

2022 Family Justice Center and Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC) Services Team Report



CONTRA COSTA COUNTY EMPLOYMENT & HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT (EHSD)

CONTRA COSTA FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER (FJC)

REPORT TO THE FAMILY AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE | JUNE 21, 2022

PRESENTED BY :

KIMBERLY BAKER, DIVISION MANAGER, EMPLOYMENT AND HUMAN SERVICES CSEC UNIT

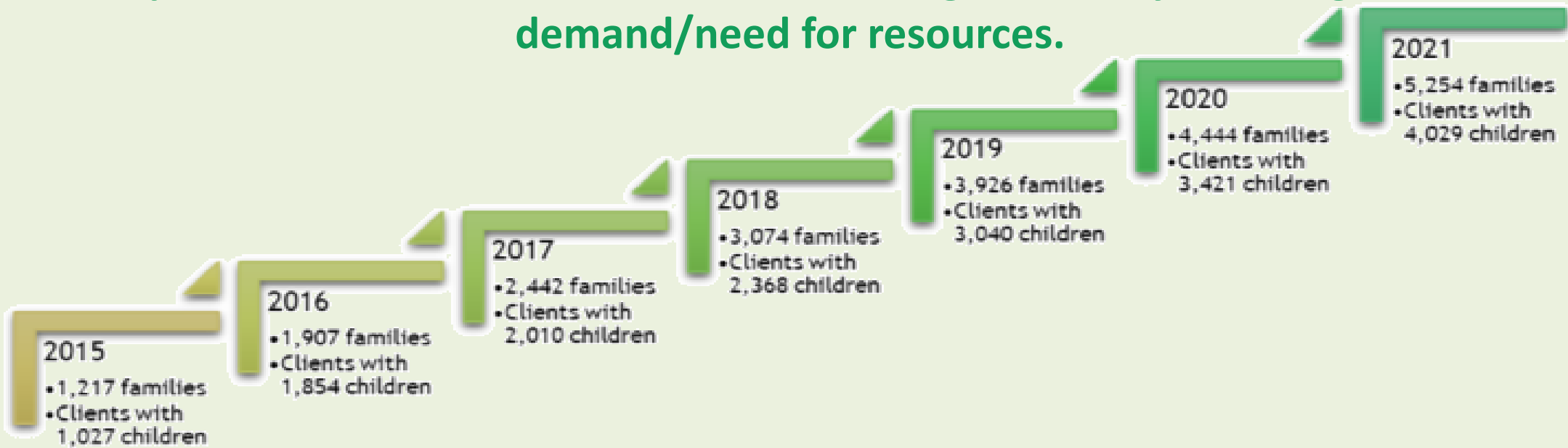
NATALIE OLEAS, CENTRAL CENTER DIRECTOR, FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER

Family Justice Center Overview

The **Family Justice Center (the Center)** is a one-stop center for families affected by domestic violence, sexual assault, elder abuse, child abuse, and human trafficking.

- Created in 2011 as a project of the Alliance to End Abuse and gained nonprofit status in 2015
- Coordinates with 65 on-site partners so clients can get safer sooner
- The Alliance and other County departments remain essential partners, among many

Since 2015, the Center served a total of 22,174 individuals that experienced interpersonal violence. The number of clients grow each year along with the demand/need for resources.



Addressing Mental Health During the Pandemic

In 2021, the Center remained open to the public during the COVID-19 pandemic and enhanced mental health services by offering several different counseling options for clients of any age:

- Started the **Trauma Recovery Center** in July 2021, which provides free counseling to all victims of violent crime
- Collaborated with emergency room doctors through Vituity Healthcare to pilot the **TeleCare telehealth urgent care** for victims of interpersonal violence so that victims can get care from a safe and confidential place in place
- Partnered with Community Financial Resources to **help underbanked individuals** open reloadable debit card and offered incentives towards savings goals
- Expanded its **restraining order assistance** by having the attorneys in its Lawyers for Family Justice program offer 18 additional hours of restraining order assistance per week



Introducing New FJC East Center Director

Introducing **Shannon Starzyk** as the new FJC East Center Director

Before joining the Family Justice Center, Shannon worked as the Coordinator of Administrative Services for a performing arts charter school. Shannon previously served as faculty and a guest lecturer for Carrington College, St. Mary's College, Los Medanos College, and Montana State University.

Shannon has a passion for and commitment to the Family Justice Center's mission, vision, and belief that all survivors of interpersonal violence can achieve justice, healing, and hope through education, collaborative partnerships with the community, policy development and implementation, and advocacy.

Shannon earned an MSW from the University of California, Los Angeles and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology from San Jose State University. Shannon is currently pursuing a PsyD in Clinical Psychology and has a strong interest in conducting research that focuses on violence, epigenetics, generational trauma, and healing.



