced significant school failure, which threatens their success. Securing educational supports is labor- and time-intensive, often taking several months just to get a school assessment and individual education plan.
- We need a 24/7 on-call CSEC Crisis Support line for our youth who want to run away, use drugs, have recently been assaulted, have warrants out for their arrests, have emotional struggles, are newly identified or recently recovered by law enforcement, etc. Ideally, the staff on this support line would have significant training and access to the youth's treatment team if additional supports are needed.
- Exploitation survivors and victims require a long and intensive recovery process as they often experience hundreds, sometimes thousands, of incidents of rape and sexual assault prior to being identified; making speedy recovery unlikely. We are learning that many of our RISE clients, particularly those who have experienced extensive long-term abuse without treatment or supportive adults, will likely need two-four years of consistent intensive support services to reach and maintain the final Leadership phase, gain long-term stability and create an enriched, meaningful life.
- After exhaustive research, we learned that there are no comprehensive "how to" models or manuals regarding developing an effective multi-disciplinary approach to preventing, eradicating and treating sexual exploitation of youth. Having to create an effective county wide and individualized approach was more labor intensive than we originally hypothesized.

Using a Shared Screening Tool: Lessons Learned and Future Learning Opportunities:

What We Originally Thought: Using the shared screening CSE-IT (Commercial Sexual Exploitation Identification Tool) will increase first responders' identification skills and early identification and improve therapeutic and safety interventions rapid response times

Challenges: after we realized that the CSE-IT tool was inadequate, we developed a more first responder-friendly tool. It took longer than expected to complete the first responder identification tool collaboratively in 2016-2017, for which we have assigned the acronym FRIT. It has been difficult to get our numerous partners on the same page and to regularly attend the workshops. Also, creating and providing easy access laminated FRIT tri-fold for mobile first responders was costly. In addition, there was no designated oversight agency to ensure a collaborative process, attendance, completion of action items and fidelity. Furthermore, due to training and resource shortages, we do not have an adequate pool of 24/7 CSEC rapid responders. We have been unable to train enough partners. First responders are already understaffed. Training and data tracking requirements, along with first responder buy-in was challenging. Many first responders felt they did not have the experience and knowledge to conduct follow-up after a youth was identified.

Lessons Learned: The CSE-IT is somewhat effective for clinically-focused providers with a moderate amount of client history information from relevant county agencies (Child Welfare, Behavioral Wellness). We needed a shared tool for first responders who were likely to have initial and more frequent contact. It has been difficult to share information among agencies. Since partner agencies have no ability to share protected information, so we were unable to prevent duplicate screenings. CSE-IT is not “first responder” user-friendly; the tool is too long and difficult to complete and not easily accessed. Staff had to be officially certified, and, given staff turnover, it has been challenging to certify enough staff. In addition, first responders did not use it consistently because it is not user-friendly. Also, the tool did not direct first responders on what to do next; i.e., how to access rapid responders, to whom to report CSEC suspicions, etc.

Consequently, we learned that a tool shared among multiple providers and/or first responders has to be easy to learn and use. It should be brief and understandable by non-clinicians. It should also provide information on next steps, including how to initiate immediate supports.

The Solution: In 2016 we identified the problem with CSE-IT and began the development and pilot utilization of the Santa Barbara County FRIT. It was finalized near the end of 2017 through a collaborative process. Formal training will begin in 2018. We need to identify and develop strong and consistent “CSEC rapid responders” who can provide immediate 24/7 support once victims of sexual exploitation are identified.

Determining the effectiveness and impact of using a shared screening and assessment tool is one of the key learning objectives of the RISE Project. During months three-five of the proposed two-year extension period, we will identify outcome measures and how data will be collected. Outcome measures may include an increase in CSEC child abuse reports, improved CSEC identification and early identification, greater numbers of timely therapeutic interventions, improved CSEC multidisciplinary team participation and occurrences, strengthened collaborations and communications across agencies, etc.

Evaluation and Dissemination of Information

To share information with the widest relevant audience, we would like to create and distribute statewide a toolkit, *How to Develop an Effective Multi-Disciplinary Approach for Exploited Youth*. This unique resource would include examples of Memoranda of Understanding (MOU’s), Work Agreements, Contracts to address gaps, Flowcharts, P&Ps, Program Development/Interventions, How to Identify and/or Create CSEC Specific Community Based Supports, Data Collecting (what to collect/how to collect etc), Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) Process, How to Influence Culture Shift (Creating a CSEC Lens) within your community and partner agencies, How to Develop and Maintain Effective Partner Relationships etc.

Implementation Timeline

Date	Activity
(Months 1-2)	Create and define a multi-disciplinary First Responder Identification Tool (FRIT) Training Team and Oversight Committee.
(Months 3-5)	FRIT team creates a shared database for all first responder identification tools.

