



It Can Happen Anywhere: Responding to Sexual Abuse in Small, Rural Jails

Part 2 of 3
January 23, 2013
11am - 12:30pm PST



Today's Moderator



Vivian Jojola
Program Director
Just Detention International



Today's Speakers



Linda McFarlane, MSW, LCSW
Deputy Executive Director
Just Detention International



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Senior Program Officer
Just Detention International



Mission and Core Goals

JDI is a nonprofit health and human rights organization that seeks to end sexual violence in all forms of detention.

Core goals:

1. To hold government officials accountable
2. To change public attitudes about sexual violence behind bars
3. To ensure survivors get the help they need



Support from the Office on Violence Against Women

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The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this webinar are those of the presenters and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women.



Webinar Agenda

- I. Importance of Advocates in Rural Jails
- II. Serving Survivors in Rural Jails: Challenges and Best Practices
- III. Building A Model of Collaboration: Pitkin County Jail and RESPONSE
- IV. Creating Sexual Assault Response Teams in Rural Jails
- V. Questions and Answers

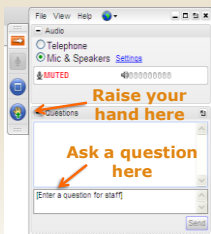


Chance, a survivor of sexual abuse in an Indiana Jail



Webinar Logistics

- Use the **question box** to submit requests for help, questions, or comments.
- An archive of this webinar will be emailed to you in the next few days.
- It will also be posted on the National Sexual Violence Resource Center website: [www.nsvrc.org/projects/NSDV ERP](http://www.nsvrc.org/projects/NSDVERP)



Importance of Advocates in Rural Jails

- Impact of sexual abuse in jails
- Need for rape crisis advocacy
- Lack of available services



Pitkin County Jail in Colorado



Survivors' Rights to Rape Crisis Services in Jail

- Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA)
- Federal and state sexual assault laws
- Mission of the rape crisis movement



Members of JDI's Survivor Council in Washington, DC



What are some of your **concerns** about providing services to inmates in small rural jails?

Please be as specific as possible and submit your answers in the question box.



Challenge: **Lack of resources and funding**

- Learn if/how your agency can use its current funding to assist survivors in jail.
- Seek additional funding sources.
- Use community volunteers.
- Be creative.



Challenge: **Fears about working with inmates**

- Focus on the victimization, not the incarceration.
- Get to know the jail facility, staff, and inmates.
- Remember that most inmates are members of your community.
- Affirm your commitment to serve all survivors, regardless of their background.



JDI staff members Christine Kregg and Linda McFarlane with Lincoln County Sheriff's Office staff in Colorado.



Best Practices for Providing Services to Survivors in Small Rural Jails



Working With Survivors in Rural Jails

- Be sensitive to the culture and diversity of the community.
- Build on existing relationships.
- Ensure confidentiality for all survivors.
- Be prepared to overcome resistance and possible disruptions in services.
- Focus on continuity of care for survivors leaving jail.



Photo by Silas Craws



Hospital Accompaniment

- Be informed and open-minded.
- Align yourself with the survivor.
- Inform the survivor of his/her rights.
- Negotiate the survivors' privacy and comfort during the interviews and exam.
- Have a back-up plan.
- Prepare the survivor to return to jail.



Hotline Calls

- Prepare advocates/ volunteers to take calls from jail inmates.
- Be clear and consistent about confidentiality and the role of the hotline.
- Decide in advance how to handle inmate reports, off-topic requests, and prank calls.
- Designate a point person at the jail to relay any concerns regarding the hotline.



Correspondence from Jail Inmates

- Handle letters as you would a hotline call.
- Send letters via confidential legal mail, whenever possible.
- Always get permission from a survivor before notifying jail staff about a case.
- Provide resources, support, information, and referrals.



Tips for Working in a Jail



Staff member at Pitkin County Jail, Aspen, Colorado

- Respect jail safety rules and procedures.
- Check-in with a designated staff person.
- Be discreet and as self-sufficient as possible.



Providing Ongoing Services

- Be patient and consistent.
- Avoid discussing a survivor’s criminal background unless directly relevant to the services.
- Adapt interventions to the jail environment.
- Decide in advance how to handle challenging requests for services.
- Trust your expertise.



