Sex Trafficking and Minor Mothers

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WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

• Sex Trafficking is increasing across the nation.

• Nationally and in California there is a growing consensus that sex trafficked youth should not be incarcerated but should be serviced solely through the dependency system.

• Dependency Attorneys will encounter more families facing sex trafficking issues.
-Based on annual data from the National Human Trafficking Hotline
The National Human Trafficking Hotline received 5,174 reports of Human Trafficking between January 1, 2018 and June 30, 2018.
-Percentages from the 5,174 Human Trafficking cases reported to the National Human Trafficking Hotline between January 1, 2018 and June 30, 2018
Percentages from the 5,174 Human Trafficking cases reported to the National Human Trafficking Hotline between January 1, 2018 and June 30, 2018. These statistics are non-cumulative. Cases may involve multiple victims and include males and females, foreign nationals and U.S. citizens, adults and minors. In some cases, callers do not provide demographic information.
Federal Law

• Under U.S. federal law, **sex trafficking** is the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, obtaining, patronizing, or soliciting of a person for the purposes of a commercial sex act, in which the commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such an act has not attained 18 years of age (22 USC § 7102).


• **Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act of 2014**
Legal Elements of Sex Trafficking

1. PROCESS
   - Recruiting
   - Harboring
   - Moving
   - Obtaining a person

2. MEANS
   - by
   - Force
   - Fraud
   - Coercion

3. END
   - For the purposes of
   - A commercial sex act

Commercial Sex Act is defined as any sex act, on account of which anything of value is given or received by any person.

** Important to note that when the victim is under 18, no requirement to show “force, fraud, or coercion,” instead must show that the person who was induced to perform the act had not reached 18. 22 U.S.C. § 7102
CSEC: Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children

• Commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) occurs when a person buys, trades, or sells sexual acts with a person under the age of 18. Commercial sexual exploitation of youth is illegal based on federal statute 22 U.S.C. § 7102
CSEC includes:

- street prostitution
- pornography
- stripping
- erotic/nude massage
- escort services

- phone sex lines
- private parties
- gang-based prostitution
- interfamilial pimping
- Internet-based exploitation
CSEC in the United States

NISMART estimates that 1.6 million children run away from home each year in the U.S.

One in three teens will be recruited by a pimp within 48 hours of leaving home and becoming homeless.
CSEC in the United States

• At least **100,000 to 300,000 youth** are at risk for commercial sexual exploitation annually in the U.S. (Estes and Wiener, 2001)

• The average age of entry into the commercial sex industry in the U.S. is **12 years old**. (US Department of Justice, Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section)
CSEC in California

• Three of thirteen High Intensity Child Prostitution Areas are located in California

• Nine Human Trafficking Task Forces identified nearly 1,300 victims in California
  • Over 70% were victims from the United States
  • Over 50% were victims of sex trafficking
  • 360 children arrested for prostitution in California
    • 13% of these children were between the ages of 12-14.

• Prior to decriminalization approximately 200 children were arrested annually for prostitution in Los Angeles County
Multiple studies estimate that...

... 70 to 90 percent of sexually exploited children have a history of child sexual abuse.

CSEC INTERSECTION WITH CHILD WELFARE

• Up to 90% Percent of CSEC have previous history of abuse & neglect

• Youth who experience sexual abuse are \textbf{28 times} more likely to be arrested for prostitution than their non-abused counterparts

• \textbf{DATA}: Prior to change in the law

• 50-85\% of children arrested for prostitution have history with the child welfare system prior to exploitation
  • LA County STAR Court
    • Of 72 Cases surveyed 56 had prior or current Child Welfare involvement
    • Oakland, of 200 CSEC youth 53\% of youth reported living in group homes
  • Trend repeats nationally
“....being in foster care was the *perfect training* for commercial sexual exploitation. I was used to being moved without warning, without any say, not knowing where I was going or whether I was allowed to pack my clothes. After years in foster care, I did not think anyone would want to care of me unless they were paid. So, when my pimp expected me to make money to support the family, it made sense to me.”

- *a recovered youth*
WHAT DOES CSEC LOOK LIKE?