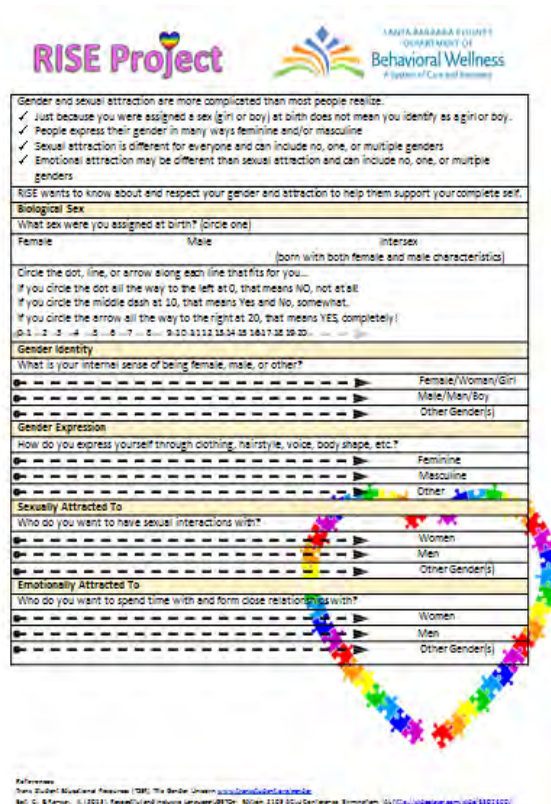
(Months 3-5)	FRIT Team identifies outcome measures and how data will be collected (i.e., increased CSEC child abuse reports, improved CSEC identification, improved early identification, improved timely therapeutic interventions, improved CSEC MDT participation and occurrences, improved collaborations/communications across agencies, etc., including UCSB).
(Months 3-15)	FRIT Team to Identify and develop strong and consistent “CSEC Rapid Responders” who can provide immediate 24/7 support to victims once First Responders ID CSEC (add mobile on call CSEC Rapid Responder RISE staff or train other available community/county resources).
(Months 6-9)	FRIT Team to schedule and train smaller group of first responders, starting with law enforcement, to formally pilot the shared screening tool.
(Months 6-12)	FRIT Oversight Committee to assess efficacy, iron out application issues, make necessary changes to FRIT and create formal FRIT policies and procedures.
(Months 13-19)	Conduct formal countywide FRIT training for first responders.
(Months 19-24)	Assess outcomes and FRIT efficacy for final evaluation of effectiveness of shared tool.
(Months 6-7)	Appoint RISE representative to participate in Migrant Outreach Workgroup
(Months 7-10)	Identify needs and possible community-based organizations/supports to conduct Migrant Outreach
(Months 7-10)	Identify Migrant Outreach outcome measures and how data will be collected (i.e., increased CSEC child abuse reports for migrant youth, improved migrant CSEC identification, improved early identification for migrant youth, improved timely therapeutic interventions, improved CSEC multidisciplinary team (MDT) participation and occurrences, improved collaborations/communications across agencies, etc (including University of California Santa Barbara - UCSB)
(Months 11-17)	Initiate migrant outreach.
(Months 12-17)	Migrant Outreach Workgroup (including UCSB) to assess efficacy, iron out application issues, make necessary changes to Migrant Outreach Efforts/Interventions and create formal Migrant Outreach identification policies and procedures.
(Months 21-22)	RISE/Behavioral Wellness to complete a toolkit, How to Develop an Effective Multi-Disciplinary Approach for Exploited Youth.
(Month 22)	Behavioral Wellness and RISE partner agencies review the toolkit; final input incorporated. Statewide distribution plan (conferences, website, email, etc.) completed.
(Months 23-24)	Toolkit distributed statewide.

Alignment with MHSA Guiding Principles

The RISE Project conforms to the guiding principles of MHSA:

Community collaboration. Multi-agency collaboration is built into the service delivery. Every day we collaborate with representatives of law enforcement, community-based organizations, schools, courts, faith-based organizations and many other agencies. The importance of a multi-layered collaborative effort is illustrated via the Santa Barbara County Interagency Protocol and a memorandum of understanding (MOU) summarizing the roles and responsibilities of all partner agencies. The protocol establishes a multi-disciplinary team that assesses acute and long-term medical, psychiatric, housing, safety and forensic service needs for exploited youth.

Cultural competency. RISE serves several culturally underserved populations. The majority of clients have been Latinas. RISE also serves LGBT and gender non-conforming (GNC) youth and have recently begun to add additional outreach and engagement efforts for this population through LGBT/GNC intensive staff trainings and the development of the RISE LGBT/GNC Tool (an identification and therapeutic tool). A two-year extension of the project would help us to better serve the LGBT/GNC populations and also help us better support migrant victims of exploitation through our involvement with the newly created Migrant Outreach Workgroup.



The image shows a form titled "RISE Project Behavioral Wellness Assessment". At the top, it features the RISE Project logo and the Santa Barbara County Behavioral Wellness logo. The form includes an introductory paragraph about gender and sexual attraction, followed by a section for "Biological Sex" with options for Female, Male, and Intersex. It then has a section for "Gender Identity" with a scale from 0 to 20. Below that is "Gender Expression" with options for Feminine, Masculine, and Other. The "Sexually Attracted To" section has a scale from 0 to 20 with options for Women, Men, and Other Gender(s). The "Emotionally Attracted To" section also has a scale from 0 to 20 with the same options. A large rainbow heart graphic is overlaid on the bottom right of the form. At the bottom, there are references to the Santa Barbara County Behavioral Wellness (SBW) and the Gender Identity Assessment (GIA) tool.

Client-driven. Empowerment of females and LGBT/GNC youth victimized by, or at risk for, sexual exploitation is a core value of the RISE Project. Each youth's unique strengths, needs and preferences are assessed through a comprehensive trauma-informed screening process designed to identify several biopsychosocial and "hierarchy of needs" factors including, trauma related symptoms, risk/protective factors, safety, socioeconomic/cultural/spiritual background, natural supports, education, AOD supports, medical/reproductive needs, housing/placement, vocational/pro-social, legal restoration and readiness for engagement. RISE works toward supporting each youth to find their own sense of self, hope, purpose and belonging so he/she/they can become empowered in their own destiny.

Family-driven. Family support is invaluable for the well-being and future success of victims of sexual exploitation. We work closely with family members to develop treatment goals, to increase relationship and housing stability as well as achieve family reunification. RISE provides strong focus on guardian psycho-education focused on CSEC, domestic violence and how social media is used in exploitation.

Wellness, Recovery and Resilience-Focused. RISE is committed to promoting hope and resiliency in youth, guiding them to lead their pursuit of meaningful and enriching lives. More details are presented in the statement of RISE Project phases earlier in this document.

Integrated Service Experience for Clients and Families. Service integration is at the heart of the RISE Project and facilitated by the service delivery model. Central to the success of the model was the pre-planning process and ongoing collaboration between all partners, including Law Enforcement, Juvenile Probation, Courts, Public Defender, District Attorney, Rape Crisis, DSS, Victim Witness, Santa Barbara County Human Trafficking Task Force, the Department of Behavioral Wellness, local schools, CALM, UCSB, the medical community, EMT's, community-based organizations, guardians, foster parents, peers/mentors/survivors, representatives of spiritual communities and others. These collaborative partnerships have been key in shifting toward a CSEC or trauma lens approach and transforming the culture from criminalization to treatment and support.

