



Alameda County
 District Attorney's Office
 Nancy E. O'Malley, District Attorney



ACDAO Wins Federal Grant to Expand Award Winning H.E.A.T. Watch® Program

The Alameda County District Attorney's Office (ACDAO) **H.E.A.T. Watch®** Program is a nationally recognized and innovative solution to combating Human Exploitation and Trafficking (H.E.A.T.) based on a multi-system, multi-jurisdictional collaborative approach. The primary goals of **H.E.A.T. Watch®** are victim safety and trafficker accountability. The mission of **H.E.A.T. Watch®** is to build and increase the capacity of all law enforcement, child-serving professionals and, community members to effectively respond to and combat H.E.A.T. in their jurisdictions through the following strategies:

- Community Education, Engagement, and Collaboration
- Law Enforcement Training, Intelligence Sharing, and Coordination
- Innovative Charging of CSEC Cases and Vigorous Prosecution of Offenders
- Engage and Enlist Policy Makers, Legislators, and Community Decision Makers
- Coordinated Delivery of Essential CSEC Services

Since its inception in 2005, **H.E.A.T. Watch®** has provided law enforcement and community partners with effective and proven solutions to identify, intervene in, investigate, and prosecute sex trafficking cases while supporting and protecting CSEC. These collaborative efforts have enabled Alameda County to establish the following nationally recognized track record for responding to H.E.A.T. cases:

1/1/2006 – 7/19/2011	Defendants/Cases
Charged	229/180
Convicted	140
Pending	31
Probation Violation	11
Parole Violation	1
Forfeiture Proceedings	3
Dismissed	34 (includes 1 deceased defendant)
Acquitted	1
Outstanding Warrant	7
Deferred to Federal Prosecution	1

United States Senator Diane Feinstein declared “H.E.A.T. Watch® is a blueprint that brings together the community, law enforcement, prosecutors, lawmakers and providers by allowing them to share best practices and work together to combat the commercial sexual exploitation of children. It is a one of a kind program that takes a comprehensive approach to dealing with a crime that victimizes some of the most vulnerable members of our society.” United States Congresswoman Jackie Speier said “H.E.A.T. Watch® is the national gold standard,” and she would like to see it replicated throughout the region. The National Association of Counties recognized H.E.A.T. Watch® with their 2010 Achievement Award, and the United States Senate requested testimony about H.E.A.T. Watch®.

Grant Funding to Create and Coordinate a Regional CSEC Response

The ACDAO recently received a \$300,000 two-year federal grant¹ to expand H.E.A.T. Watch® to support existing local efforts and enhance regional capacity to combat the commercial exploitation of children (CSEC). Grant funds will be used to increase coordination, collaboration, training, and data collection efforts, of H.E.A.T. Watch® partners throughout the Bay Area.

Regional H.E.A.T. Watch®

Since H.E.A.T. knows no borders, the increased transitory nature of CSEC cases impedes law enforcement's ability to locate victims and traffickers, identify essential witnesses and evidence, and share important information and intelligence across jurisdictional lines. As the Internet increases the sophistication of the criminal marketplace for sex trafficking, it also makes CSEC less visible and impairs law enforcement's capacity to identify victims and apprehend perpetrators. The development and implementation of a coordinated local and multi-jurisdictional response is greatly needed.

In order to support **Regional H.E.A.T. Watch®** partners in their necessary work, ACDAO will dedicate grant funds to creating and facilitating the following:

The **Bay Area H.E.A.T. Coalition (B.A.H.C.)** is being established to increase communication, cooperation, and collaboration between local, state, and federal law enforcement, service providers, systems, community members, and existing human trafficking task forces in the 9 Bay Area Counties with special emphasis on Alameda, San Francisco, and Contra Costa counties. **B.A.H.C.**'s main purpose is to:

- Enhance local efforts to increase victim identification and recovery as well as effective investigation and prosecution of local and multi-jurisdictional trafficking cases;
- Support and coordinate existing and emerging local service provider networks to fully function at the regional level
- Coordinate existing task forces and local law enforcement efforts to proactively function at a regional level;
- Create and support regional capacity to identify trafficking trends and patterns throughout the Bay Area.