CSEC Services Team Overview

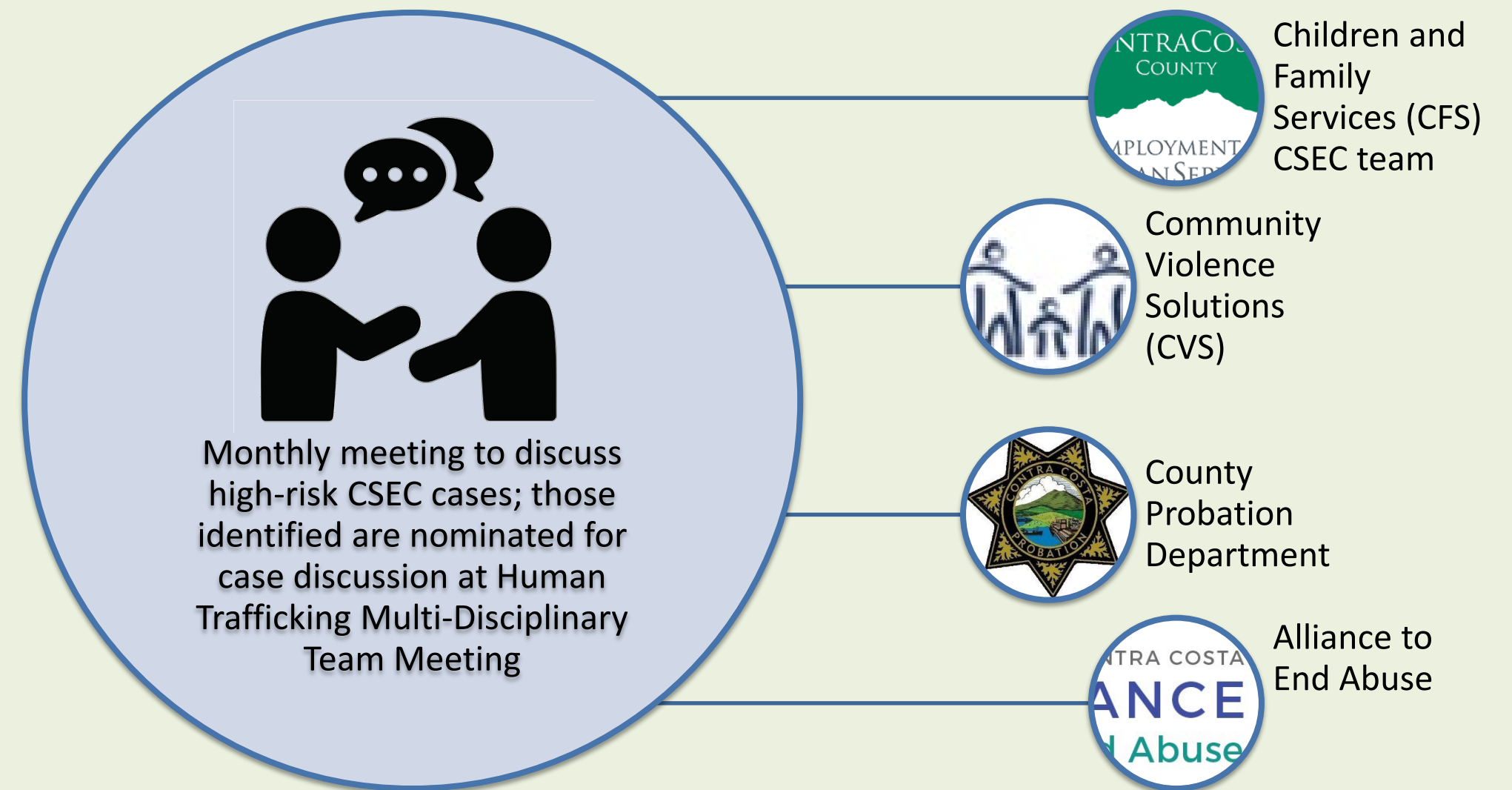
The Children and Family Services (CFS) Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC) Services Team follows the federal and state guidelines by outlining trauma-informed protocols to support the commercially sexually exploited (CSE) population.

The program's mission is to eliminate the exploitation of children and build a system of care that addresses the needs of at-risk youth and survivors across Child Welfare, Probation, and the Contra Costa community.

System of Care Linkages

The Alliance participates or coordinates:

1. HT MDT
2. DV MDT
3. Strangulation Task Force
4. Death review
5. High Danger DV Task Force
6. Alternatives to DV Supervision



Search and Recovery Program



Over the recent years, the CSEC/Y program identified that a significant number of youth were missing from care, which puts them at an even higher risk of abuse, neglect, and exploitation. As a result, in April 2022, CFS began partnering with **Love Never Fails (LNF)** to operate a "**Search and Recovery**" Program for exploited youth missing from care in Contra Costa County. Love Never Fails staff are fueled with love and equipped with a Recovery Investigator and Clinical Case Manager, each of whom provides recovery case management and community outreach and offers support to Children and Family Services as we make concerted efforts to locate and serve youth who go missing from care.

Key CSEC Data Points

Age

Children who are at-risk or are survivors of human trafficking vary in age. In Contra Costa, the largest groups of children/youth with CSE involvement are between ages 13 and 18, with a significant increase in CSE involvement at age 16.

Gender

Contra Costa data shows there are more females identified as CSEC/Y than males. This has historically been the case in Contra Costa, and is also reflective throughout the state as a whole and the nation; males continue to be underreported.

Ethnicity

Contra Costa data indicates that the majority of youth with CSE involvement are African American. There are also a significant number of youth with Central American heritage in Contra Costa who have CSE involvement.

At-Risk Youth and Survivors

The number of children/youth identified as being CSE at-risk continues to grow in Contra Costa. This trend is happening all over the county, as indicated on the chart that breaks down the number of CSE youth in the child welfare system as identified by location and program.



Questions?