The Community Planning Process

The 30-day public comment period for the RISE Project extension began on June 5 and ended on July 4, 2018. The Behavioral Wellness Commission (formerly the Mental Health Association). The Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors is likely to approve the extension on July 17, 2018. We received unanimous and overwhelmingly positive responses, comments and support and no corrective feedback or questions. As a result, no modifications in the RISE Project extension request were made. Letters of support appear as Attachment 1.

A sample of community response appears below:

- "My name is **Laurie Haro**, and I am a Division Chief with Child Welfare Services in Santa Barbara County. I have had the pleasure of actively working with the RISE program since its inception" "The RISE program is able to provide those services, and to do so immediately, sometimes within hours, of a child or youth being identified as sexually exploited. These mental health services are provided to these exploited youth in their homes, at the RISE center, or in a foster home setting. Through the multidisciplinary team (MDT) process, RISE strives to work with community partners to develop appropriate service plans to address the child or youth's needs, so that further exploitation does not occur ... It would be a great benefit for our county if the funding for this program were extended for the next two years, so that this program can

continue to successfully meet the mental health needs of children and youth who have been victims, or are at risk of being victims of sexual exploitation.”

- **Dr. Carrick Adam**-Pediatrician at the Santa Barbara County Juvenile Detention Facilities, physician at the Santa Maria Valley Youth and Family Adolescent Alcohol and Drug Treatment program and Medical Director for the Santa Barbara County Sexual Assault Response Team: Exploited youth are “... hard to reach and often difficult to deal with by traditional programming (probation, mental health clinic, etc.) RISE is able to connect with this population in a way that I personally have never seen before. They “meet them where they are” and offer real, immediate help and solutions. They have helped divert girls (mostly) from the juvenile justice setting to services that are more therapeutic. RISE has also been instrumental in advocating for more services, more County awareness and more collaboration between agencies. Their presence is critical to the continued development of coordinated services for exploited children.”
- **Megan Rheinschild**-Victim Witness Program Director-Santa Barbara County District Attorney's Office: “The RISE program offers the kind of specific trauma informed mental health interventions this population needs and is not offered by any other partner agency. Without the RISE program the commercially exploited youth of Santa Barbara County would not be receiving appropriate care. The RISE program has been instrumental in helping the Santa Barbara Human Trafficking Task Force develop a multidisciplinary team protocol delivering emergency, short term and long term wraparound services. We work very closely with the RISE team in our Helping to Achieve Resiliency or "HART" Court program, a partnership with the District Attorney’s Office, the Public Defender, Social Services and Juvenile Court. RISE has become an integral part of our flight to combat human trafficking in Santa Barbara County. We are grateful for their partnership and collaboration.”

Sustainability

The tools established in Santa Barbara County are being reviewed for the designation of best practices and may be replicated in other counties or states. Effective community collaboration contributes to the high demand for the program in a county where the number of CSEC victims is growing.

The original plan for sustainability of the RISE project -- assuming that the treatment model was successful and a significant community need served – called for reconfiguring RISE as a Full Service Partnership (FSP) with the capability to be reimbursed by Medi-Cal for billable expenditures. (Our current Medi-Cal reimbursement rate is over 20%).

A two-year extension of Innovation funding would enable RISE to learn enough to “hard wire” the project into the type of program that can make a smooth transition to an FSP.

References

1. <https://www.countyofsb.org/da/humantrafficking.html> (Retrieved 6-3-18.)
2. *The RISE Project Evaluation Report, Executive Summary*, April 2018

Component	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Total	% Budget
	FY 15-16	FY 16-17	FY 17-18	EXTENSION	EXTENSION		
Staffing							
Salaries	\$197,429	\$383,469	\$516,730	\$586,400	\$586,400	\$2,270,428	
Benefits	\$129,583	\$257,582	\$378,158	\$302,000	\$302,000	\$1,369,323	
Total	\$327,012	\$641,051	\$894,888	\$888,400	\$888,400	\$3,639,751	59%
Operations for Project							
Facility - Maintenance, Rent, Janitorial, Security, Utilities	\$96,412	\$188,837	\$28,077	\$109,000	\$109,000	\$531,326	
Client Expense - Food, Clothing, Shelter, Housing, Lodging	\$668	\$2,237	\$18,444	\$53,400	\$53,400	\$128,150	
Operating Supplies - Copier, Licenses, Office Expense, All Other	\$2,549	\$11,692	\$26,699	\$45,400	\$45,400	\$131,740	
Travel - In County Cars, Mileage, Meetings, and Conferences	\$5,383	\$121,242	\$42,442	\$4,900	\$4,900	\$178,867	
Information Technology - Software, Hardware, Phone, Maintenance	\$13,695	\$8,904	\$14,615	\$27,400	\$27,400	\$92,014	
Staff and Community Training & Peer Mentor Consultant	\$10,146	\$24,681	\$76,852	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$191,679	
Contract Providers - Physician / Staff Support	\$3,384	\$4,664	\$25,157	\$100	\$100	\$33,405	
County Operations Service Charges	\$1,252	\$95,869	\$74,025	\$114,800	\$114,800	\$400,746	
Total	\$133,488	\$458,125	\$306,312	\$395,000	\$395,000	\$1,687,926	27%
Evaluation and Administration							
BeWell Administrative Costs - Admin, Quality Assurance, Evaluation	\$46,011	\$141,886	\$137,127	\$218,400	\$218,400	\$761,824	
Evaluation - University of California at Santa Barbara / Jill Sharkey	\$0	\$31,320	\$30,120	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$121,440	
Total	\$46,011	\$173,206	\$167,247	\$248,400	\$248,400	\$883,264	14%
Total Proposed Expense Budget	\$506,511	\$1,272,382	\$1,368,447	\$1,531,800	\$1,531,800	\$6,210,940	
Less: Offsetting Revenus (Medi-Cal)	(\$676)	(\$41,781)	(\$176,922)	(\$231,800)	(\$231,800)	(\$682,980)	
Total MHSA Innovations Budget	\$505,834	\$1,230,601	\$1,191,525	\$1,300,000	\$1,300,000	\$5,527,961	
Total Two Year MHSA Innovations Extension Request				\$1,300,000	\$1,300,000	\$2,600,000	

BUDGET NARRATIVE

Administrative Costs

Administrative costs reflect the indirect cost rate plan approved by the County Auditor's Office, which range from 18-22% of direct costs and are the overhead for Quality Assurance, which includes quality management and program evaluation staffing costs provided by the Department of Behavioral Wellness.