Regional H.E.A.T. Watch® Protocol

In order to increase necessary communication and collaboration and achieve better outcomes in CSEC cases in the nine Bay Counties, a **Regional H.E.A.T. Watch®** Protocol will be developed, in partnership with local, state and federal departments, agencies, and organizations to achieve the following:

- Documentation of necessary communications, decisions and information related to CSEC cases;
- Clear and coordinated responses to CSECs that are multi-disciplinary, victim-centered and trauma-informed;
- Enhance law enforcement, prosecutorial, service provider and system capacity to protect CSEC victims and hold their traffickers accountable.

Regional H.E.A.T. Watch® Coordinator

A newly hired **H.E.A.T. Watch®** Coordinator will serve as a single point of contact to facilitate links between law enforcement, systems, and service providers regarding CSEC cases on a local, regional and, national level. This necessary position will ensure there is a centralized hub for sharing key information that promotes victim safety and trafficker accountability. For more information contact the **H.E.A.T. Watch®** Coordinator at H.E.A.T.Watch@acgov.org or (510) 272.6301.

¹ Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, ICAC Program – Law Enforcement Strategies for Protecting Children from Commercial Sexual Exploitation, Fiscal Year 2010.

H.E.A.T. Watch® Safety Net

In order to enhance the ongoing safety of identified CSEC, the ACDAO will convene and facilitate strategic multi-system response meetings for all CSEC cases that are the result of an arrest or referral from the **H.E.A.T. Watch® Tip Line**. **H.E.A.T. Watch® Safety Net** meetings will also occur for all cases that have been opened, investigated, and/or charged. **H.E.A.T. Watch® Safety Net** meetings will commence in Alameda County in January of 2011. Protocols regarding the facilitation of **H.E.A.T. Watch® Safety Net** meetings in other Bay Area counties will be determined by consultation with each jurisdiction.

H.E.A.T. Watch® Data Collection Efforts

In consultation and collaboration with **H.E.A.T. Watch®** partners, and in accordance with respective confidentiality guidelines, ACDAO will collect and disseminate data from participating **H.E.A.T. Watch®** partners, to track the safety and success of CSEC victims through multiple systems while gathering necessary intelligence for successful trafficking prosecutions. Compiling multi-system data will support and enhance efforts by all **H.E.A.T. Watch®** partners to obtain future grant funding either individually or collectively. Quarterly **B.A.H.C.** meetings will include dissemination and analysis of data collected through this innovative process.

H.E.A.T. Watch® Resource Guide

A **H.E.A.T. Watch®** Resource Guide will also be developed and maintained to assist **B.A.H.C.** partners in identifying key agencies and individuals who are working in the field of CSEC in jurisdictions throughout the Bay Area. The main purpose of this much needed reference tool is to increase necessary linkages and associations that arise in CSEC cases, which are increasingly becoming more multi-jurisdictional in scope.

Regional Multi-Disciplinary H.E.A.T. Watch® Trainings

In order to increase awareness of best practices for proactively responding to and combating H.E.A.T., ACDAO has also assembled a team of multi-disciplinary CSEC experts who will host ongoing trainings to ensure and enhance victim identification and a victim centered approach; vigorous investigation, charging and prosecution of CSEC cases; and strategic and targeted community training and outreach activities.

H.E.A.T. Watch® National Conference in 2012

In addition to providing monthly trainings for local law enforcement agencies, in 2012, ACDAO will convene and co-sponsor a National CSEC Conference, in partnership with the Oakland Police Department, SAGE, Shared Hope International, the Polaris Project, and other key partner agencies of **B.A.H.C.** This conference will also assemble a wide range of nationally recognized policy makers to discuss best practices and strategies for effective collaboration to combat H.E.A.T. on local, regional, and national levels. Conference participants will receive cutting edge curriculum from nationally recognized H.E.A.T. experts. **H.E.A.T. Watch® Tool Kits**, containing core components and strategies of model **H.E.A.T. Watch®** programs, will be created for conference participants to utilize to facilitate the replication of **H.E.A.T. Watch®** successes in their communities.

Regional H.E.A.T. Watch® recognizes that it takes a village to rescue a child and prosecute a trafficker. By joining forces and leveraging financial resources, especially in these hard economic times, **Regional H.E.A.T. Watch®** strives to ensure CSEC receive the assistance they need to be safe and grow strong, by reaching out to those who can help rescue and protect them from abuse and by holding those who exploit them accountable. Please partner with us in **Regional H.E.A.T. Watch®** and join **B.A.H.C.**