WestCoast Children's Clinic
Commercial Sexual Exploitation Identification Tool (CSE-IT) – version 2.0

1. HOUSING AND CAREGIVING. The youth experiences housing or caregiving instability for any reason.	No Information	No Concern	Possible Concern	Clear Concern
a. Youth runs away or frequently leaves their residence for extended periods of time (overnight, days, weeks).	0	0	1	2
b. Youth experiences unstable housing, including multiple foster/group home placements.	0	0	1	2
c. Youth experiences periods of homelessness, e.g. living on the street or couch surfing.	0	0	1	2
d. Youth relies on emergency or temporary resources to meet basic needs, e.g. hygiene, shelter, food, medical care.	0	0	1	2
e. Parent/caregiver is unable to provide adequate supervision.	0	0	1	2
f. Youth has highly irregular school attendance, including frequent or prolonged tardiness or absences.	0	0	1	2
g. Youth has current or past involvement with the child welfare system.	0	0	1	2
Indicator 1 Score: A subtotal of 0 to 3 = *No Concern*. A subtotal of 4 or 5 = *Possible Concern*. A subtotal from 6 to 14 = *Clear Concern*. **Circle score here →**	**0**	No Concern 0	Possible Concern 1	Clear Concern 2
2. PRIOR ABUSE OR TRAUMA. The youth has experienced trauma (not including exploitation).	No Information	No Concern	Possible Concern	Clear Concern
a. Youth has been sexually abused.	0	0	1	2
b. Youth has been physically abused.	0	0	1	2
c. Youth has been emotionally abused.	0	0	1	2
d. Youth has witnessed domestic violence.	0	0	1	2
Indicator 2 Score: A subtotal of 0 or 1 = *No Concern*. A subtotal of 2 = *Possible Concern*. A subtotal from 3 to 8 = *Clear Concern*. **Circle score here→**	**0**	No Concern 0	Possible Concern 1	Clear Concern 2
3. PHYSICAL HEALTH AND APPEARANCE. The youth experiences notable changes in health and appearance.	No Information	No Concern	Possible Concern	Clear Concern
a. Youth presents a significant change in appearance, e.g. dress, hygiene, weight.	0	0	1	2
b. Youth shows signs of physical trauma, such as bruises, black eyes, cigarette burns, or broken bones.	0	0	1	2
c. Youth has tattoos, scarring or branding, indicating being treated as someone's property.	0	0	1	2
d. Youth has repeated or concerning testing or treatment for pregnancy or STIs.	0	0	1	2
e. Youth is sleep deprived or sleep is inconsistent.	0	0	1	2
f. Youth has health problems or complaints related to poor nutrition or irregular access to meals.	0	0	1	2
g. Youth's substance use impacts their health or interferes with their ability to function.	0	0	1	2
h. Youth experiences significant change or escalation in their substance use.	0	0	1	2
Indicator 3 Score: A subtotal of 0 or 1 = *No Concern*. A subtotal of 2 or 3 = *Possible Concern*. A subtotal from 4 to 16 = *Clear Concern*. **Circle score here →**	**0**	No Concern 0	Possible Concern 1	Clear Concern 2
4. ENVIRONMENT AND EXPOSURE. The youth's environment or activities place them at risk of exploitation.	No Information	No Concern	Possible Concern	Clear Concern
a. Youth engages in sexual activities that cause harm or place them at risk of victimization.	0	0	1	2
b. Youth spends time where exploitation is known to occur.	0	0	1	2
c. Youth uses language that suggests involvement in exploitation.	0	0	1	2
d. Youth is connected to people who are exploited, or who buy or sell sex.	0	0	1	2

	No Information	No Concern	Possible Concern	Clear Concern
e. Youth is bullied or targeted about exploitation.		0	1	2
f. Youth has current or past involvement with law enforcement or juvenile justice.		0	1	2
g. Gang affiliation or contact involves youth in unsafe sexual encounters.		0	1	2
Indicator 4 Score: A subtotal of 0 = *No Concern*. A subtotal of 1 = *Possible Concern*. A subtotal from 2 to 14 = *Clear Concern*. **Circle score here →**	**0**	No Concern 0	Possible Concern 1	Clear Concern 2
5. RELATIONSHIPS AND PERSONAL BELONGINGS. The youth's relationships and belongings are not consistent with their age or circumstances, suggesting possible recruitment by an exploiter.	**No Information**	**No Concern**	**Possible Concern**	**Clear Concern**
a. Youth has unhealthy, inappropriate or romantic relationships, including (but not limited to) with someone older/an adult.	0	0	1	2
b. Youth meets with contacts they developed over the internet, including sex partners or boyfriends/girlfriends.	0	0	1	2
c. Explicit photos of the youth are posted on the internet or on their phone.	0	0	1	2
d. Youth receives or has access to unexplained money, credit cards, hotel keys, gifts, drugs, alcohol, transportation.	0	0	1	2
e. Youth has several cell phones or their cell phone number changes frequently.	0	0	1	2
f. Youth travels to places that are inconsistent with their life circumstances.	0	0	1	2
Indicator 5 Score: A subtotal of 0 = *No Concern*. A subtotal of 1 or 2 = *Possible Concern*. A subtotal from 3 to 12 = *Clear Concern*. **Circle score here →**	**0**	No Concern 0	Possible Concern 1	Clear Concern 2
6. SIGNS OF CURRENT TRAUMA. The youth exhibits signs of trauma exposure.	**No Information**	**No Concern**	**Possible Concern**	**Clear Concern**
a. Youth appears on edge, preoccupied with safety, or hypervigilant.	0	0	1	2
b. Youth has difficulty detecting or responding to danger cues.	0	0	1	2
c. Youth engages in self-destructive, aggressive, or risk-taking behaviors.	0	0	1	2
d. Youth has a high level of distress about being accessible by cell phone.	0	0	1	2
Indicator 6 Score: A subtotal of 0 = *No Concern*. A subtotal of 1 or 2 = *Possible Concern*. A subtotal from 3 to 8 = *Clear Concern*. **Circle score here →**	**0**	No Concern 0	Possible Concern 1	Clear Concern 2
7. COERCION. The youth is being controlled or coerced by another person.	**No Information**	**No Concern**	**Possible Concern**	**Clear Concern**
a. Youth has an abusive or controlling intimate partner.	0	0	1	2
b. Someone else is controlling the youth's contact with family or friends, leaving the youth socially isolated.	0	0	1	2
c. Youth is coerced into getting pregnant, having an abortion, or using contraception.	0	0	1	2
d. Someone is not allowing the youth to sleep regularly or in a safe place, go to school, eat, or meet other basic needs.	0	0	1	2
e. The youth or their friends, family, or other acquaintances receive threats.	0	0	1	2
f. Youth gives vague or misleading information about their age, whereabouts, residence, or relationships.	0	0	1	2
Indicator 7 Score: A subtotal of 0 = *No Concern*. A subtotal of 1 = *Possible Concern*. A subtotal of 2 to 12 = *Clear Concern*. **Circle score here →**	**0**	No Concern 0	Possible Concern 1	Clear Concern 2
8. EXPLOITATION. The youth exchanges sex for money or material goods, including food or shelter.	**No Information**	**No Concern**	**Possible Concern**	**Clear Concern**
a. Youth is exchanging sex for money or material goods, including food or shelter for themselves or someone else, e.g. child, family, partner.	0	0	1	2
b. Youth is watched, filmed or photographed in a sexually explicit manner.	0	0	1	2
c. Youth has a history of sexual exploitation.	0	0	1	2
d. Youth is forced to give the money they earn to another person.	0	0	1	2
Indicator 8 Score: A subtotal of 0 = *No Concern*. A subtotal of 1 = *Possible Concern*. A subtotal from 2 to 8 = *Clear Concern*. **Circle score here →**	**0**	No Concern 0	Possible Concern 1	Clear Concern 2

Scoring Instructions:

1. Enter each Indicator Score in the corresponding box in this table.
2. Add Indicator Scores 1 through 7 and enter the total in box A.
3. If Indicator 8 score = 1 (Possible Concern), enter 4 in box B. If Indicator 8 score = 2 (Clear Concern), enter 9 in box B.
4. Add boxes A and B for a Total Score between 0 and 23, and enter the Total Score in the final box.
5. Plot the Total Score on the Continuum of Concern below to determine level of concern for exploitation.