Administrative costs include regular administrative costs, additional costs for start-up and program development (including DBS, AOP, Fiscal, Contracts, Compliance (Policies & Procedures, MOU's etc).

Behavioral Wellness Department executives participated in numerous multi-agency exec level meeting regarding SB 855 CSEC mandates to help create MOU's, Standing Orders to address confidentiality, formal Interagency CSEC Protocols, executive-level CSEC Steering Committee, executive-level participation in the Human Trafficking Task Force, Board of Supervisor presentations, Behavioral Wellness Commission presentations, etc. These are examples of duties supported by the indirect cost rate plan.

Performance Evaluation

Evaluation costs reflect expenses incurred in hiring Dr. Jill Sharkey and the University of California, Santa Barbara team. Dr. Jill Sharkey is a contractor who provides evaluation services to the Department of Behavioral Wellness RISE Project to identify baseline, process, and outcome data. Specifically:

OBJECTIVES. To provide project measurement to obtain continuous performance feedback for:

- Effectiveness and impact of using a shared screening tool;
- Effectiveness of specifically designed approach;
- Interagency collaboration; and
- Establish whether increase of public awareness increases funding.

SERVICES

- Develop and implement comprehensive evaluation procedures for the following: identify baseline, process; and outcome data to evaluate RISE.
- Create data collection procedures, helping County to improve upon and manage their data for the purposes of this project.
- Receive de-identified data for analysis purposes.
- Provide an improvement process to County to manage data for analysis purposes.
- Develop and implement a comprehensive evaluation plan that will inform each of the four project objectives including baseline, process, and outcome data.
- Develop a written report that includes all data collected by March 31, 2018 into a comprehensive report by June 30, 2019.

Contract Providers

This line item refers to a physician and/or other staffing assistance that is not provided by civil service staff. If, for example, a physician is providing a short-term locum contract, the budgeted salary costs shift to that line item. We use this as a placeholder.

Facility Costs

Facility costs include the rent payment for the confidential location, offices in all regions for staff, and the facility-related charges, such as building maintenance, provision of security, janitorial services and utilities.

Several partner agencies also use our site (District Attorney/Victim Witness/CSEC Advocates, Rape Crisis, Juvenile Probation, Child Welfare, Survivor Mentors (Runaway Girl & Ending the Game), Law Enforcement, Vocational Training Organizations, Trauma-Informed Yoga Workshops) which allows for greater collaboration.

Training and Peer Support

- The Runaway Girl contract provides Ending The Game™ (ETG) Facilitator Training to train participants of this training to become facilitators of Ending The Game™ curriculum, facilitation of curriculum for Survivors and topics requested by Behavioral Wellness Staff. Included in this contract, is peer support training and mentorship to survivors of the program interested in peer employment.
- The Uffizi-Human Trafficking nonprofit educates at least 3000 community members on the prevalence of human trafficking in Santa Barbara County through direct education efforts or community awareness project and develop and develop community awareness project and social media platform to provide education at a broad level. Funding for this was in the beginning years.

RISE Training, Education & Awareness Initiatives

Costs related to training of staff and community have included:

- CSEC 101 Training to Juvenile & Adult Probation, Santa Maria Juvenile Hall Staff, North County Juvenile Court, Law Enforcement, Casa Pacifica, CALM, CASA, North and South County Rape Crisis, Santa Barbara Junior League, all Behavioral Wellness Clinics in all regions, HEAT Watch, Ventura County Task Force, Washington DC Shared Hope Presentation, Santa Barbara City College, UCSB, Cottage Hospital, Public Health, Fighting Back, AmeriCorps, SBAct Community Collaborative (non-denominational spiritual organization for exploitation), Changing Faces group homes, and SMVY&F (Santa Maria Valley Youth & Family).
- Ending the Game: Coercion Resiliency Training for CSEC youth by Runaway Girl which included two trainings conducted for direct treatment providers such as local Group Homes, Rape Crisis, Casa Pacifica, Calm, Behavioral Wellness, and community based organizations.
- Survivor City: Similar to CSEC 102 Training which was facilitated by Runaway Girl and focuses on how to engage and support CSEC youth along with education of course.
- CSEC 102 Training to North County Rape Crisis, all Behavioral Wellness Clinics in all regions, and Casa Pacifica.

- Trace the Case training with District Attorney, Victim Witness, Law Enforcement and RISE—open to partners, community based organizations and all community members.
- First Responder ID Training including the informal pilot roll out with Law Enforcement, Behavioral Wellness, Juvenile Probation, community based organizations, SARB, Fighting Back, Local Schools, and Medical Community such as Public Health and Cottage Health Systems.
- Trauma Informed Treatment Training for all Behavioral Wellness Clinics in all regions, Casa Pacifica, and all community based organizations.
- Think Trauma targeted toward Juvenile Probation which is a trauma Informed training specifically designed for Juvenile Probation.
- All RISE staff attended in three day CSEC workshop as well as some assisted in the presentation.
- Additional outreach and education efforts since Innovation funding awarded were: [California Health Report](#); [Santa Maria Sun Times Interview](#); [Forensic Mental Health Association California](#); [UCSB CSEC Training](#); [Our Kids: Sexual Exploitation in Santa Barbara County Documentary](#); [Santa Barbara Independent CSEC Article](#); [ACJRCA Conference](#); [Santa Barbara Junior League-CSEC Focus](#); [Partnerships for Wellbeing Institute](#)

Additional Travel Costs

RISE has extensive commuting needs to serve clients. We purchased three cars; however, we often have to use motor pool to “meet our client’s where they are”—literally.