• Youth being forced to have sex for money, clothes, drugs, food and shelter
• Youth being cut off from their family and friends
• Trafficker controls all aspects of their life - what they do, what they say, how often they sleep, when/if they eat
• Physical and emotional abuse
• Ads on social media or working alone in high-trafficking areas (blade, track)
IDENTIFYING CSEC VICTIMS

• Chronic runaways
• Expressing interest in, or are in relationships with adults or older men
• Arrest for prostitution/solicitation
• Visible signs of abuse such as unexplained bruises, black eyes, cuts or marks
• Tattoo of exploiter’s name on victim’s face, neck, chest or arms
• Overtly sexual posts on social media
• Use of lingo or slang like “being in the life,” “boyfriend or daddy,” and “working” or “going on dates”
• Has large amount of cash, jewelry, or expensive clothes
• Unaccounted for time, vagueness concerning whereabouts, and/or defensiveness in response to questions or concerns
Pathways to Entry: Ways recruitment can happen

• Parents selling children
• Violence and force
• Kidnapping
• Seduction and coercion
• False advertising for modeling, acting or dancing opportunities
• Peer recruitment
• Internet enticement through chat rooms or profile-sharing sites
WHERE DOES CSEC HAPPEN?

• Recruitment can happen anywhere
• Most common places are:
  • On the internet (Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat)
  • Group homes and foster homes
  • Bus stops
  • Malls
  • Schools
HOW ARE YOUTH RECRUITED?

- Trafficker giving youth the “love” and attention they are missing
- Complimenting youth and buying them things – offering to be the family youth never had
- A friend at a group home convincing youth to runaway with them
- Being kidnapped while walking down the street or waiting at a bus stop
- Threats to harm family
SPECIAL RISK FACTORS FOR YOUTH IN FOSTER CARE

• Previous history of abuse, neglect;
• Lack basic support systems, basic needs;
• Often come from communities impacted by both poverty and violence—and where exploitation may be prevalent.
• May leave placements and find themselves homeless;
• May suffer from trauma-related mental health issues;

EXPLOITERS TARGET THESE VULNERABILITIES
WIC 300(b)(2)

- The Legislature finds and declares that a child who is sexually trafficked, as described in Section 236.1 of the Penal Code, or who receives food or shelter in exchange for, or who is paid to perform sexual acts described in Section 236.1 or 11165.1 of the Penal Code, and whose parent or guardian failed to, or was unable to protect the child, is within the description of this subdivision, and that this finding is declaratory of existing law. These children shall be known as commercially sexually exploited children.
PENAL CODES REFERENCED IN WIC 300(b)(2)

• Penal Code 236.1:

• Any person who causes, induces, or persuades, or attempts to cause, induce or persuade, a person who is a minor at the time of commission of the offense to engage in a commercial sex act, with the intent to effect or maintain a violation of Sections: 266, 266h, 266i, 266j, 267, 311.1, 311.2, 311.3, 311.4, 311.5, 311.6, or 518 (pimping, pandering, child pornography, etc.) is guilty of human trafficking...
PENAL CODES REFERENCED IN WIC 300(b)(2)

• Penal Code Section 11165.1:

As used in this article, “sexual abuse” means sexual assault or sexual exploitation as defined by the following:

(a) “Sexual Assault” means conduct in violation of one or more of the following sections: 261 rape, 261.5(d) statutory rape, 264.1 rape in concert, 285 incest, 286 sodomy, 288(a),(b) or (c)(1), lewd or lascivious acts upon a child, 288(a) oral copulation, 289 sexual penetration, or 627.6 child molestation.

(b) Conduct described as sexual assault.......... 

(c) Sexual exploitation.......
Discussion of CSEC Best Practices

• **Representing Parents of Trafficked Children**
  - Support Groups for Parents
  - Trauma-informed group homes

• **Representing Minor Mothers who have been Trafficked**
  - Dedicated Funding for Services
  - Employment Assistance

• **Representing Minor Mothers who have been Trafficked and are also Dependents**
  - Specialized Wrap Around Teams
Considerations for Specialized Courts

• What is your role in the specialized court?
• How is it different from your traditional role?
• What is working in the specialized court?
• What are the biggest challenges?
CLC CSEC Team and DREAM Court

• D.R.E.A.M. – Dedication to Restoration through Empowerment, Advocacy and Mentoring
  • Dedicated calendar and specially trained judge, county counsel, parents attorneys and court room staff plus.....