Indicator:		Indicator score
1. HOUSING AND CAREGIVING		
2. PRIOR ABUSE OR TRAUMA		
3. PHYSICAL HEALTH AND APPEARANCE		
4. ENVIRONMENT AND EXPOSURE		
5. RELATIONSHIPS AND PERSONAL BELONGINGS		
6. SIGNS OF CURRENT TRAUMA		
7. COERCION		
Add scores for indicators 1 through 7 (Score cannot exceed 14):	**A.**	
8. EXPLOITATION		
If Indicator 8 score is 1 (Possible Concern) put 4 in Box B **If Indicator 8 is a 2 (Clear Concern) put 9 in Box B**	**B.**	
TOTAL: Add boxes A and B for a total score between 0-23.	**TOTAL**	

Continuum of Concern
(draw a line indicating level of concern for exploitation)

No Concern 0-3

Possible Concern 4-8

Clear Concern 9-23

WESTCOAST CHILDREN'S CLINIC

IDENTIFYING COMMERCIALLY SEXUALLY EXPLOITED CHILDREN

Guidelines for Administering the
Commercial Sexual Exploitation Identification Tool (CSE-IT)
Version 2.0

August 2016

Principal Author:
Danna Basson, PhD

Contributing Authors:
April D. Fernando, PhD
Elise Geltman, LCSW
Hannah Haley, MSW
Jodie Langs, MSW
Lois Ritter, PhD
Erin Rosenblatt, PsyD

ABOUT WESTCOAST CHILDREN'S CLINIC

WestCoast Children's Clinic is a community mental health clinic serving children and youth in Oakland, California and surrounding communities. WestCoast is committed to providing psychological services to vulnerable children, youth, and their families regardless of their ability to pay, and to expanding the reach of psychological services through advocacy, research, and training. To ensure the ongoing availability of these services, WestCoast is dedicated to training the next generation of mental health professionals.

WestCoast Children's Clinic
3301 E. 12th Street, Suite 259
Oakland, CA 94601
Phone: 510-269-9030
Fax: 510-269-9031
www.westcoastcc.org

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ABOUT THE CSE-IT AND THIS USER GUIDE

The Commercial Sexual Exploitation-Identification Tool (CSE-IT, pronounced "See It") was created to help professionals identify children and youth who have been, or are being, commercially sexually exploited. This guide is intended to help users properly administer the tool. Social service providers, healthcare professionals, law enforcement professionals, educators, shelter workers and other professionals who work with children will find this tool greatly aids in the identification of commercially sexually exploited children (CSEC). Users of the CSE-IT are encouraged to become conversant on the topics of human trafficking and the sexual exploitation of children prior to working with the tool.

The content of the CSE-IT and this user manual is based on research conducted by WestCoast Children's Clinic (WestCoast) and partnering agencies that provide assistance to CSEC victims and youth at risk for sexual exploitation. The development of the identification tool and user manual was based on an extensive literature review of existing tools designed to provide guidance on interviewing or investigating sexual exploitation of youth, literature on the risk factors for and the indicators of exploitation, and through direct feedback from survivors and professionals who work with CSEC and other vulnerable populations. Feedback was gathered through focus groups, interviews, and expert reviews. Altogether, more than 100 people provided input on the key indicators that point to the sexual exploitation of children and youth. WestCoast is currently pilot testing the screening tool and user manual at multiple sites.

In addition to information on how to use and score the CSE-IT, this guide includes background information about CSEC, interviewing tips, how agencies should prepare to use the tool as well as mandated reporting issues. The content of this guide was developed for service providers in California. While most of the content is relevant for those outside of California, mandated reporting requirements vary by state. Users outside California may want to seek additional sources for mandated reporting guidelines in their jurisdictions.

BACKGROUND ABOUT COMMERCIALLY SEXUALLY EXPLOITED CHILDREN

California law defines commercially sexually exploited children (CSEC) as children who have been sexually trafficked, as described in Section 236.1 of the Penal Code, or who have received food, shelter, or payment in exchange for sexual acts (California Welfare & Institutions Code § 300(b)(2)). The Federal Trafficking Victims Protection Act defines sex trafficking as "the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for the purposes of a commercial sex act" 18 U.S.C. § 1591. According to these definitions, a young person can be considered commercially sexually exploited whether or not a third party (e.g. pimp) is involved in their exploitation. Additionally, any person who buys or sells sex from a minor can be considered an exploiter.

Insufficient data on the number of young people who experience exploitation makes exact prevalence estimates impossible. The existing data suggest that many CSEC are already involved in the child welfare or juvenile justice systems, presenting opportunities for agencies to collaborate and standardize a response to vulnerable youth. The CSE-IT pilot, which included a purposive sample of 52 agencies, over 2,000 service providers, and 5,537 youth, revealed that at least 635 young people in the state have clear signs of exploitation.

Service providers report that for over three-quarters of the sexually exploited youth they serve, exploitation had been intermittent or ongoing for two to three years before there was a referral to services (Basson, Rosenblatt & Haley, 2012). Using an evidence-based tool, we can identify victims faster, protect youth from ongoing victimization, and speed access to services and care.

Identification is also key to revealing the prevalence of sexual exploitation. Policymakers and public system leaders need valid, reliable, and timely information on the scope of a problem to make data-driven decisions about where to allocate public resources. Organizations such as the California Child Welfare Council and the President's Interagency Task Force, created by the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, have highlighted the urgent need for screening to improve identification, early intervention, and understanding of prevalence. For more background information, we recommend the following resources:

- Basson, D., Rosenblatt, E., & Haley, H. (2012). Research-to-Action: Sexually Exploited Minors Needs and Strengths. WestCoast Children's Clinic. http://www.westcoastcc.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/WCC_SEM_Needs-and-Strengths_FINAL.pdf

- Walker, K. (2013). Ending the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children: A Call for multi-system collaboration in California. California Child Welfare Council. http://www.youthlaw.org/fileadmin/ncyl/youthlaw/publications/Ending-CSEC-A-Call-for-Multi-System_Collaboration-in-CA.pdf

- Clawson, H. J., Dutch, N., Solomon, A. & Goldblatt, L.G. (2008). Human Trafficking Into and Within the United States: A Review of the Literature. Report submitted to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation. http://aspe.hhs.gov/hsp/07/humantrafficking/litrev/

PURPOSE AND LIMITATIONS OF SCREENING

Screening for exploitation can help identify young people who experience this abuse, which in turn makes it possible to provide them with services and protection. Universal screening is proactive and means not waiting for signs or suspicion of exploitation to screen. Instead, universal screening means screening all youth who meet pre-determined criteria and is recommended for early identification. For the CSE-IT, universal screening includes all youth age 10 and over, regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, culture, sexual orientation, residence, health, socioeconomic status, appearance, or behavior.

It is important to note that screening is not diagnostic. Rather, it is a preliminary step that prompts additional information gathering and interventions if problems or concerns are identified.

Why Identification through Universal Screening is Important

Universal screening is the first step in identifying the risk of an adverse event. It is used in various settings to identify the existence of a problem, facilitate early intervention, and prevent complications. For example, universal screening is used in educational settings to recognize students at risk for learning disabilities, in mental health settings to identify youth at risk of suicide and in medical settings for early detection of certain diseases.

Universal screening is predicated on pre-determined criteria. This minimizes the possibility that subjects are screened differentially based on their gender, race, or any other aspect of identity. For example, medical clinics routinely check blood pressure, pulse, and body temperature on all adults to identify potential health issues. The Centers for Disease Control recommend that women aged 50 to 74 receive

mammograms every two years. In some outpatient mental health clinics, suicide screening is routine for all clients. Educational organizations have advocated for annual universal screening to identify children with learning difficulties. In all cases, screening is conducted when set criteria are met without regard to the presence of symptoms. If a subject does not meet the screening criteria of a particular issue but presents with symptoms associated with high risk for a particular problem (e.g., because of family history of an illness), they will generally be screened as well. Similarly, youth who fall outside the recommended age range for the CSE-IT but are at high risk of exploitation, for whatever reason, should also be screened.