Attachment 1: Letters of Support

Statement of Support for MHSA RISE Project Extension

The following letter certifies that our organization, **Department of Social Services, Child Welfare Services** offers its support for the following MHSA Innovation 2 year extension (FY 18/19-19/20) request by Santa Barbara County Department of Behavioral Wellness (BWell):

RISE (Resiliency Interventions for Sexual Exploitation)—MHSA Innovation

The consequences of childhood trauma profoundly impact, at great social and financial cost, not only county Mental Health and DSS, but community schools, juvenile justice, medical providers and more. The most costly outcome, however, is the intense pain, suffering and "reduced quality of life" experienced by victims and families.

- The priority populations served by the RISE Project will include youth aged 10-24 and their families; specifically targeting our underserved female, LGBT/GNC African-American, Asian/Pacific Islander, Latino, Native American/Tribal youth who are "at" and "in" risk of commercial sexual exploitation (sex trafficking) in each region of Santa Barbara County.
- Supports will focus on:
 - Youth who are "at risk" of or have experienced sexual exploitation
 - Youth identified as commercially sexually exploited.
 - Youth at risk of out of home placement or are residing in Juvenile Hall, foster care or group homes
- RISE has been working toward developing and maintaining interagency, multi-layered treatment/training/education approaches for sexual exploitation of children and youth in SB County which includes partners/supports throughout the community, including Law Enforcement, Juvenile Probation, Courts, Public Defender, District Attorney, Rape Crisis, DSS, Victim Witness, SB County Human Trafficking Task Force, Behavioral Wellness, Schools, UCSB, Medical Community, Public Health, EMT's, Community Based Organizations, Guardians, Foster Parents, Peers/Mentors, Spiritual Community and others. A comprehensive gender-specific/trauma-informed model of services, resources, protocols, education and training will be collaboratively developed, implemented and tested for efficacy.

In addition to understanding the need to address the concerning increase in child sexual exploitation in our community, we (I), the undersigned, have participated in previous multi-disciplinary improvement oriented endeavors with Behavioral Wellness in efforts to provide "best practice" and culturally sensitive care, and because of our (my) positive experience, we (I) are pleased to give support to the RISE Project Extension Request. We (I) understand that this project requires a strong collaborative network of informed individuals and multi-disciplinary service providers to help create systemic change, improve the lives of our community's vulnerable youth and their families, and serve as a model of effective practices for reducing child sexual abuse and sexual exploitation/trafficking and its resulting multilayered and costly consequences.

We (I), therefore, commit ourselves and/or the organizations and agencies we represent to build and strengthen the efficacy of the RISE Project by coordinating, participating in or providing the following:

- **Participate in multi-agency and multi-disciplinary CSEC/Human Trafficking meetings**
- **Provide referral and resource assistance for needed interventions targeting at risk youth and victims of commercial sexual exploitation and trafficking, including nonprofit/governmental agencies as well as spiritually based services.**
- **Join or continue as members of the Santa Barbara County Human Trafficking Task Force**
- **Work collaboratively with the "HART Court Program" to aid in assistance to at risk and in risk youth**
- **Agree to continue participation in county wide, multi-agency Trauma-Informed Trainings**
- **Agree to help create a more trauma-informed culture in your agency, department, classroom or home, particularly related to sexually exploited children**

We (I) verify that representatives of **Department of Social Services, Child Welfare Services**, have been notified of the issuance of this letter and have thus granted approval of this document for the Grant Period of 2018-2020

Name

Date

6-20-18

My name is Laurie Haro, and I am a Division Chief with Child Welfare Services in Santa Barbara County. I have had the pleasure of actively working with the RISE program since its inception. While Child Welfare Services and the Juvenile Probation Department are usually the gateway for referrals on children and youth who have suffered or are at risk of suffering sexual exploitation, neither agency is able to provide the necessary therapeutic services to address the trauma that these children have experienced at the hands of their perpetrators. The RISE program is able to provide those services, and to do so immediately, sometimes within hours, of a child or youth being identified as sexually exploited. These mental health services are provided to these exploited youth in their homes, at the RISE center, or in a foster home setting. Through the MDT process, RISE strives to work with community partners to develop appropriate service plans to address the child or youth's needs, so that further exploitation does not occur. Recently a youth was identified as possibly being a CSEC victim: Child Welfare Services made a call to RISE, and a therapist was dispatched to Santa Barbara within minutes of that call in order to meet and assess the child's mental health needs. In addition to therapeutic services, the RISE program has worked extensively within our community to educate about the risk of CSEC for our youth, and how to successfully report it. It would be a great benefit for our county if the funding for this program were extended for the next two years, so that this program can continue to successfully meet the mental health needs of children and youth who have been victims, or are at risk of being victims, of sexual exploitation.

Laurie Haro, Division Chief

Statement of Support for MHSA RISE Project Extension

To: Santa Barbara Mental Health Commission,

The following letter certifies that I offer my support for the following MHSA Innovation 2 year extension (FY 18/19-19/20) request by Santa Barbara County Department of Behavioral Wellness (BWell):

RISE (Resiliency Interventions for Sexual Exploitation)—MHSA Innovation

The consequences of childhood trauma profoundly impact, at great social and financial cost, not only county Mental Health and DSS, but community schools, juvenile justice, medical providers and more. The most costly outcome, however, is the intense pain, suffering and "reduced quality of life" experienced by victims and families.