• CLCLA4 CSEC Team
  • 2 Attorneys
  • 3 Case Managers

• 130 clients
  • Harm reduction
  • Enrichment and Empowerment opportunities & relearning relationships
Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act of 2014:
2015 State Legislative Enactments

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President Obama signed the Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act into law on Sept. 29, 2014. The act requires certain data collection and reporting by states regarding sex trafficking, including the identification of children who may be at high-risk of becoming sex trafficking victims, particularly current and former foster children. In addition, the act provides various changes to existing law regarding child welfare, including some required state action in areas of foster parenting, adoption incentive payments, and others. Below please find recent state legislative enactments in response to various provisions of the act.

Arkansas SB 1012—Act 1138
Relates to human trafficking, amends the definition of a child placement agency to include an entity that places, plans for the placement or assists in the placement of a child victim of human trafficking in a home or any type of shelter or facility, relates to nonimmigrant visa certification by law enforcement, training regarding fines for the Safe Harbor Fund for Sexually Exploited Children and education of prosecutors regarding such fines.

California AB 93—Act 10
Funds appropriated in this item for the Commercially Sexually Exploited Children Program required by Chapter 5.2 (commencing with Section 16524.6) of Part 4 of Division 9 of the Welfare and Institutions Code shall be appropriately reduced by the Department of Finance to the extent any activities for which funding is included are also required by the Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act of 2014 (P.L. 113-183).

California SB 97
Funds appropriated in this item for the Commercially Sexually Exploited Children Program required by Chapter 5.2 (commencing with Section 16524.6) of Part 4 of Division 9 of the Welfare and Institutions Code shall be appropriately reduced by the Department of Finance to the extent any activities for which funding is included are also required by the Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act of 2014 (P.L. 113-183).

California SB 101—Act 321
Funds appropriated in this item for the Commercially Sexually Exploited Children Program required by Chapter 5.2 (commencing with Section 16524.6) of Part 4 of Division 9 of the Welfare and Institutions Code shall be appropriately reduced by the Department of Finance to the extent any activities for which funding is included are also required by the Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act of 2014 (P.L. 113-183).
California SB 794—Act 425

Requires the county child welfare agencies to develop and implement policies and procedures to provide appropriate services for children and youth who are receiving child welfare services pursuant to federal law and are, or are at risk of becoming, victims of commercial sexual exploitation. Requires implementation of a related case management system on foster children who are risk for such exploitation. Relates to investigating reports of such exploitation.

Colorado HB 1019—Act 237

Requires the Human Trafficking Council to determine whether legislation should be enacted concerning the prosecution of or granting immunity to a child victim of commercial sexual exploitation, the creation of other legal protections including related defenses, or standards, guidelines or mandates regarding the appropriate assessment, placement and treatment of child victims of commercial sexual exploitation.

Georgia SB 8—Act 95

Georgia required the department, the Office of the Child Advocate, the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council and law enforcement to develop a plan for the delivery of services to children who are, or at risk of becoming, sexually exploited or victims of sex trafficking. The plan is to include: identifying children who need services; assisting with applying for federal and state benefits and services; coordinating the delivery of medical and mental health, housing, education, job training, child care, legal and other services; increasing awareness through preparing and disseminating training materials; developing community based services; and, assisting with family reunification.

Illinois SB 1763—Act 350

Provides for a workgroup to review treatment programs for youth in the Department of Children and Family Service’s care who are sex trafficking victims, provides for a review of secured therapeutic residential care laws and rules, a pilot program of multidimensional treatment foster care for certain children, promotion of a human trafficking hotline, reporting of suspected abuse or neglect by staff in child care facilities or child welfare agencies, release of certain information, and related matters.

Minnesota HB 3—Act 1 HB 6—Act 6

Minnesota legislators appropriated funds for the housing trust fund account and directed that the account give priority to projects that focus on creating safe and stable housing for homeless youth or on projects that provide housing to trafficked women and children. They also specified funding from the general fund for emergency shelter and transitional and long-term housing beds for sexually exploited youth and youth at risk of sexual exploitation, and for statewide youth outreach workers assist sexually exploited youth and youth at risk of sexual exploitation to access shelter and services.