Screening is not diagnostic

When a screening process for medical, educational, or other settings indicates risk, a service provider must then gather additional information so that the right interventions can be determined. With youth at risk of experiencing exploitation, the next steps may include a full assessment of their needs and strengths, safety planning, specialized treatment planning, or a forensic investigation, depending on the situation.

The CSE-IT should be used as a guide to identification and should not be the sole source for deciding whether the youth is being sexually exploited. Professionals using the tool should have experience or training in working with abused youth. Other screening and assessment practices will greatly enhance the use of the tool.

COMPLETING THE CSE-IT AND GATHERING INFORMATION

The CSE-IT is an information integration tool. It is not designed as a structured interview to be read to a subject or given to youth as a self-administered questionnaire.

The identification tool was designed for professionals who work directly with youth. Such professionals already collect information that can be used to complete the tool— through conversations with youth, observations of their appearance or behavior and by collecting information from other sources, including case records or history as well as from conversations with people close to the youth (e.g. social workers, teachers, caregivers, etc.).

It may be difficult to collect information directly from a young person. They may be unwilling, or unable, to disclose the circumstances of exploitation or abuse. It is important to consider other sources of information. When asking questions directly, it is helpful to use language that is age and situation appropriate, choosing words a young person will either know or can relate to. This will help put the youth at ease when talking about difficult topics that may include sexual exploitation.

The CSE-IT is organized into 8 Key Indicators (dark shaded boxes on the CSE-IT form). Individuals using the tool should familiarize themselves with the Key Indicators in advance. The indicators are:
1. Housing and Caregiving
2. Prior Abuse or Trauma
3. Physical Health and Appearance
4. Environment and Exposure
5. Relationships and Personal Belongings
6. Signs of Current Trauma
7. Coercion
8. Exploitation

Each of the 8 Key Indicators on the tool has the following:
- **Definition**: A description of the Key Indicator.
- **Statements to Consider**: Several sub-items that help rate the Key Indicators. These are not things that must be asked of the youth directly, but are to be scored.
- **Notes on Scoring**: Directions on how to rate the Key Indicator based on the scores to the supporting Statements to Consider.

CSE-IT KEY INDICATORS

This section provides background information on each of the 8 Key Indicators on the CSE-IT. It explains why the indicators are on the tool and describes the components of each one.

Scoring Timeline for Indicators

90 Days

When scoring indicators 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8, please score with the last 90 days in mind. Anything that has been a concern within the past 90 days would be rated 2 or Clear Concern. Anything that was a concern in the past - but not within the last 90 days - would be rated 1 or Possible Concern as a "Historical" rating. Anything that was not a concern at all in the past 90 days or historically would be rated 0 or No Concern.

Lifetime

When scoring indicator 2 - Past Trauma, please score with the youth's lifetime in mind. If abuse is known to have occurred in the youth's past rate 2 or Clear Concern. If there is some information to suggest past abuse, but this is not known or clear, rate 1 or Possible Concern. If there is no known or suspected abuse exposure, please rate 0 or No Concern.

1. Housing and Caregiving. The youth experiences housing or caregiving instability for any reason.

1. HOUSING AND CAREGIVING. The youth experiences housing or caregiving instability for any reason.	No Information	No Concern	Possible Concern	Clear Concern
a. Youth runs away or frequently leaves their residence for extended periods of time (overnight, days, weeks).	0	0	1	2
b. Youth experiences unstable housing, including multiple foster/group home placements.	0	0	1	2
c. Youth experiences periods of homelessness, e.g. living on the street or couch surfing.	0	0	1	2
d. Youth relies on emergency or temporary resources to meet basic needs, e.g. hygiene, shelter, food, medical care.	0	0	1	2
e. Parent/caregiver is unable to provide adequate supervision.	0	0	1	2
f. Youth has highly irregular school attendance, including frequent or prolonged tardiness or absences.	0	0	1	2
g. Youth has current or past involvement with the child welfare system.	0	0	1	2
Indicator 1 Score: A subtotal of 4-5 indicates *Possible Concern.* A subtotal ≥ 6 indicates *Clear Concern.* Circle score here →	0	0	1	2

Indicators of instability may be direct or indirect causes of exploitation or they may result from the exploitation. Instability interferes with a person's ability to meet basic needs such as shelter, food, hygiene, and health, and it hinders the person's capacity for age-appropriate activities of daily living. Instability, especially in residential

placement, happens as a result of being unable to rely on relationships formed while in a given living arrangement, because caregivers, location, friends and schools may be constantly changing (Coy, 2009). Lack of adequate, consistent supervision by caregivers may leave a young person vulnerable to others who may exploit them.

Instability in housing and caregiving among exploited youth is well documented in the literature and is also frequently reported by service providers who contributed to the development of the CSE-IT. The types of instability include having insecure residential placements (Coy, 2009); lacking caregiver support and experiencing abandonment and homelessness (Clawson & Dutch, 2008; Basson, Rosenblatt, & Haley, 2012; Covenant House 2013); and running away from home or placement (Clawson & Dutch, 2008; Coy, 2009; Mitchell, Finkelhor, & Wolak, 2010; Thomson, et al. 2011; and Estes & Weiner, 2001). This instability in housing or caregiving may end up involving child welfare systems. Research shows that many exploited youth end up in or are concurrently in the child welfare system (Basson, Rosenblatt, & Haley, 2012; California Child Welfare Council, n.d.; Walker, 2013). Since the child welfare system is explicitly tasked with protecting exploited youth in California, prior involvement with child welfare may also be a risk factor.

There is also an important relationship between exploitation and running behaviors of both males and females (Clawson, et al. 2009). However, it is not clear to what extent running away is a direct or indirect cause or effect of exploitation (see also Saewyc & Edinburgh, 2010; Saewyc, Solsvig, & Edinburgh, 2008; and Estes & Weiner 2001; Thomson, 2011; Reid 2011). Studies by Mitchell, Finkelhor, & Wolak (2010) and Basson, Rosenblatt, & Haley (2012) find that approximately 60% of sexually exploited youth have a history of running away. Young people are often approached for exploitation within days of running away because the lack of access to basic needs related to shelter, food, hygiene and health makes them vulnerable (Shahera, et al., 2012; Covenant House, 2013).

Instability in housing and caregiving and exploitation impact a youth's education. Research notes that in terms of educational needs, 50% of exploited youth or at risk youth are making no progress toward their educational goals or have no goals; 21% have problems with regular school attendance and have been out of school for one year or more; and when in school 35% experience limited or no success at school (Basson, Rosenblatt, & Haley 2012). Exploited youth's school functioning may also be impacted by peer relationships and bullying or harassment about exploitation (Basson, Rosenblatt, & Haley, 2012). Providers report that youth may be targeted by peers

verbally, physically, and/or sexually. This may lead to school avoidance, tardiness, interrupted learning, reduction in school performance, or dropping out. (See Indicator 4, Environment and Exposure, to rate bullying.)

2. Prior Abuse or Trauma. The youth has experienced trauma (not including exploitation).

2. PRIOR ABUSE OR TRAUMA. The youth has experienced trauma (not including exploitation).	No Information	No Concern	Possible Concern	Clear Concern
a. Youth has been sexually abused.	0	0	1	2
b. Youth has been physically abused.	0	0	1	2
c. Youth has been emotionally abused.	0	0	1	2
d. Youth has witnessed domestic violence.	0	0	1	2
Indicator 2 Score: A subtotal of 2 indicates *Possible Concern.* A subtotal ≥ 3 indicates *Clear Concern.* **Circle score here →**	0	0	1	2

Previous victimization puts children at risk of more victimization, including sexual exploitation (Gidyez, et al., 1993; Reid, 2011; Cuevas, et al., 2010; Barnes, et al., 2010; Lalor & McElvaney, 2010; Finkelhor, et al., 2007; Rich, et al., 2005). Ongoing exposure to traumatic experiences may result in an impaired ability to assess risk and safety which can lead to further victimization.