- The priority populations served by the RISE Project will include youth aged 10-24 and their families; specifically targeting our underserved female, LGBT/GNC African-American, Asian/Pacific Islander, Latino, Native American/Tribal youth who are "at" and "in" risk of commercial sexual exploitation (sex trafficking) in each region of Santa Barbara County.
- Supports will focus on:
 - Youth who are "at risk" of or have experienced sexual exploitation
 - Youth identified as commercially sexually exploited.
 - Youth at risk of out of home placement or are residing in Juvenile Hall, foster care or group homes
- RISE has been working toward developing and maintaining interagency, multi-layered treatment/training/education approaches for sexual exploitation of children and youth in SB County which includes partners/supports throughout the community, including Law Enforcement, Juvenile Probation, Courts, Public Defender, District Attorney, Rape Crisis, DSS, Victim Witness, SB County Human Trafficking Task Force, Behavioral Wellness, Schools, UCSB, Medical Community, Public Health, EMT's, Community Based Organizations, Guardians, Foster Parents, Peers/Mentors, Spiritual Community and others. A comprehensive gender-specific/trauma-informed model of services, resources, protocols, education and training will be collaboratively developed, implemented and tested for efficacy.

In addition to understanding the need to address the concerning increase in child sexual exploitation in our community, I have participated in previous multi-disciplinary improvement oriented endeavors with Behavioral Wellness in efforts to provide "best practice" and culturally sensitive care, and because of my positive experience, I am pleased to give support to the RISE Project Extension Request. I understand that this project requires a strong collaborative network of informed individuals and multi-disciplinary service providers to help create systemic change, improve the lives of our community's vulnerable youth and their families, and serve as a model of effective practices for reducing child sexual abuse and sexual exploitation/trafficking and its resulting multilayered and costly consequences.

I am committed to build and strengthen the efficacy of the RISE Project by coordinating, participating in or providing the following:

- **Participate in multi-agency and multi-disciplinary CSEC/Human Trafficking meetings**
- **Provide referral and resource assistance for needed interventions targeting at risk youth and victims of commercial sexual exploitation and trafficking, including nonprofit/governmental agencies as well as spiritually based services.**
- **Join or continue as members of the Santa Barbara County Human Trafficking Task Force**
- **Work collaboratively with the "HART Court Program" to aid in assistance to at risk and in risk youth**
- **Agree to continue participation in county wide, multi-agency Trauma-Informed Trainings**
- **Agree to help create a more trauma-informed culture in your agency, department, classroom or home, particularly related to sexually exploited children**

Having worked with this population for the majority of my career as the Pediatrician at the Santa Barbara County Juvenile Detention Facilities and more recently as the physician at the Santa Maria Valley Youth and Family Adolescent Alcohol and Drug Treatment program and as the Medical Director for the Santa Barbara County Sexual Assault Response Team, I can tell you their medical, emotional and mental health needs are significant. This population has experienced a staggering amount

of trauma in their short lives and the consequences are expressed in significant physical, behavioral and psychological ways. They are hard to reach and often difficult to deal with by traditional programming (probation, mental health clinic, etc.) RISE is able to connect with this population in a way that I personally have never seen before. They “meet them where they are” and offer real, immediate help and solutions. They have helped divert girls (mostly) from the juvenile justice setting to services that are more therapeutic.

RISE has also been instrumental in advocating for more services, more County awareness and more collaboration between agencies. Their presence is critical to the continued development of coordinated services for exploited children.

Please extend their MHSA funding so they can continue their critical and transforming work.

Sincerely,

Carrick Adam, MD, MSPH
Board Certified, American Academy of Pediatrics and American Board of Addiction Medicine
Medical Director, Santa Barbara County Juvenile Detention facilities
Medical Director, Santa Barbara County Sexual Assault Response Team
Addiction Pediatrician, Santa Maria Valley Youth and Family Adolescent Alcohol and Drug Program
Secretary, Fighting Back Santa Maria Valley

Name

Date

Parent of RISE Client (name confidential)
Santa Maria, CA 93456

June 20, 2018

Dear Behavioral Wellness Commission,

I am writing today because I understand that there is discussion of cutting funding for the Santa Barbara County RISE Program. As a single mom I can not afford to take the day off work, or I would be there in person to plead with you not to cut their funding. I wholeheartedly believe that the RISE Program saved my daughter, and without their knowledge and expertise she would not be with me today. My daughter was sex trafficked in the fall of 2015 and was one of the first girls to be part of the RISE Program. Her first months home after being rescued were extremely challenging. The brainwashing and manipulation that she endured from the traffickers was intense. The counselors at the RISE Program not only worked with my daughter, but helped me to understand what she had been through and how to help her.

My youngest daughter has also recently started being seen by a RISE Program therapist. She had been seeing a therapist at Behavioral Wellness on Foster Road. When that therapist left her position, the new therapist told me that she thought my daughter's needs would be better met through the RISE Program because of the sexual abuse that my daughter has endured. Without hesitation I contacted RISE about also connecting this daughter with their services.

I attended the Human Trafficking Awareness Forum hosted by Assemblyman Jordan Cunningham on April 20, 2018. The crime of sex trafficking is growing in our area. Law enforcement is working hard to fight the issue. The DA's office works diligently to prosecute the traffickers. But what about the victims? The RISE Program is intensive, specialized therapy that works to transform these victims into survivors. I have seen that happen first hand. My daughter has lived it. Please do not cut funding for the RISE Program. There are many others like my daughters who would benefit tremendously from their services. Please allow these girls the same chance to be transformed.

Parent's name and signature removed for confidentiality



NORTH COUNTY RAPE CRISIS & CHILD PROTECTION CENTER

Statement of Support for MHSA RISE Project Extension

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Dottie Lyons
Jody Oliver

Dirk & Karen Starbuck
Nancy Stewart
Tom & Barbara Urbanske
Lawrence Westbury, D.D.S.

The following letter certifies that our organization, North County Rape Crisis and Child Protection Center offers its overwhelming support for the following MHSA Innovation 2 year extension (FY 18/19-19/20) request by Santa Barbara County Department of Behavioral Wellness (BWell):

RISE (Resiliency Interventions for Sexual Exploitation)—MHSA Innovation

The consequences of childhood trauma profoundly impact, at great social and financial cost, not only county Mental Health and DSS, but community schools, juvenile justice, medical providers and more. The most costly outcome, however, is the intense pain, suffering and "reduced quality of life" experienced by victims and families.