Minnesota SB 1458—Act 71

Section 59. Minnesota Statutes 2014, section 260C.212, is amended by adding a subdivision to read: (g) The local social services agency shall determine appropriate services as described in section 145.4717 with respect to any child for whom the local social services agency has responsibility for placement, care, or supervision when the local social services agency has reasonable cause to believe the child is, or is at risk of being, a sex trafficking victim.

Oklahoma HB 1078—Act 173

Directs DHS to establish policies and training for identifying children and youth in its care who are at risk of sex trafficking and to determine the appropriate service. The Department of Human Services shall, in consultation with state and local law enforcement, juvenile justice systems, health care providers, education
agencies, and organizations with experience in dealing with at-risk children and youth, establish policies and procedures, including relevant training for caseworkers, for identifying, documenting in agency records and determining appropriate services for children and youth at risk of sex trafficking. The policies and procedures shall be developed for every child or youth over whom the department has responsibility for placement, care or supervision and shall apply when the department has reasonable cause to believe a child or youth is currently, or is at risk of being, a victim of sex trafficking, including a child or youth: a. for whom the department has an open case file, but who has not been removed from the home, b. who has run away from foster care and who has not attained 18 years of age, or c. who is not in foster care but is receiving services

**Texas HB 418—Act 338**

Provides for child victims of trafficking who are placed in secure foster homes or secure foster group homes if the court finds that the placement is in the best interests of the child and the child’s physical health or safety is in danger because the child has been recruited, harbored, transported, provided or obtained for forced labor or commercial sexual activity. Requires mental health services, behavioral health care, sexual assault treatment, tailored education and substance abuse screening.

**Texas HB 1217—Act 713**

GOVERNOR’S PROGRAM FOR VICTIMS OF CHILD SEX TRAFFICKING. (a) The governor shall establish and implement a program to provide comprehensive, individualized services to address the rehabilitation and treatment needs of child victims of an offense under Section 20A.02(a)(7) or (8), Penal Code. (b) The governor shall appoint a director of the program to serve at the pleasure of the governor. (c) The director of the program shall coordinate with state and local law enforcement agencies, state agencies, and service providers to identify victims of child sex trafficking who are eligible to receive services under the program. (d) For each victim of child sex trafficking identified by the director, the program shall immediately facilitate the assignment of a caseworker to the victim to coordinate with local service providers to create a customized package of services to fit the victim’s immediate and long-term rehabilitation and treatment needs. Services provided under the program must address all aspects of the medical, psychiatric, psychological, safety, and housing needs of victims.

**Texas HB 2070—Act 1057**

Relates to certain requirements for certain facilities licensed by the Department of Family and Protective Services and the department’s enforcement authority, makes changes relating to notice and hearing requirements and residential operations providing services to children who are victims of trafficking, removes certain fees for child-care facility and child-placing agency licensure, makes changes concerning enforcement policies and administrative penalties, provides for certain cease and desist orders.

**Virginia HB 5002—Act 2**

I. Out of this appropriation, $100,000 the first year and $100,000 the second year from the general fund shall be provided to contract with Youth for Tomorrow (YFT) to provide comprehensive residential, education and counseling services to at-risk youth of the commonwealth of Virginia who have been sexually exploited, including victims of sex trafficking. The contract shall require YFT to provide individual assessments/individual service planning, individual and group counseling, room and board, coordination of medical and mental health services and referrals, independent living services for youth transitioning out of foster care, active supervision, education, and family and family reunification services. Youth for Tomorrow shall submit monthly progress reports on activities conducted and progress achieved on outputs, outcomes and other functions/activities during the reporting period. On Oct. 1 of each year, YFT shall provide an annual report to the governor and the chairmen of the Senate Finance and House Appropriations committees that details program services, outputs and outcomes.
Missing Children and Youth Enactments

**California SB 794**

This bill would additionally require the county probation or welfare department to immediately, or in no case later than 24 hours from receipt of the information, report to the law enforcement agency having jurisdiction over the case any known or suspected instance of child abuse involving an allegation of commercial sexual exploitation, as defined, of a child or youth receiving child welfare services. The bill would also require the county probation or welfare department to make a report to the appropriate law enforcement authority for entry into the National Crime Information Center database of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children within 24 hours of becoming aware that a child or youth who is receiving child welfare services and who is known or suspected to be the victim of commercial sexual exploitation is missing or has been abducted. The bill provides for law enforcement reports of missing children at high risk of harm and to the administration of missing or exploited children prevention grants to qualified nonprofit organizations. Provides for the option to declare a child under 14 years of age and otherwise determined by the local law enforcement agency or the Department of Public Safety to be at a high risk of human trafficking, sexual assault, exploitation, abuse or neglectful supervision.