A history of emotional, physical and sexual abuse and exposure to family violence is common among exploited youth (Clawson & Dutch, 2008; Bittle, 2002; Roe-Sepowitz, 2012). Several studies indicate that over 70% of CSEC have been exposed to prior trauma(s) (Basson, Rosenblatt, & Haley, 2012; Covenant House, 2013).

3. Physical Health and Appearance. The youth experiences notable changes in health and appearance.

3. PHYSICAL HEALTH AND APPEARANCE. The youth experiences notable changes in health and appearance.	No Information	No Concern	Possible Concern	Clear Concern
a. Youth presents a significant change in appearance, e.g. dress, hygiene, weight.	0	0	1	2
b. Youth shows signs of physical trauma, such as bruises, black eyes, cigarette burns, or broken bones.	0	0	1	2
c. Youth has tattoos, scarring or branding, indicating being treated as someone's property.	0	0	1	2
d. Youth has repeated or concerning testing or treatment for pregnancy or STIs.	0	0	1	2
e. Youth is sleep deprived or sleep is inconsistent.	0	0	1	2
f. Youth has health problems or complaints related to poor nutrition or irregular access to meals.	0	0	1	2
g. Youth's substance use impacts their health or interferes with their ability to function.	0	0	1	2
h. Youth experiences significant change or escalation in their substance use.	0	0	1	2
Indicator 3 Score: A subtotal of 2-3 indicates *Possible Concern.* A subtotal ≥ 4 indicates *Clear Concern.* **Circle score here →**	0	0	1	2

Exposure to chronic violence and abuse (often part of exploitation) can affect the whole body - inside and out.

Physical health problems may be a direct result of injury or may be stress-related illnesses (Office of Refugee Resettlement, 2012; Lederer & Wetzel, 2014; Clawson & Dutch, 2008; Grace et al., 2012; Clawson, Saloman, & Grace, 2008). Direct injuries include bruises, black eyes, scrapes, broken bones, concussions, burns, scars, and vaginal or anal injuries, such as tearing. Youth may account for these marks on the body by blaming themself (saying they are clumsy or "bruise easily"). Sexually exploited youth may also present with reproductive health needs, such as sexually transmitted infections, menstrual problems, pregnancies and abortions (voluntary or forced). Frequent testing for reproductive needs, regardless of test outcomes, can itself be an indicator.

Providers have observed youth with health problems or complaints related to poor nutrition, not having access to regular meals, or eating disorders. Gastrointestinal disorders, including stomach complaints or loss of appetite, are also frequently reported. This can be related to not having access to food, but might also be stress or trauma related. Similarly, providers report that exploited youth present with sleep issues. This may be related to not getting enough sleep, not having a regular or safe place to sleep, unusual sleeping patterns (e.g., they sleep during the day and stay up at night), or stress related disturbances (Walker, 2013). These physical health issues may impact presentation, hygiene, or appearance.

Service providers also frequently report shifts in how a youth styles themselves or dresses. This may involve dressing in a manner that is atypical for the youth's age group, community, situation or the weather. For example, a young person who is being exploited may wear, carry or own clothes typically worn by sex workers (United Nations, n.d., Moossy, 2009). There may also be noticeable markings on the body. Tattoos, scarification, and branding are frequently used as a mechanism of influence or control and may indicate an exploiter's treatment of the youth as property (United Nations, n.d.; Cantrell, 2013).

Providers also report that a significant shift or increase in substance use can sometimes be linked to exploitation. This can be due to the youth's response to the overwhelming stress of sexual exploitation or abuse, but it can also be a tactic of an exploiter in the recruitment stage or a means of control and influence once exploitation has begun. Substance use is common among exploited youth - both males and females (Lederer &

Wetzel, 2014; Roe-Sepowitz, 2012; Reid & Piquero, 2014; Stoltz, et al., 2007; ACYF 2016).

Basson, Rosenblatt, & Haley (2012) found that in their study over 30% of sexually exploited youth had substance abuse problems that were severe enough to require treatment. Among exploited youth with noted substance use disorders, 94% were using severely for over one year and denied the existence of a problem or need for recovery. Most were in environments or peer groups that encouraged substance use.

4. Environment and Exposure. The youth's environment or activities place them at risk.

4. ENVIRONMENT AND EXPOSURE. The youth's environment or activities place them at risk of exploitation.	No Information	No Concern	Possible Concern	Clear Concern
a. Youth engages in sexual activities that cause harm or place them at risk of victimization.	0	0	1	2
b. Youth spends time where exploitation is known to occur.	0	0	1	2
c. Youth uses language that suggests involvement in exploitation.	0	0	1	2
d. Youth is connected to people who are exploited, or who buy or sell sex.	0	0	1	2
e. Youth is bullied or targeted about exploitation.	0	0	1	2
f. Youth has current or past involvement with law enforcement or juvenile justice.	0	0	1	2
g. Gang affiliation or contact involves youth in unsafe sexual encounters.	0	0	1	2
Indicator 4 Score: A subtotal of 1 indicates *Possible Concern*. A subtotal ≥ 2 indicates *Clear Concern*. **Circle score here →**	0	0	1	2

The people in a youth's environment, where they spend their time, what they do, and the quality of those relationships are important variables in assessing risk for exploitation. Youth may reside in or frequent locations associated with sex work or exploitation (United Nations, 2013). Physical proximity to exploitation activity is an indicator as it places youth at risk or may be a result of their exploitation. Similarly, exposure to people involved in the sex trade or exploitation may be a cause or an effect of exploitation and is therefore an indicator that a youth is at risk or is being exploited. A young person may be exposed to sex work in their community, peer group, home or family (Basson, Rosenblatt, & Haley, 2012), or may have family members who are collaborating with exploiters (Clawson & Dutch, 2008) or are exploiters.

If a youth is exploited or exposed to exploitation, this may impact their language. Providers report that youth may use terms typically associated with exploitation (e.g., "trick," "john," "date," "bottom," "track," "blade," "pimp," "daddy," etc.) or may have knowledge of things associated with exploitation that does not match their age or life circumstances, such as sexual knowledge, hotel locations, truck stops, websites, etc.

Providers report that many exploited youth experience bullying or harassment about exploitation. Youth may be targeted verbally, physically, and/or sexually by peers, community members, or family members/caregivers. This may lead to increased isolation, defensiveness, aggression, or hopelessness.

Exploited youth often encounter the legal system and end up involved in the juvenile justice system (Walker, 2013). One study noted that almost 80% of exploited youth receiving services had been incarcerated in the juvenile justice system at some point (WestCoast, 2012). Juvenile justice involvement may be due to status offenses or crimes committed as a result of exploitation (e.g., theft, drug possession, assault, missing curfews, loitering, false identification) (Cantrell, 2013). Some providers report that involving youth in criminal acts can be a form of control, coercion, or isolation. Exploiters either use the youth's criminal activities as a source of bonding or threaten to turn them in. Youth also may feel more isolated and limited as they realize the criminal acts may impact job prospects, credit scores, and other life circumstances.

Gangs recognize the high payout and low risk associated with the sexual exploitation of children (Carpenter and Gates, 2016; Greenbaum, 2014; WestCoast, 2012). Gangs may provide relationship, sense of acceptance, basic needs, and protection for vulnerable youth who have those unmet needs. Gangs also may use coercion, control, and manipulation to exploit youth. The exploitation may be to generate income or resource for the gang or it may entail being traded among gang members as property. Providers report that exploited youth may report having friends or acquaintances that are in a gang, but not being affiliated themselves.

5. Relationships and Belongings. The youth's relationships and personal belongings are not consistent with their age or circumstances, suggesting possible recruitment.

