



2023 IN-PERSON
PACT CONVENING
Redefine

**APRIL 17-18TH, 2023
SACRAMENTO, CA**



Session Descriptions

Preventing and Addressing Child Trafficking Convening

Website: <https://pact.cfpic.org/pact-annual-convening-2023>

Location: Grand Hyatt, Sacramento, CA

Arrival and Registration

[Click Here](#) for Directions, Parking and Transportation

[Click Here](#) for Sacramento Destination Guide for local activities, dining and recreation.

April 16th & 17th

Hotel Check- In, 3:00 PM or later

Monday, April 17, 2023

Conference Check-In: 9:00 am - 10:30 am Registration Foyer of Regency F Ballroom
(Coffee, Tea and Pastries available)

Morning Plenary - Land Acknowledgement, Welcome and Opening Message “Redefine”

Presenters:

Melissa Gomez, PACT Project Director, Child and Family Policy Institute of California

Kathy Givens, Cultural Inclusion & Human Trafficking Consultant, Keynote Address

Session 1: Building Resilience Through Harm Reduction: Working with Sexually Exploited and Trafficked Young People

Presenters: Brandi D. Liles, PhD, Dawn M. Blacker, PhD

UC Davis Children’s Hospital CAARE Center Trauma Training Academy

Harm reduction is a framework and a set of strategies used to meet the needs of youth and young people engaging in or experiencing unsafe behaviors and circumstances including commercial

sexual exploitation. This presentation will review the philosophy of harm reduction and why it is an effective strategy for youth-serving professionals when working with sexually exploited youth. Five high risk behaviors or experiences will be discussed (active exploitation, substance misuse, violent relationships, leaving care without permission, and dangerous cell phone/social media use). Practical applications of harm reduction will be reviewed through lecture, reflection, and discussion.

Followed by a Q&A with an expert panel including: Brandi D. Liles, Dawn M. Blacker (UC Davis), Kelley Hartman (California Department of Social Services and Angelica Zuniga (PACT Consultant /lived experience expert).

Session 2: Break-Outs

Breakout Option 1: Transforming Child Welfare Through Youth Engagement - A Spotlight on the YEP Project in Action! - **Regency E Ballroom**

Presenters:

Andrea Sobrado, Associate Director, Child and Family Policy Institute of California
Leann Eddy, Program Review Specialist, Department of Social Services, San Luis Obispo County
Pilar Ortega, Youth Ambassador, Department of Social Services, San Luis Obispo County

Learn about the Youth Engagement Project (YEP) and funding available through a partnership between CFPIC and the California Department of Social Services to improve child welfare policies, programs and practices, by building capacity for youth engagement at the state and local level. This session will include a panel highlighting San Luis Obispo's County Coordinator and a local YEP Ambassador, as they describe overcoming implementation barriers – leading to the development of an innovative youth leadership model. Participants will take away key engagement strategies, ethical considerations and discover meaningful ways to engage current or former foster youth to inform projects, including a local child trafficking response.

Breakout Option 2: Breaking the Silence: Understanding and Addressing Trafficking of Boys and Males - **Regency D Ballroom**

Presenters:

Russell Glenn Wilson, PACT Consultant

This session aims to shed light on the often-overlooked issue of trafficking of boys and males. This vulnerable population continues to be at high risk of being trafficked for various purposes, including sexual exploitation, labor exploitation, and forced criminal activity and are . While often siloed, young people may experience similar vulnerabilities and risk factors that lead to their unique experiences of exploitation.

Russell Glenn Wilson, subject matter expert, will provide participants with a deeper understanding of the unique vulnerabilities faced, and challenge attendees to reflect on the inherent bias that continues to marginalize this population.

In addition, this workshop will explore the hierarchy of CSEC Survival and discuss Post Traumatic Growth for survivors and thrivers of exploitation. Participants will have the opportunity to share their own experiences and ideas for addressing trafficking within their communities and organizations.

By the end of this workshop, participants will have a better understanding of the complex nature of trafficking of boys and males, and will be better equipped to take action as allies.

Breakout Option 3: Flipping the Script: How Advanced Recovery Planning Can Increase Survivor Engagement - **Regency F Ballroom**

Presenter: Courtney M. Desilet,
Resource Specialist II, Child Sex Trafficking Recovery Services, National Center for Missing and

Exploited Children

In 2022, 1 out of 6 missing children reported to the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children who had run away were likely victims of child sex trafficking. Many of these cases involved children missing from the care of child welfare. Child welfare professionals and law enforcement are increasingly on the front lines of coordinating care, services and emergency response for survivors of child sex trafficking. Advanced recovery planning and specialized response can mitigate challenges, streamline resources and allow for coordinated, trauma-informed interventions. This presentation will provide practical lessons learned in developing proactive recovery and response plans focused on increasing rapport, youth engagement, and understanding and reducing running behavior for missing children who are being sex trafficked. These considerations in planning and early engagement can create an environment during recovery that begins to disillusion survivors to the lies their traffickers have told them and show professionals are concerned about their well-being. Attendees will also learn about resources (including the newly launched Take it Down app) available through the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children that can assist with this effort. Flipping the Script: How Advanced Recovery Planning Can Increase Survivor Engagement

5:30 - 6:30 PM Optional PACT Networking Reception

Join the PACT Networking Reception in the Capitol View Room, 15th Floor for an optional informal cocktail hour and mixer. Non-alcoholic beverages, dessert bar & appetizers available. No host beer and wine available at your own cost.