Building A Model Collaboration: A Conversation with Don and Jill



Deputy Don Bird
Jail Administrator
Pitkin County Jail



Jill Gruenberg
Advocacy and Prevention
Program Coordinator
RESPONSE: Help for Survivors of
Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault



Building a Model Collaboration: Pitkin County Jail and RESPONSE

- PREA Demonstration Project funded through the Bureau of Justice Assistance
- Focus on developing models to address sexual assault in small rural jails
- Other project partner is Lincoln County Jail in Hugo, CO



Cell in a rural jail.



Project Goals

- Offer confidential, in-person rape crisis counseling and hospital accompaniment for all survivors in the jail.
- Develop a coordinated response protocol for sexual assault allegations in the jail.
- Provide staff training and inmate education.
- Improve jail policies and procedures related to sexual abuse prevention, detection, and response.



Why Work Together

- Supportive leadership
- Consistent with organizational missions
- Shared goals:
 1. *Comprehensively address inmate survivors' needs*
 2. *PREA compliance/protection from liability*
 3. *Culture change*



How to Work Together

- Build trust and respect.
- Formalize partnerships.
- Share resources and information.
- Communicate effectively, particularly about conflicts.



Benefits of Working Together

- Strengthened collaboration and community partnerships
- Expanded resources and networks
- Increased access to services for survivors
- Learning from one another's complementary expertise



Creating Sexual Assault Response Teams (SARTs) in Small Rural Jails



Raise your hand if you are a member of a Sexual Assault Response Team (SART)

(Use the raise hand button to answer)



SART Model

- Recognized as a community best practice
- Multi-disciplinary team
- Specialize in response to sexual assault that is:



SARTs Help Survivors Heal



Chance, a survivor of sexual abuse in an urban Indiana jail

- Emergency and ongoing medical and mental health care
- Confidential access to rape crisis advocates
- Victim notification
- Protection from retaliation



Jail SART Roles and Responsibilities

- Goal to provide coordinated response to sexual abuse/assault in the jail
- May have additional responsibilities related to sexual abuse prevention, detection, and monitoring
- Can include additional jail personnel, such as the jail administrator, PREA Compliance Manager, and medical and mental health staff



Building a Coordinated Response Team in a Rural Jail

- Identify SART members and roles
- Define the team goals
- Develop a written protocol
- Conduct cross-training
- Maintain regular communication
- Always put survivors' needs first



Partnership Opportunities

- Contact jail administrators and offer to provide services to survivors.
- Invite a jail official to community SART meetings.
- Offer to train jail staff on sexual abuse.
- Provide sexual assault education for inmates.
- Start a jail-based hotline, hospital accompaniment program, and/or SART.



Discussion



Upcoming OVW Webinars

The Right Response: Addressing Sexual Abuse in Large, Urban Jails

- February 6, 2012 at 11:00AM (PST)

Serving Survivors of Sexual Abuse in Juvenile Detention Facilities

- 2/20, 3/6, and 3/20/13 at 11:00AM (PST)

Serving Survivors of Sexual Abuse in Other Forms of Custody

- 4/3, 4/17, and 5/1/13 at 11:00AM (PST)



For More Information

For more information about the **Sexual Abuse in Detention Resource Center** and additional resources, visit: www.nsvrc.org/projects/sexual-abuse-detention-resource-center

Direct questions to: info@justdetention.org

For more information about **Just Detention International**, visit www.justdetention.org.

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Thank you for joining us today!

Please complete a brief evaluation of today's webinar. It will take just three minutes of your time and your feedback will help us to better assist you in the future!

Here is a link to the evaluation (we will also email it to you shortly). www.justdetention.org/en/it-can-happen-anywhere-evaluation.aspx

Please forward it to others who may have joined you.

THANK YOU!



**Challenge:
Providing services in a rural jail**

- Be sensitive to the culture and diversity of the community
- Build on existing relationships
- Ensure confidentiality for all survivors
- Focus on continuity of care for survivors leaving jail



**What You Need to Know Before
You Begin**

- Always maintain confidentiality
- Avoid assumptions or generalizations
- Decide in advance how to handle challenging requests for services
- Be prepared to overcome resistance and possible disruptions in services
- Trust your expertise