



# northeast regional children's advocacy center

**Latoya Lowery, SWS at the Norwalk office** was a panel member at the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) and Children's Advocacy Center (CAC) advancing the practice National Conference in December 2015. Ms. Lowery represented the progress and efforts made in Connecticut and Region 1 in our Human Anti-trafficking Response team as well as Connecticut's service delivery to victims.

The Children's Advocacy Centers and Multi-Disciplinary Teams (MDT) have identified sexually exploited youth as child abuse victims. The Conference focused on looking at:

- What are the next steps?
- How do we train others to treat these children as victims, not criminals?
- How do we respond with trauma-informed care?
- How do we address the underlying traumas/victimization?

The CAC and MDT response is the logical place to provide services to CSEC victims. There are obstacles in working with this population, different beliefs about this population, different legislation among states, differing policy issues, and more. CAC/MDT can provide services to this population of child abuse victims.

Participants at the Conference had the opportunity to:

- Gain a foundation of knowledge about CSEC responses to build from
- Learn from successful CSEC programs in CACs
- Understand the role of each discipline in working with CSEC cases
- Recognize new partners needed to work with sexually exploited youth
- Participate in breakouts by state to discuss your state laws, current legislation and any CSEC response
- identify regional & national resources and tools for continuing efforts

Emerging Practices Panel

Thank you all for participating in the CSEC Conference in Newport last week. I appreciate all your time and expertise! The evaluations were great and people really enjoyed hearing about all your programs! Here are a few photos from the day - I like the first one with everyone laughing :) That means you were having a good time. Thanks again

Enjoy the holiday season!

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