- The priority populations served by the RISE Project will include youth aged 10-24 and their families; specifically targeting our underserved female, LGBT/GNC African-American, Asian/Pacific Islander, Latino, Native American/Tribal youth who are "at" and "in" risk of commercial sexual exploitation (sex trafficking) in each region of Santa Barbara County.
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- RISE has been working toward developing and maintaining interagency, multi-layered treatment/training/education approaches for sexual exploitation of children and youth in SB County which includes partners/supports throughout the community, including Law Enforcement, Juvenile Probation, Courts, Public Defender, District Attorney, Rape Crisis, DSS, Victim Witness, SB County Human Trafficking Task Force, Behavioral Wellness, Schools, UCSB, Medical Community, Public Health, EMT's, Community Based Organizations, Guardians, Foster Parents, Peers/Mentors, Spiritual Community and others. A comprehensive gender-specific/trauma-informed model of services, resources, protocols, education and training will be collaboratively developed, implemented and tested for efficacy.

In addition to understanding the need to address the concerning increase in child sexual exploitation in our community, we, the undersigned, have participated in previous multi-disciplinary improvement oriented endeavors with Behavioral Wellness in efforts to provide "best practice" and culturally sensitive care, and because of our positive experience, we are pleased to give support to the RISE Project Extension Request. We understand that this project requires a strong collaborative network of informed individuals and multi-disciplinary service providers to help create systemic change, improve the lives of our community's vulnerable youth and their families, and serve as a model of effective practices for reducing child sexual abuse and sexual exploitation/trafficking and its resulting multilayered and costly consequences.


P.O. Box 148, Lompoc, CA 93438

LOMPOC OFFICE: (805) 736-8535 ♥ SANTA MARIA OFFICE: (805) 922-2994
24-HOUR HOTLINE: (805) 736-7273 ♥ office@ncrcpc.org

We, therefore, commit ourselves and/or the organizations and agencies we represent to build and strengthen the efficacy of the RISE Project by coordinating, participating in or providing the following:

- **Participate in multi-agency and multi-disciplinary CSEC/Human Trafficking meetings**
- **Provide referral and resource assistance for needed interventions targeting at risk youth and victims of commercial sexual exploitation and trafficking, including nonprofit/governmental agencies as well as spiritually based services.**
- **Join or continue as members of the Santa Barbara County Human Trafficking Task Force**
- **Work collaboratively with the "HART Court Program" to aid in assistance to at risk and in risk youth**
- **Agree to continue participation in county wide, multi-agency Trauma-Informed Trainings**
- **Agree to help create a more trauma-informed culture in your agency, department, classroom or home, particularly related to sexually exploited children**

We (I) verify that representatives of *North County Rape Crisis and Child Protection Center* have been notified of the issuance of this letter and have thus granted approval of this document for the Grant Period of FY 18/19 – 19/20.



Ann S. McCarty
Executive Director
North County Rape Crisis and
Child Protection Center



Date

FIGHTING BACK

Santa Maria Valley

Fighting for our future, one kid at a time.

201 S. Miller Street, Suite 209 • Santa Maria, CA 93454
P: 805/346-1774 • F: 805/621-5859 • www.FBSMV.com

EDWIN WEAVER
Executive Director

June 20, 2018

BOARD MEMBERS

Dear Behavioral Wellness Commission,

MARK RICHARDSON
Santa Maria Joint Union High
School District –Superintendent
Board President

A community or a county will be judged by how it treats its most vulnerable members.

A child groomed and drawn into a life where she is sold for sex by the adults who are supposed to take care of her, provide her guidance and safety is our most vulnerable member.

BOB BUSH
Orcutt Union School District
Retired Superintendent
Board Vice-President

So how will we treat her? As a criminal? As a witness to a crime and when we are done with her testimony tell her to move along and figure it out? Like a victim to be sheltered and told to be scared the rest of her life?

CARRICK ADAM, MD MSPH
SB County Juvenile Facilities
Medical Director
Board Secretary

None of these are acceptable. We should instead treat these girls as the warriors that they are. Surviving the worst that can be imagined. Becoming the flowers from concrete. We need to continue to develop the resilience that is inside them so that they can lead us toward a better way.

MATT BEECHER
Santa Maria-Bonita School District
Asst. Sup. for Business Services

We as a community have a moral and ethical responsibility to care for these youth. Although you and I did not participate in their trauma; we did not keep them safe from the pimps and traffickers who put them in harm's way. Our community members were these children's rapists. It is the adults, our neighbors and citizens who are paying to have sex with these girls. So, until we stop this from occurring we have a moral and ethical obligation to provide a place and space for healing and restoration for these vulnerable members.

DEBORAH BLOW
Orcutt Union School District
Superintendent

Some of you might think that this is not a mental health issue. But I would remind you of your own mission: *The mission of the Department of Behavioral Wellness is to promote the prevention of and recovery from addiction and mental illness among individuals, families and communities, by providing effective leadership and delivering state-of-the-art, culturally competent services.*

ED CORA
Guadalupe Union School District
Superintendent

To promote the prevention of addiction and mental illness and the recovery from addiction and mental illness among individuals.

JUDE EGAN
Law Offices of M Jude Egan
Owner

STEVEN FUNKHAUSER
Starry Sky Coffee
Owner

These individual girls are asking you to fulfill your mission today. Keep the RISE Program going, to assist them from turning to self-medication of drugs and alcohol and to mitigate the mental health symptoms that come with trauma and adverse childhood experiences. Allow the RISE program to deliver this state of the art service. We will all benefit from the girl's restoration and we as a community will benefit from the adults that they will become because their adversity is not their destiny.

LUKE ONTIVEROS
Santa Maria-Bonita School District
Superintendent

ALICE PATINO
City of Santa Maria
Mayor

Thank you



KEVIN WALTHERS
Allan Hancock College
President

Edwin Weaver, M.S.W., M.A.