**Colorado HB 1078—Act 41**

Requires the State Department of Human Services or a county department of human or social services that has legal custody of a child or youth to report the child’s or youth’s disappearance to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children and to law enforcement immediately, or no later a specified time period after learning of the disappearance, for entry into the National Crime Information Center Database.

**Connecticut HB 6899**

Sec. 13. (NEW) (Effective July 1, 2015) The Department of Children and Families shall report any missing or abducted child who was committed to the custody of the commissioner to the law enforcement authority having jurisdiction over the geographical area from which the child was reported missing or was abducted. The department shall make such report immediately, but in no case later than 24 hours after the child is determined to be missing or abducted, to the Federal Bureau of Investigation’s National Crime Information Center and to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.

**Illinois SB 1775—Act 351**

Requires any child or person in the care of the Department of Children and Family Services who is placed in a residential facility to be reported as missing if there is no contact between a facility employee and the child or person within a certain period and the child or person is absent from the facility without approval. Provides for notification of caseworkers. Reports to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children and to a sheriff, certain care plans, and missing person’s alerts.

**Indiana HB 1216—Act 23**

Requires the superintendent of the state police department to provide a pamphlet that includes information concerning the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children and the National Runaway Safeline and to distribute the pamphlet to every law enforcement agency. Requires a law enforcement agency to provide the pamphlet to a person making a report of a missing child. Provides a defense to the crime of prostitution for a child who was a victim of human or sexual trafficking.

**MN SB 1458—Act 71**

Subd. 13. Protecting missing and runaway children and youth at risk of sex trafficking. (a) The local social services agency shall expeditiously locate any child missing from foster care. (b) The local social services
agency shall report immediately, but no later than 24 hours, after receiving information on a missing or abducted child to the local law enforcement agency for entry into the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) database of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. (c) The local social services agency shall not discharge a child from foster care or close the social services case until diligent efforts have been exhausted to locate the child and the court terminates the agency’s jurisdiction. (d) The local social services agency shall determine the primary factors that contributed to the child’s running away or otherwise being absent from care and, to the extent possible and appropriate, respond to those factors in current and subsequent placements. (e) The local social services agency shall determine what the child experienced while absent from care, including screening the child to determine if the child is a possible sex trafficking victim as defined in section 609.321, subdivision 7b. (f) The local social services agency shall report immediately, but no later than 24 hours, to the local law enforcement agency any reasonable cause to believe a child is, or is at risk of being, a sex trafficking victim. (g) The local social services agency shall determine appropriate services as described in section 145.4717 with respect to any child for whom the local social services agency has responsibility for placement, care, or supervision when the local social services agency has reasonable cause to believe the child is, or is at risk of being, a sex trafficking victim.

Nevada AB 324

Existing state law requires a law enforcement agency to request certain identifying information from the parent or guardian of a missing child who is less than 16 years of age or has not been located within 30 days after being reported missing. (NRS 432.200) Existing law also requires a law enforcement agency that receives and verifies a report of a missing child, other than a child who has run away, to immediately transmit the report to the program established by the attorney general to coordinate activities and information in this state concerning missing or exploited children. (NRS 432.205) Sections 2 and 3 of this bill instead require a law enforcement agency to request such information and transmit such a report for any child who has been reported missing. Existing federal law requires a state agency that receives information concerning a missing or abducted child who has been placed in the custody of the agency to report the information immediately to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children and the National Crime Information Center database established by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Section 4 of this bill includes this requirement in state law. Existing federal law requires a state to develop and carry out specific protocols concerning children who have run away from foster care in order to receive certain federal funds. (42 U.S.C. § 671(a)(35)) Section 5 of this bill requires the Division of Child and Family Services of the Department of Health and Human Services to adopt regulations to implement such protocols.

Oklahoma HB 1078

When notified a child or youth has run away or is missing from a foster placement, the department shall, within 24 hours of notification, report such status of the child or youth to local law enforcement, the National Crime Information Center, and to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.