5. RELATIONSHIPS AND PERSONAL BELONGINGS. The youth's relationships and belongings are not consistent with their age or circumstances, suggesting possible recruitment by an exploiter.	No Information	No Concern	Possible Concern	Clear Concern
a. Youth has unhealthy, inappropriate or romantic relationships, including (but not limited to) with someone older/an adult.	0	0	1	2
b. Youth meets with contacts they developed over the internet, including sex partners or boyfriends/girlfriends.	0	0	1	2
c. Explicit photos of the youth are posted on the internet or on their phone.	0	0	1	2
d. Youth receives or has access to unexplained money, credit cards, hotel keys, gifts, drugs, alcohol, transportation.	0	0	1	2
e. Youth has several cell phones or their cell phone number changes frequently.	0	0	1	2
f. Youth travels to places that are inconsistent with their life circumstances.	0	0	1	2
Indicator 5 Score: A subtotal of 1-2 indicates *Possible Concern*. A subtotal ≥ 3 indicates *Clear Concern*. **Circle score here →**	**0**	**0**	**1**	**2**

Young people may lack the skills they need to negotiate interpersonal relationships and may engage in intimate relationships that are unhealthy, dangerous, or violent (Barnes, et al., 2010; Rich et al., 2005). Exploiters use emotional connection with youth to lower their defenses and gain trust and dependency (Human Smuggling and Trafficking Center, 2008; Walker 2013). This is a common strategy of "grooming" or recruitment. An adult may develop a relationship with a youth and become a romantic partner or protector (Human Smuggling and Trafficking Center, 2008; Department of Homeland Security, 2008). For these reasons, the youth may come to display loyalty or trust towards adult exploiters (Walker, 2013; Clawson & Dutch, 2008; Basson, Rosenblatt, & Haley, 2012).

Exploiters often provide material goods as a part of this seduction or recruitment process (cell phones, jewelry, clothes, basic needs, transportation, etc.) (Human Smuggling and Trafficking Center, 2008). Once exploitation has begun, youth may have access to material goods related to exploitation (large amounts of money, hotel keys, transportation, beauty products/services, clothing, technology, etc.). It is useful to notice when a youth's material items are inconsistent with their socio-economic status or age.

Service providers report that technology (cell phones, other devices, and email) are used by exploited youth to communicate with buyers or their exploiter. Providers also observe that technology can be used by exploiters as a means of control to keep tabs on a young person's whereabouts and activities. Prepaid, no-contract, and disposable mobile phones/devices may facilitate human trafficking because of the potential for anonymity. Law enforcement professionals and researchers find that social networking, online chats, and digital media are commonly used by exploiters to access youth and recruit buyers (Cantrell, 2013; University of Southern California, 2012; Mitchell, Finkelhor, & Wolak, 2010).

Because of the nature of exploitation and strategies of exploiters, exploited youth may travel with individuals or groups who are not relatives to places that are inconsistent with life circumstances or age. Exploiters use travel to deliver youth to buyers, increase youth's isolation and limit their control, and reduce risk of being identified, noticed, or caught. In situations where travel documents are required, youth's travel documents may be held by someone else and/or may have false identity or travel documents (United Nations, n.d.).

6. Signs of Current Trauma. The youth exhibits signs that may result from exposure to any trauma.

6. SIGNS OF CURRENT TRAUMA. The youth exhibits signs of trauma exposure.	No Information	No Concern	Possible Concern	Clear Concern
a. Youth appears on edge, preoccupied with safety, or hypervigilant.	0	0	1	2
b. Youth has difficulty detecting or responding to danger cues.	0	0	1	2
c. Youth engages in self-destructive, aggressive, or risk-taking behaviors.	0	0	1	2
d. Youth has a high level of distress about being accessible by cell phone.	0	0	1	2
Indicator 6 Score: A subtotal of 1-2 indicates *Possible Concern*. A subtotal ≥ 3 indicates *Clear Concern*. Circle score here →	0	0	1	2

Exploited youth are often experiencing current trauma while they are engaging with providers and supports. Signs of trauma may be physical or emotional (Lederer & Wetzel, 2014; Roe-Sepowitz, 2012). (Physical signs of trauma are rated in Indicator 3: Physical Health and Appearance.) Exploited youth may exhibit behavioral, psychological, or emotional signs associated with adjustment to trauma (Clawson, Saloman, & Grace, 2008; Lederer & Wetzel, 2014; Basson, Rosenblatt, & Haley, 2012). Though not all professionals may be able to fully assess for such symptoms, it is important to note that numbing, dissociation, hyperarousal, hypervigilance, avoidance, and affective and physiological dysregulation can be indicative of ongoing traumatic stress among exploited youth (see for example, Basson, Rosenblatt, & Haley, 2012). These symptoms can result in a young person being "on edge," constantly scanning for danger, or distracted. Some providers report that this anxiety or distress may be transferred or linked to objects associated with an exploiter (e.g., cellphone, jewelry, clothing, provided by the exploiter). While these behaviors or feelings may be attempts to stay safe, they sometimes result in an inability to respond appropriately to danger or read cues. Many exploited youth are in situations that threaten their health and safety, with 84% exhibiting impaired judgment that places them at risk of significant physical harm (Basson, Rosenblatt, & Haley, 2012; Cook, et al., 2003).

Under duress some youth resort to destructive self harm as a means of expressing or regulating overwhelming feelings or unbearable circumstances. This may include suicidal thoughts or attempts, cutting, or handbanging for example, but may also include self destructive risk taking where the youth is likely to be harmed by others such as walking into traffic, having unprotected sex, being aggressive, or provoking fights.

7. Coercion. The youth is being controlled or coerced by another person.

7. COERCION. The youth is being controlled or coerced by another person.	No Information	No Concern	Possible Concern	Clear Concern
a. Youth has an abusive or controlling intimate partner.	0	0	1	2
b. Someone else is controlling the youth's contact with family or friends, leaving the youth socially isolated.	0	0	1	2
c. Youth is coerced into getting pregnant, having an abortion, or using contraception.	0	0	1	2
d. Someone is not allowing the youth to sleep regularly or in a safe place, go to school, eat, or meet other basic needs.	0	0	1	2
e. The youth or their friends, family, or other acquaintances receive threats.	0	0	1	2
f. Youth gives vague or misleading information about their age, whereabouts, residence, or relationships.	0	0	1	2
Indicator 7 Score: A subtotal of 1 indicates *Possible Concern.* A subtotal ≥ 2 indicates *Clear Concern.* **Circle score here →**	**0**	**0**	**1**	**2**

Exploited youth often experience trauma-related symptoms as a result of their exploitation. Signs of coercion indicate that a young person is at very high risk for exploitation or that exploitation is or has occurred. Even if a youth is not being exploited, evidence of these indicators may require intervention to address the youth's safety.

Coercion may involve actual or threatened violence against youth or someone they may know. Fear can be a symptom of coercion. This includes fear of retaliation against youth or their families, of law enforcement and of disclosure (Clawson & Dutch, 2008). Exploiters may exert physical and psychological control over youth. Youth may be kept isolated with no freedom of movement while contact with others is controlled (Clawson & Dutch, 2008). Exploiters may require work quotas and assert control of the youth's daily life (e.g., when they can sleep, eat, use the bathroom) (Walker, 2013). Secrecy is common (Clawson, Saloman, & Grace, 2008), as young people may be asked to lie about topics such as their name or age (Leitch & Snow, 2013).

Provider report that youth may also be coerced around their sexual health and choice. Exploiters may try to enforce that a youth uses contraception, receives an abortion, or maintains a pregnancy. Exploiters may impregnate an exploited youth and then later attempt to use the child as a means of ongoing coercion and control over the youth.