Youth

G

Ministry

To: The Behavioral Wellness Commission

Re: Multi-disciplinary Approach to Human Trafficking Victim Recovery

A few years ago our Youth Ministries and Staff found ourselves on the frontline of the Human Trafficking crisis in Santa Maria when one of our students and her family became victims. From her disappearance to eventually celebrating her return and the many milestones she has accomplished throughout her recovery process I have been impressed by the support and teamwork provided by each organization and group that offered their support and I believe this multi-disciplinary partnership concerned with her well being.

I was able to see firsthand how this student and her family were able to benefit from the support that was offered from her community which including our church, Fighting Back Santa Maria, RISE, other counseling services, the school district and also the justice system which wisely recognized her as a victim rather than another case. While the student and family deserve the applause for triumphing through tragedy they have been quick to show appreciation for the support and assistance they received.

I believe this multi-disciplinary approach and teamwork should be encouraged and practiced particularly but not only in crisis situations. It was certainly valuable for this family. It should come as no surprise that our communities and individuals will benefit if we combine our resources and view each other as partners in the community rather than work in isolation unaware of the value that can be provided by other social services and organizations.

James Barr

Youth Pastor

Grace Baptist Church, Santa Maria

Grace Youth Ministries

605 E. McCoy Lane Santa Maria, CA 93455

Youth Pastor—James Barr

(805) 925-2671 x14

james@gracebap.net

Statement of Support for MHSA RISE Project Extension

The following letter certifies that our organization, SB ACT offers its support for the following MHSA Innovation 2 year extension (FY 18/19-19/20) request by Santa Barbara County Department of Behavioral Wellness (BWell):

RISE (Resiliency Interventions for Sexual Exploitation)—MHSA Innovation

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- RISE has been working toward developing and maintaining interagency, multi-layered treatment/training/education approaches for sexual exploitation of children and youth in SB County which includes partners/supports throughout the community, including Law Enforcement, Juvenile Probation, Courts, Public Defender, District Attorney, Rape Crisis, DSS, Victim Witness, SB County Human Trafficking Task Force, Behavioral Wellness, Schools, UCSB, Medical Community, Public Health, EMT's, Community Based Organizations, Guardians, Foster Parents, Peers/Mentors, Spiritual Community and others. A comprehensive gender-specific/trauma-informed model of services, resources, protocols, education and training will be collaboratively developed, implemented and tested for efficacy.

In addition to understanding the need to address the concerning increase in child sexual exploitation in our community, we (I), the undersigned, have participated in previous multi-disciplinary improvement oriented endeavors with Behavioral Wellness in efforts to provide "best practice" and culturally sensitive care, and because of our (my) positive experience, we (I) are pleased to give support to the RISE Project Extension Request. We (I) understand that this project requires a strong collaborative network of informed individuals and multi-disciplinary service providers to help create systemic change, improve the lives of our community's vulnerable youth and their families, and serve as a model of effective practices for reducing child sexual abuse and sexual exploitation/trafficking and its resulting multilayered and costly consequences.

We (I), therefore, commit ourselves and/or the organizations and agencies we represent to build and strengthen the efficacy of the RISE Project by coordinating, participating in or providing the following:

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- **Provide referral and resource assistance for needed interventions targeting at risk youth and victims of commercial sexual exploitation and trafficking, including nonprofit/governmental agencies as well as spiritually based services.**
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- **Work collaboratively with the "HART Court Program" to aid in assistance to at risk and in risk youth**
- **Agree to continue participation in county wide, multi-agency Trauma-Informed Trainings**
- **Agree to help create a more trauma-informed culture in your agency, department, classroom or home, particularly related to sexually exploited children**

We (I) verify that representatives of SB ACT have been notified of the issuance of this letter and have thus granted approval of this document for the Grant Period of FY 18/19-19/20

Landon Ranck
Name

6/20/18
Date

Statement of Support for MHSA RISE Project Extension

The following letter certifies that our organization, Santa Barbara County Victim Witness offers its support for the following MHSA Innovation 2 year extension (FY 18/19-19/20) request by Santa Barbara County Department of Behavioral Wellness:

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The Santa Barbara County District Attorney's Office, in partnership with the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's office, received a \$1.3 million Office for Victims of Crime and Bureau of Justice Assistance Enhanced Collaborative Model to Combat Human Trafficking three year grant in 2016 to collaboratively combat human trafficking. The RISE program offers the kind of specific trauma informed mental health interventions this population needs and is not offered by any other partner agency. Without the RISE program the commercially exploited youth of Santa Barbara County would not be receiving appropriate care. The RISE program has been instrumental in helping our the Santa Barbara Human Trafficking Task Force develop a multidisciplinary team protocol delivering emergency, short term and long term wraparound services. We work very closely with the RISE team in our Helping to Achieve Resiliency or "HART" Court program, a partnership with the District Attorney's Office, the Public Defender, Social Services and Juvenile Court. RISE has become an integral part of our flight to combat human trafficking in Santa Barbara County. We are grateful for their partnership and collaboration. It is our sincere hope that you will continue to support this innovative and essential program in Santa Barbara County.

Sincerely,

Rita Truman McGaw, M.S., MFT
Victim-Witness Program Supervisor
Santa Barbara County District Attorney's Office
(805) 884-8077
rmcgaw@co.santa-barbara.ca.us

Rita Truman McGaw
Name

6/19/2018
Date

Megan Rheinschild
Victim Witness Program Director
Santa Barbara County District Attorney's Office
(805) 568-2408
mriker@co.santa-barbara.ca.us

Megan Rheinschild
Name

6/19/2018
Date

Statement of Support for MHSA RISE Project Extension

The following letter certifies that our organization, Fighting Back Santa Maria Valley offers its support for the following MHSA Innovation 2 year extension (FY 18/19-19/20) request by Santa Barbara County Department of Behavioral Wellness (BWell):

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We (I) verify that representatives of Fighting Back Santa Maria Valley have been notified of the issuance of this letter and have thus granted approval of this document for the Grant Period of _____

Edwin Weary, Sr
Name + Signature

6/20/19
Date