Tuesday, April 18, 2023

Morning Plenary

Art Feature

Angelica Zuniga, PACT Consultant, CEO of Redeemed Home

Where We're At Now - History and Evaluation of the CSEC Program

Presenters:

California Department of Social Services, Child Trafficking Response Team

Ivy Hammond, MSW, PhD Candidate, Project Director, UC Berkeley Child Welfare Indicators Project

Jaclyn Chambers, Research Associate, Urban Institute

Kia Dupclay, CSEC Action Team Survivor Advisory Board

The California Department of Social Services (CDSS) is collaborating with the Urban Institute and the California Child Welfare Indicators Project (CCWIP) at the University of California Berkeley to evaluate the impact of SB 855, which provided opt-in funding to counties to address and prevent commercial sexual exploitation. The evaluation seeks to understand the extent to which SB 855 was implemented across counties in California and what successes and challenges were experienced as a result of implementing the CSEC program. This plenary session will provide an overview of the history of California's CSEC program and review early findings from the evaluation.

Session 3: Collective Cafe, SB 855 Table Talks

Facilitators: Andrea Sobrado, Associate Director, Child and Family Policy Institute of California & Sarah Johnston, Southern and Bay Area Coordinator, Preventing and Addressing Child Trafficking Project

Engage in dynamic dialogue around SB 855 program topics during the Collective Cafe activity. This workshop will engage participants in conversations that matter, during three

rounds of table discussion. The activity will be followed by a “harvest” of the collective wisdom and insights learned.

Session 4: Break-Outs

Option 1: A Discussion on Placement Barriers, Strategies, and Support with the Child Trafficking Response Team - Regency D Ballroom

Facilitator/s: California Department of Social Services, Child Trafficking Response Team

Join a focus group conversation with the Child Trafficking Response Team on topic areas regarding STRTP Engagement and Utilization to learn from one another and help inform state-level guidance around identifying challenges and best practices. Discussion topics will include pre-placement strategies, placement preservation and support, trauma-informed transition planning for stepping up and stepping down, and harm reduction within STRTP settings. Discussion on these topics will help to highlight best practices to inform efforts to provide ongoing placement support.

Option 2: Where do We Start? Initial Steps to Address Child Labor Trafficking - Regency E Ballroom

Facilitator: Melissa Gomez, PACT Project Director, Child and Family Policy Institute of CA
Panelists: Bilee Hernandez, Sacramento County, Leann Eddy, San Luis Obispo County, Nikki N Cardoza, Tulare County, Kelly Amend PACT Regional Coordinator

Like the nation overall, California’s efforts have focused on preventing and addressing commercial sexual exploitation, while the trafficking of youth for their labor or services, has received comparatively little attention, although youth may experience both forms of trafficking simultaneously. While data is limited, of the 1,334 cases of human trafficking reported in California to the [National Human Trafficking Hotline](#) in 2021, nearly 15% involved a form of labor trafficking. [A ten-city study](#) on labor and sexual exploitation experienced by homeless youth in Covenant House’s care revealed that 1 in 5 of the 641 youth interviewed had experienced some form of human trafficking - and 91% had been offered a lucrative work opportunity that turned out to be fraudulent.

Based on recommendations from research conducted by CFPIC’s Preventing and Addressing Child Trafficking Project: [The Child Welfare Response to Labor Trafficking in California](#) featured in [ACIN 1-17-21](#), some California counties have responded by taking initial steps to integrate their local response protocol to address concerns of child labor exploitation and trafficking, through a multidisciplinary approach.

During this workshop, participants will discover learnings around how to approach common misconceptions and barriers revealed during listening sessions held with counties, CBO’s and survivors – in addition to a conversation with three California county agencies on early implementation strategies.

Option 3: An Integrated Approach to Trauma Stewardship and Self-Care - Regency F Ballroom

Presenter: Beatriz Lodia, Program Manager, Wonder Mentoring Program at Stanford Sierra Youth & Families

“By developing the deep sense of awareness needed to care for ourselves while caring

for others and the world around us we can greatly enhance our potential to work for change, ethically and with integrity, for generations to come.” Laura van Dernoot Lipsky

This session will provide an overview of self-care strategies to re-think self-care and program sustainability in the face of vicarious trauma, compassion fatigue and burnout. It will include table discussion on understanding your why, the impact of intention and self-soothing vs. self-care, and proactivity vs. reactivity.

Closing Plenary: Reflections & Acknowledgements

Informing Policy and Practice Through the Lens of Lived Experience - Panel

Facilitator: Sarah Johnston, PACT Regional Coordinator, CFPIC

Maria Contreras, Community Policy Associate, Collaborative Responses to Commercial Sexual Exploitation Initiative, National Center for Youth Law

Panelists: Tekeyah (Kia) Dupclay, Ummra Hang, Jess Torres, Russell Wilson, Angelica Zuniga
Members of: PACT’s Consultant Network and the CSEC Action Team Advisory Board

Exploring diversity and promoting the inclusion of a wide range of lived experience expertise is crucial to inform a county and state level child trafficking response. Understanding a broader spectrum of complexity, sheds light on how varied individuals may experience trauma within systems. Hear from a panel of lived experience experts as they share their thoughts on a variety of topics and future priorities. Includes members of the CSEC Action Team’s Advisory Board and the Preventing and Addressing Child Trafficking Project’s PACT Consultant Network.

Thank You and Closing Statements

Presenters:

Stuart Oppenheim, Executive Director, Child and Family Policy Institute of California

Melissa Gomez, PACT Project Director, Child and Family Policy Institute of California