Oregon HB 223—Act 153

Directs Department of Human Services to appoint advisory committee to advise department regarding policies and procedures to coordinate statewide planning for delivery of services to runaway and homeless youth and their families, requires department to report annually to interim legislative committees on child welfare regarding status of system of services and support and advice and information provided by advisory committee.

Texas HB 1793—Act 745

Provides for law enforcement reports of missing children at high risk of harm and to the administration of missing or exploited children prevention grants to qualified nonprofit organizations. Provides for the option Ros...
to declare a child under 14 years of age and otherwise determined by the local law enforcement agency or the Department of Public Safety to be at a high risk of human trafficking, sexual assault, exploitation, abuse or neglectful supervision.

Case Planning Enactments

**Arkansas HB 1671—Act 1033**

Provides the Department of Human Services shall assist a juvenile in foster care or entering foster care with the development of a transitional life plan when the juvenile turns a specified age. Provides for juveniles who do not have the capacity to successfully transition into adulthood without the assistance of the Adult Protective Services Unit.

**California SB 794—Chapter 425**

This bill would require county child welfare agencies to develop case plans for youth 14 years of age or older and nonminor dependents in consultation with the youth, and would authorize each youth to choose up to two members of the case planning team, as specified. The bill would require that case plans for these youth include a description of specified rights and entitlements, as well as an acknowledgment signed by each youth that he or she was provided with this information. The bill would also require the case plan for a child or nonminor dependent who is, or who is at risk of becoming, the victim of commercial sexual exploitation, to document the services provided to address that issue.

**Connecticut HB 6899—PA 15-199**

The act requires DCF to consult with any child age 12 or older in its custody when developing or revising the child’s permanency plan. The act allows the child to consult with up to two people who participate in his or her case plan, but not his or her foster parent or caseworker. One of the consultants may be designated the child’s permanency plan development and revision advisor. The child must, if possible, also identify up to three adults with whom he or she has a significant relationship who may serve as permanency resources. These adults’ names must be recorded in the child’s case plan. Additionally, if the child is age 12 or older, the DCF commissioner must notify the parent or guardian, foster parent and child of any administrative case review of the child’s commitment at least five days before the review and make a reasonable effort to schedule the review at a time and location that allow all the parties to attend. The act specifies that the court must ask the child or youth at the permanency plan hearing about his or her desired outcome. If the child or youth is unavailable, the child’s attorney must consult with the child and report to the court the child’s desired outcome. Additionally, if the child is age 16 or older and the goal in his or her plan is another planned permanent living arrangement, the act requires the court to: 1. Determine that, as of the hearing date, such arrangement is the best permanency plan for the child and 2. Document the compelling reasons why it is not in the child’s best interest to return home or be placed with a fit and willing relative, legal guardian or adoptive parent. By law, the commissioner must prepare and maintain a written plan for each child under her supervision, providing for the child’s care, treatment, and permanent placement. It must include a diagnosis of the child’s problems and a permanent placement goal. The act eliminates from the permissible list of plan goals (1) long-term foster care with an identified individual and (2) another planned permanent living arrangement. It adds to the allowable plan goals, for a child age 16 or older, another planned permanent living arrangement. The act specifies that this plan is the child's case plan.

**Oklahoma HB 1078**

Requires DHS to notify additional adult relatives upon removal of a child from the home. Changes, from 16 to 14, the age at which planning for the transition of a child in the custody of the department to successful adulthood will begin. The permanency plan for the child in transition to a successful adulthood shall be developed in consultation with the child and, at the option of the child, with up to two members of the
permanency planning team to be chosen by the child, excluding the foster parent and caseworker for the child, subject to the following provisions: 1. One individual selected by the child may be designated to be the adviser and, as necessary, advocate of the child, with respect to the application of the reasonable and prudent parent standard to the child; and 2. The department may reject an individual selected by the child to be a member of the permanency planning team at any time if the department has good cause to believe that the selected individual would not act in the best interests of the child.

**Texas SB 1117**

Amends the Family Code to require the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) to ensure that the transition plan provided to each youth 16 years of age or older under DFPS conservatorship to assist the youth in transitioning from foster care to independent living includes specified provisions to assist the youth in managing the youth's housing needs after the youth leaves foster care.