



A New Approach: Providing Services to Survivors of Sexual Abuse in Prison

Part 2 of 3
November 28, 2012
11am – 12:30pm PST



Today's Moderator



Christine Gregg
Senior Program Officer,
Just Detention International



Today's Speakers



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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



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. Advocates' Critical Role
- II. Overcoming Challenges
- III. A Model of Collaboration
- IV. Helping Prisoners
- V. Questions and Answers

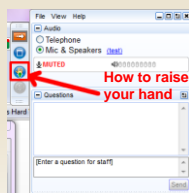


Beverly Mock, a prisoner rape survivor and member of JDI's Speakers List



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 JDI website:
www.justdetention.org



Prisoner Rape Affects Communities



- Effect on families and loved ones
- Cost to taxpayers
- Public health impact



Why Prisoners Need Advocates

"After I was released, I tried to live a normal life, but the rape haunted me."
 - Tom Cahill, former JDI President



- You are the experts in helping survivors
- Every survivor deserves support
- Survivors often have few resources in prison



Rape Crisis Advocacy

- Trauma-informed
- Survivor-centered
- Promotes healing and well-being



Survivor Art, 2012



Survivors' Rights to Rape Crisis Services



JDI staff and Survivor Council members in front of the White House

- Prison Rape Elimination Act
- Sexual assault laws
- Mission of the rape crisis movement



What are some of your concerns about providing services to prisoners?

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 incarcerated survivors
- Seek additional funding sources
- Be creative



Challenge:
Fears About Working in Prisons

- Focus on the victimization, not the incarceration
- Get to know the prison facility, staff, and inmates
- Remember your commitment to serve all survivors, regardless of their background



Challenge:
Differing Priorities and Cultures

- Identify shared goals and priorities
- Maintain your principles – particularly regarding confidentiality
- Educate corrections officials on your policies and approach



Challenge: High Staff Turnover

- Develop detailed written agreements
- Build multiple relationships at each agency
- Provide ongoing staff support and training



A Model Collaboration: Project Overview

- Hospital accompaniment and crisis intervention during forensic exams
- Confidential, in-person rape crisis counseling
- Staff training and inmate education
- Collaboration on sexual assault investigations



A Model Collaboration: A Conversation with Dawn and Debora



Dawn Davison
Former Warden
California Institution for Women



Debora Heaps
Director of Programs
Riverside Area Rape Crisis Center





Dawn Davison with members of the prison's puppy program





Dawn Davison and an inmate at the California Institution for Women



Keys to Working Together

- Find common ground
- Demonstrate mutual respect
- Share resources and information
- Communicate effectively



Benefits for Survivors

- Receive care consistent with community standard
- Learn about their rights, how to get help, and healthy coping skills
- Offered support, information, and referrals



Maribel, a CIW Peer Educator



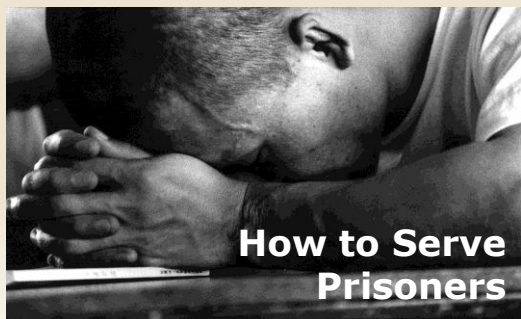
Benefits for Corrections

- Additional resources
- Increased safety and awareness
- Improved response and investigations

"[This partnership] has shifted our institutional culture. Prisons, by default, can be dehumanizing environments. Programs [like these] exert a humanizing influence by changing expectations, increasing available support, and bringing in the influence of people who are not in the detention environment every day. In short, it challenges us to think more expansively about what is possible."

- Wendy Still, Associate Director,
California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation





Guiding Principles

- Maintain confidentiality
- Avoid assumptions or generalizations
- Anticipate resistance and challenges
- Trust your expertise



Hospital Accompaniment

- Provide crisis counseling
- Negotiate the survivors' privacy and comfort during the interviews and exam
 - Use a room with windows, if possible.
 - Advocate appropriate placement of restraints
- Prepare the survivor to return to prison



Hotline Calls

- Train advocates on prisoners' backgrounds, needs, and concerns
- Be clear about confidentiality
- Develop a protocol for handling: reports, and off-topic and prank calls
- Designate a corrections point person



Prisoner Correspondence

- Send letters via confidential legal mail, whenever possible
- Always get permission from the survivor before forwarding a letter to prison staff
- Provide resources, support, information, and referrals
- Avoid giving unsolicited advice



Basics of Working in a Prison



- Follow safety rules and dress code
- Check-in with a designated staff person
- Allow for additional time to get around
- Be discreet



Providing Services to Prisoners

- Be patient and consistent
- Show respect for the survivor
- Avoid discussing a survivors' criminal background unless directly relevant
- Adapt interventions to the corrections environment
 - Tools and resources should be appropriate for prisoners



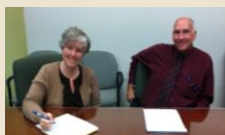
Where to Go From Here

- Identify prisons in your service area
- Contact prison administrators and offer to help
- Invite a prison official to SART meetings
- Offer to train staff
- Provide prevention education for prisoners



Partnership Opportunities

- Sexual assault forensic exams
- Hospital accompaniment
- Hotline calls
- Letters
- Face-to-face services



Discussion

Derek Murray, JDI

Linda McFarlane, JDI

Dawn Davison, Former Warden

Riverside Area Rape Crisis Center



Upcoming OVW Webinars

It Takes a Team: Building a Coordinated Response to Sexual Abuse in Prison

- December 12, 2012 at 11:00AM (PST)

Serving Survivors of Sexual Abuse in Jails

- 1/9, 1/23, and 2/6/13 at 11:00AM (PST)

Office for Violence Against Women
Cooperative Agreement #2011-TA-AX-K100



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 a few minutes of your time and your feedback will help us improve future webinars and trainings.

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

Please forward it to others who may have joined you.

THANK YOU!