8. Exploitation. The youth exchanges sex for money or material goods, including food or shelter.

8. EXPLOITATION. The youth exchanges sex for money or material goods, including food or shelter.	No Information	No Concern	Possible Concern	Clear Concern
a. Youth is exchanging sex for money or material goods, including food or shelter for themselves or someone else, e.g. child, family, partner.	0	0	1	2
b. Youth is watched, filmed or photographed in a sexually explicit manner.	0	0	1	2
c. Youth has a history of sexual exploitation.	0	0	1	2
d. Youth is forced to give the money they earn to another person.	0	0	1	2
Indicator 8 Score: A subtotal of 1 indicates *Possible Concern.* A subtotal ≥ 2 indicates *Clear Concern.*　　Circle score here →	**0**	**0**	**1**	**2**

It is important to remember that sexual exploitation, past or present, includes a range of sex crimes against children, including filming or watching minors in sexually explicit activities.

Some service providers ask youth directly if they exchange sex for shelter, food, or other goods, and the young person may disclose their exploitation in response to direct questions (Covenant House, 2013; see also Asian Health Services screening, available at www.asianhealthservices.org/csec_tool. html). However, often youth do not self-disclose their exploitation due to fear, shame, or trauma bonding with their exploiter. They may not recognize their own exploitation or identify as victims (Walker, 2013; Bas- son, Rosenblatt, & Haley, 2012; Clawson, Saloman, & Grace, 2008). Because of this, disclosure may often come from other individuals in their lives or from documentation in their case or medical histories.

USING A TRAUMA INFORMED APPROACH TO SCREENING

When working with youth who have potentially been exploited or abused, it is essential that professionals use a trauma informed approach. This requires understanding the impact that trauma may have on a youth's life and using interpersonal skills to ensure that interactions are supportive of recovery and not re-traumatizing. Interactions with youth may include forensic interviews, mental health screenings, ongoing meetings or counseling sessions, physical health exams, or an organization's intake process.

It is important, therefore, to create a positive, trusting working relationship with youth prior to asking sensitive questions directly. For example, beginning an interview with a series of sensitive questions, such as, "Have you been sexually abused?" or "Have you ever terminated a pregnancy?" prior to establishing trust may cause the young person

to become overwhelmed, agitated or disengaged. He or she may question the provider's motives and experience the inquiries as being intrusive.

In initial interviews where professionals are asking youth to disclose details of traumatic events, the focus should be on creating safety and minimizing distress. It is important to take the necessary time to address safety and trust to create an environment in which youth feel comfortable disclosing personal information.

Interview Considerations[1]

Below are some considerations to keep in mind when interacting with youth who have experienced trauma. These suggestions will help professionals create a safe, trauma informed process and environment. Whatever the setting or purpose of meeting with youth, keep in mind the following considerations, which are important to being trauma-informed.

Address basic needs first. If basic needs, such as shelter, clothing, hygiene, medical, and others, are not met, youth will not be able to engage in dialogue. Not attending to basic needs may also inhibit rapport building.

Building trust with youth is an ongoing process. Youth may have learned that law enforcement and authority figures more generally should not be trusted. The information they are willing to provide may evolve as their relationship with the service provider evolves.

Be realistic about how much information can be collected during an initial interview with a child or youth that has experienced extreme trauma.

Be attentive to signs of distress. If the young person shows signs of agitation, numbing, or feeling overwhelmed, such as changes in breathing, facial coloration, or posture, take a moment to give him or her a break, shift discussion topics, or delay the interview. Even if he or she does not show obvious signs, it may be helpful to check in and ask how he or she is doing.

Give the youth space and respect personal boundaries. This refers to emotional as well as physical space. Do not ask a continuous series of invasive or

---

[1] Interview considerations were adapted from interview guides for asking about exploitation (including the Shared Hope International *Intervene* interview and the Loyola University Chicago interview guides) and from WestCoast's clinical staff experience from working with traumatized youth.

very personal questions, especially if the youth is showing signs of distress. Do not assume that physical contact will be welcomed by the youth.

Speak with youth in a confidential and safe environment. Attempt to create an environment that is not intimidating. When meeting youth in the community, it is important to make sure both the service provider and the youth are safe.

Be non-judgmental. Be kind and empathetic, but it is also important to project neutrality. Do not react in an emotional or biased way to disclosures about exploitation or exploiters.

Allow the youth to feel heard. Limiting interruptions and references to personal stories or reactions can help youth to feel heard. While it is true that rapport building is a reciprocal interaction, when youth are disclosing information about their history, it is important to stay focused on them.

Use open-ended questions. Closed-ended questions do not allow youth to communicate their story on their terms and in their own words. It is important to remember that the CSE-IT items are not interview questions and should not be asked verbatim.

Avoid challenging questions. Questions that start with "Why" may be perceived as challenging. For example, a question that starts with "Why did/didn't you…?" may be perceived as questioning the youth's motives or judgment. Opening a dialogue with "Tell me about…" may convey more openness and feel less intrusive.

Don't focus on inconsistencies. Youth may provide inconsistent answers because of a reluctance to disclose or as a manifestation of their adjustment to trauma. In addition, there may be genuine disagreement between the youth's reporting of the facts and the way others who know the youth report them. It can be helpful to ask for clarification in a non-judgmental way, but do not insist on clarity and completeness right away. Remember, it may take time for youth to trust and tell their story.

Commercially sexually exploited children may experience trauma bonding. Trauma bonding (sometimes referred to as Stockholm Syndrome)

manifests as an emotional attachment to an exploiter. Do not immediately identify youth as victims, their perpetrator as an exploiter, and yourself as offering rescue.

Avoid clinical or technical language. Do not label a youth's experiences in clinical terms or use language that pathologizes them and their experience. For example, avoid the following words: rehabilitation, treatment, coercion, grooming.

Be honest. Providers should introduce themselves, the organization, and mandating reporting requirements. It is important to set realistic expectations with youth regarding what can be done on their behalf. For example, it may not be realistic to say, "Everything will be okay."

If using an interpreter, ask if it is OK. The Center for Human Rights for Children at Loyola University Chicago recommends not using someone already known to the child or youth as an interpreter as that person may have been involved in their exploitation (Walts, et al., 2011). Be sure to introduce the interpreter and explain his or her role. Avoid having side conversations with the interpreter.

STEPS TO COMPLETING THE CSE-IT

1. **Preparing**. Review the CSE-IT prior to meeting with youth or gathering information from other individuals or sources. This will give you an idea of the kinds of information to listen for in order to complete the CSE-IT.

2. **Screening**. Conduct initial interviews or intakes using your organization's established protocols. Many professionals have procedures for initial assessments and interviews. For example, when a youth is referred to an agency for a service, the youth often meets with a professional to provide information about their functioning. The practitioner may inquire about health status, safety needs, residential or placement needs, needs related to daily functioning, or other needs and strengths that may inform a targeted service plan.

   An organization or program may have a series of questions or guidelines for staff to use in gathering this information. For many organizations and providers, these questions or guidelines likely already cover much of the Key Indicators on the CSE-IT. However there may be Key Indicators that are not already part of an

organization's regular protocol or that are not explored as comprehensively. Providers may need to include some new questions to address these gaps.

As mentioned above, each Key Indicator is paired with supporting Statements to Consider. These supporting statements can be used as a guide for talking to youth. Questions should be posed in language that is accessible and comfortable for users and for youth.

3. **Completing and Scoring the CSE-IT**. Once the information is gathered, the CSE-IT can be completed. First, focus on answering the supporting Statements to Consider for each indicator. In doing so, think about whether the information indicates:

> **No Information** – There is no information or not enough information to determine level of concern with regards to the supporting Statement to Consider or Key Indicator. Items for which there is insufficient information to provide an answer should be rated No Information.

> **No Concern** – The information from or about the young person does not suggest that the supporting question or Key Indicator requires intervention at this time..

> **Possible Concern** – The information from or about the young person does not indicate direct evidence of a problem that requires immediate intervention. This may be because the problem is not serious or chronic. Evidence of a past problem on a CSE-IT item may also be rated as a Possible Concern if the service provider thinks the problem may recur. Also, if the youth denies that they have needs in an area but the provider continues to suspect or have concern about the youth for that item, the item may also be rated a Possible Concern.

> **Clear Concern** – Any item where there is disclosure from the youth, from other collaterals about the youth, or clear evidence from observations or client records should be rated a Clear Concern. If there is clear evidence of a problem on a single CSE-IT item, the next step is to determine what interventions may be required, including considering mandated reporting, safety planning and continued client engagement.

Example: Relationships and Personal Belongings - Indicator 5.
Answering the Statements to Consider (i.e., questions 5a through 5f) will result in a number of points that determine how to score the *Relationships and Personal Belongings* Key Indicator. As an example, see the completed indicator below.

→ After answering each Statement to Consider, the total points add up to 7.
→ Since a total of 7 points for the individual item is greater than 3, the overall Relationships and Personal Belongings indicator is a "Clear Concern" and is rated 2.

5. RELATIONSHIPS AND PERSONAL BELONGINGS. The youth's relationships and belongings are not consistent with their age or circumstances, suggesting possible recruitment by an exploiter.	No Information	No Concern	Possible Concern	Clear Concern
a. Youth has unhealthy, inappropriate or romantic relationships, including (but not limited to) with someone older/an adult.	0	0	1	(2)
b. Youth meets with contacts they developed over the internet, including sex partners or boyfriends/girlfriends.	0	0	(1)	2
c. Explicit photos of the youth are posted on the internet or on their phone.	0	0	(1)	2
d. Youth receives or has access to unexplained money, credit cards, hotel keys, gifts, drugs, alcohol, transportation.	0	0	1	(2)
e. Youth has several cell phones or their cell phone number changes frequently.	0	0	(1)	2
f. Youth travels to places that are inconsistent with their life circumstances.	(0)	0	1	2
Indicator 5 Score: A subtotal of 1-2 indicates *Possible Concern*. A subtotal ≥ 3 indicates *Clear Concern*. Circle score here →	0	0	1	(2)

4. **Overall Score.** An overall score for the CSE-IT can be found after each Key Indicator is rated as 0, 1 or 2. Once this is done, add ratings for Key Indicators 1-7 and enter that total in box A on the form. Then determine the value for Indicator 8 - Exploitation (remember that Indicator 8 is weighted differently in the calculation).
    If Indicator 8 is scored "1"/Possible Concern, please enter the value "4" in box B.
    If Indicator 8 is scored a "2"/Clear Concern, please enter the value "9" in box B.
Add boxes A and B to determine overall CSE-IT score. This will fall between 0 and 23. Please enter this in the Total Score box. (see example below).

Indicators		Indicator score
1. HOUSING AND CAREGIVING		2
2. PRIOR ABUSE OR TRAUMA		2
3. PHYSICAL HEALTH AND APPEARANCE		1
4. ENVIRONMENT AND EXPOSURE		1
5. RELATIONSHIPS AND PERSONAL BELONGINGS		1
6. SIGNS OF CURRENT TRAUMA		1
7. COERCION		1
Add scores for indicators 1-7 (Score cannot exceed 14):	A.	9
8. EXPLOITATION		1
If Indicator 8 score is 1 (Possible Concern) put 4 in Box B		4
If Indicator 8 is a 2 (Clear Concern) put 9 in Box B	B.	
TOTAL: Add boxes A and B for a total score between 0-23.	TOTAL	13

Please Note: The maximum score for this tool is 23 points. If you get a score that is higher than 23, the scoring has been done incorrectly.

5. **Understanding Risk**. Once the Total Score is determined, it can be plotted on the Continuum of Concern to help understand how much concern there is that the youth is being exploited.
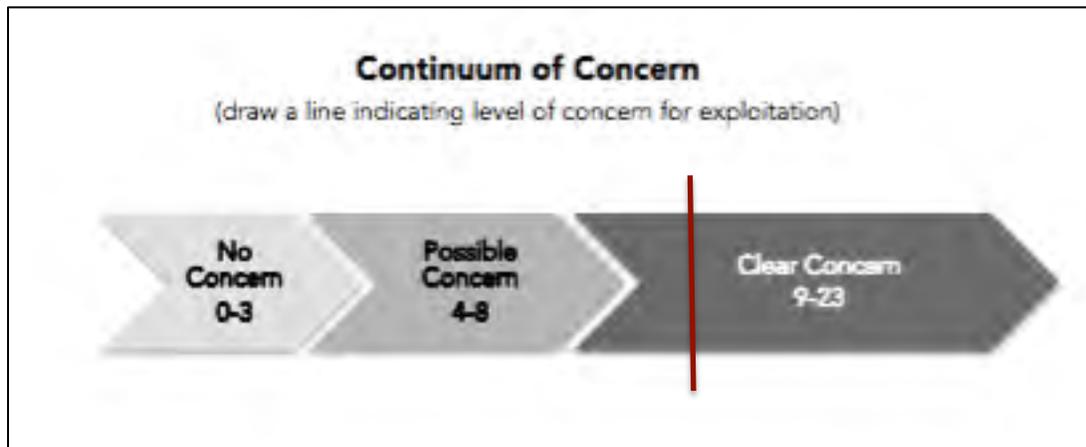
Understanding the Total Score On the CSE-IT

The completed CSE-IT will result in a total number that indicates the youth's level of risk as No Concern, Possible Concern, or Clear Concern.

No Concern. This rating indicates that there is no reason to believe that the youth is being sexually exploited or that we do not have enough information to determine at this time. This rating does not state that sexual exploitation categorically does not exist. It indicates that based on the current information available there is no reason to address sexual exploitation as a concern.

Possible Concern. This rating indicates that the youth may be at risk for sexual exploitation but there is either not enough information available or the current behaviors and circumstances do not clearly indicate the presence of exploitation. It is advisable to actively monitor a young person who receives this rating, fully assess their needs, and initiate preventative actions to ensure that exploitation does not occur.

Clear Concern. This rating indicates that there are numerous indicators present that suggest a high level of risk for sexual exploitation. This outcome should immediately trigger actions to address sexual exploitation of the youth.

Next Steps

The overall level of risk for sexual exploitation as indicated by No Concern, Possible Concern, or Clear Concern will help the provider to determine the next appropriate steps. If the CSE-IT indicates an overall Possible or Clear Concern, professionals may want to consider the following actions.

- Follow the organization or program protocol for responding to sexual exploitation or other forms of child abuse. This may include a mandated report, creation of a safety plan, and referral to community agencies to develop a comprehensive service plan for the youth. (Please see the Mandated Reporting section for additional information on this topic.)

- Conduct a thorough assessment of the young person's needs and strengths. If the provider or organization is not able to conduct such an assessment, refer the youth to an agency that is able to do so. One assessment tool that is specific to the needs and strengths of sexually exploited youth is the Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths-Commercial Sexual Exploitation (CANS-CSE).

- Collaborate with other professionals. Refer the young person to a provider that is able to develop a comprehensive immediate service plan that addresses the youth's current needs, including safety, physical health, and mental health.

Possible Actions might include:
1. Mandated report to authorities/CPS
2. Notify/consult with supervisor
3. Follow agency/organization CSEC protocol
4. Consider whether is is appropriate or indicated to alert caregivers or team
5. Develop safety plan (with youth, caregivers, or team)
6. Continue monitoring risk factors
7. Recommend/refer to case management
8. Recommend/refer to mental health services
9. Recommend/refer to other services
10. Recommend/refer for further assessment

LEGAL ISSUES AND MANDATED REPORTING

Human trafficking is a crime under federal and international law. In California, the Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Act (CANRA) defines the responsibilities of mandated reporters. If a mandated reporter suspects that a child is being commercially sexually exploited as defined by Penal Code 236.1, a child abuse report must be filed. Note that reasonable suspicion is sufficient cause for filing a report; confirmation of abuse is not required (California Penal Code § 11166(a)(1)). The child welfare or law enforcement agency receiving the report is responsible for investigating.

Legally mandated reporters include (but are not limited to) the following professionals:

a. A teacher, teacher's aide or assistant, or other instructional aide employed by any public or private school.

b. A classified employee of any public school.

c. Employees at institutions of higher learning.

d. Directors, employees, and volunteers at organizations that supervise or provide activities for children, such as camps, youth centers, and recreation centers.

e. An administrative officer or supervisor of child welfare and attendance.

f. Health care personnel including physicians, psychiatrists, dentists, nurses, therapists and other mental health professionals, among others.

g. Any employee of any police department, sheriff's department, probation or welfare department.

h. Social workers.

The Child Welfare Information Gateway fact sheet "Mandatory Reporters of Child Abuse and Neglect" contains additional information about Mandatory Reporting, including summaries of state laws (https://www.childwelfare.gov/systemwide/laws_policies/statutes/manda.pdf).

Though law enforcement and other public agencies may be primarily concerned with victimization that occurred within the United States, trafficking situations that occurred outside of the U.S. may still have significant implications for a victim's legal relief, allowing someone to access benefits or stay in the country legally. Organizations that work with clients who are immigrants to the U.S. should be aware of laws and benefits for individuals in these circumstances. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Refugee Resettlement provides information on these topics (http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/orr/programs/anti-trafficking).

REFERENCES

Barnes, J.E., Noll, J.G., Putnam, F.W., & Trickett, P.K. (2010). Sexual and Physical Revictimization Among Victims of Severe Childhood Sexual Abuse. Child Abuse and Neglecy, 33(7):412-420. Retrieved from http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2723796/

Basson, D. Rosenblatt, E., & Haley, H. (2012). Research to action: Sexually exploited minors (SEM) needs and strengths. WestCoast Children's Clinic. Retrieved from http://www.westcoastcc.org/WCC_SEM_Needs-and-Strengths_FINAL.pdf

Bittle, Steven. (2002). Youth Involvement In Prostitution: A Literature Review And Annotated Bibliography. Research and Statistics Division, Department of Justice Canada.

California Child Welfare Council. (n.d.). Prevalence of Commercially Sexually Exploited Children. Retrieved from http://www.chhs.ca.gov/CWCDOC/CSEC%20Fact%20Sheet%20-%201.pdf

Cantrell, R. (2013). Modern slavery: Investigating human trafficking.

Clawson, Heather J., Nicole Dutch, Amy Solomon, and Linda Goldblatt Grace. 2009. Human Trafficking Into and Within the United States: A Review of the Literature. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation.

Clawson, H.J. & Dutch, N. (2008, January). U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Identifying victims of human trafficking: Inherent challenges and promising strategies in the field. Retrieved from http://aspe.dhhs.gov/hsp/07/HumanTrafficking/IdentVict/ib.pdf

Clawson, H.J., Saloman, A. & Grace, L.G. (2008, March). U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Treating the hidden wounds: Trauma treatment and mental health recovery for victims of human trafficking.

Covenant House. (2013). Homeless, survival sex and human trafficking: As experienced by the youth of Covenant House New York.

Cuevas, C.A., Finkelhor, D., Clifford, C., Ormrod, R.K., & Turner, H.A. (2010).
Psychological distress as a risk factor for re-victimization in children. Child Abuse
& Neglect, 34, 235-243. Retrieved from
http://www.unh.edu/ccrc/pdf/CV184.pdf

Department of Homeland Security. (2008, December). Human Trafficking and
Smuggling Center. Domestic Human Trafficking—An Internal Issue. Retrieved
from http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/113612.pdf

Edinburgh, L. D., & Saewyc, E. M. (2009). A Novel, Intensive Home-Visiting Intervention
for Runaway, Sexually Exploited Girls. Journal for Specialists in Pediatric Nursing,
14(1), 41–48.

Finkelhor, D., Ormrod, R. K., & Turner, H. A. (2007). Polyvictimization: A neglected
component in child victimization. Child Abuse & Neglect, 31:7-26.

Grace, L. G., Starck, M., Potenza, J., Kenney, P. A., & Sheetz, A. H. (2012). Commercial
Sexual Exploitation of Children and the School Nurse. The Journal of School
Nursing, 28(6):410–417.

Human Smuggling and Trafficking Center. (2008). Domestic human trafficking-an
internal issue. Retrieved from
http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/113612.pdf

Lalor, Kevin and Rosaleen McElvaney. (2010). Child Sexual Abuse, Links to Later Sexual
Exploitation/High-Risk Sexual Behavior, and Prevention/Treatment Programs.
Trauma, Violence, & Abuse. 11(4):159-177.

Leitch, L. & Snow, M. (2013). Intervene: Practitioner guide and intake tool. Shared
Hope International. Arlington, VA.

Lederer, L.J. & Wetzel, C.A. (2014). Health consequences of sex trafficking. Annals of
Health Law. 23:61-91.

Mitchell, K. J., Finkelhor, D., & Wolak, J. (2010). Conceptualizing juvenile prostitution
as child maltreatment: Findings from the national juvenile prostitution
survey. Child Maltreatment, 15(1): 18–36.

Mitchell, K. J., Finkelhor, D., & Wolak, J. (2011). Internet-facilitated commercial sexual
exploitation of children: Findings from a nationally representative sample of law

enforcement agencies in the United States. Sexual Abuse: A Journal of Research and Treatment, 23(1): 43-71.

Moossy, R. (2009, March). Sex Trafficking: Identifying Cases and Victims. National Institute of Justice Journal, issue 262. Retrieved from https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/225759.pdf

Office of Juvenile Justine and Delinquency Prevention. (2003, November). Internet sex crimes against minors: The response of law enforcement.

Office of Refugee Resettlement. (2012, August 2). Fact sheet: Sex trafficking. Retrieved from http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/orr/resource/fact-sheet-sex-trafficking-english).

Reid, J. A. (2011). An Exploratory Model of Girl's Vulnerability to Commercial Sexual Exploitation in Prostitution. Child Maltreatment, 16(2), 146–157.

Reid, J. A., & Piquero, A. R. (2014). Age-Graded Risks for Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Male and Female Youth. Journal of Interpersonal Violence, 29(9), 1747–1777.

Rich, C. L., Gidycz, C. A., Warkentin, J. B., Loh, C., & Weiland, P. (2005). Child and adolescent abuse and subsequent victimization: A prospective study. Child Abuse & Neglect, 29(12), 1373–1394.

Roe-Sepowitz, D. E. 2012. Juvenile entry into prostitution: The role of emotional abuse. Violence Against Women, 18, 562-579.

Saewyc, Elizabeth M. and Laurel D. Edinburgh. 2010. Restoring Healthy Developmental Trajectories for Sexually Exploited Young Runaway Girls: Fostering Protective Factors and Reducing Risk Behaviors. Journal of Adolescent Health, 46:180–188.

Shahera, Hyatt, Kathryn Spuur and Maia Scuipac. 2012. Sexual Exploitation and Homeless Youth in California: What Policymakers Needs to Know. California Homeless Youth Project. Accessed 6/13/2012 at http://cahomelessyouth.library.ca.gov/docs/pdf/SexualExploitedHomelessYouthIssueBrief.pdf

Stoltz, J. M., Shannon, K., Kerr, T., Zhang, R., Montaner, J. S., & Wood, E. 2007.

Associations between childhood maltreatment and sex work in a cohort of drug-using youth. Social Science and Medicine, 65, 1214-1221.

Thomson, Susan, David Hirshberg, Amy Corbett, Nikki Valila, and Denise Howley. 2011. Residential treatment for sexually exploited adolescent girls: Acknowledge, Commit, Transform (ACT). Children and Youth Services Review (33): 2290–2296.

United Nations. (n.d.). Office of Drugs and Crime. Human Trafficking Indicators. Retrieved from http://www.unodc.org/pdf/HT_indicators_E_LOWRES.pdf

University of Southern California. (2012). The rise of the mobile. Retrieved from https://technologyandtrafficking.usc.edu/current-research-on-technology-and-trafficking-2012/#_ftn10

Walker, K. (2013). California Child Welfare Council. Ending the Commercially Sexually Exploited Children: A call for multi-system collaboration in California.

Willis, B., & Levy, B. 2002. Child prostitution: Global health burden, research needs and interventions. The Lancet, 359, 1417–1422.