



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

Part 3 of 3
February 6, 2013
11am - 12:30pm PST



Today's Moderator



Vivian Jojola
Program Director
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Today's Speaker



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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



Support from the Office on Violence Against Women

This project is supported by Grant No. 2011-TA-AX-K100, awarded by the **Office on Violence Against Women**, U.S. Department of Justice.

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 Urban Jails
- II. Serving Survivors in Urban Jails: Challenges and Best Practices
- III. A Model of Collaboration: MDCR and MUJER
- IV. Creating Sexual Assault Response Teams in Urban Jails
- V. Questions and Answers

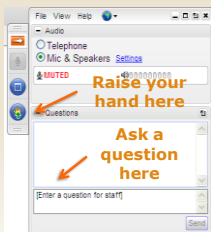


Frank, a JDI Survivor Council member, was raped by a staff member in the Los Angeles County Jail



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 JDI website: www.justdetention.org



Importance of Advocates in Urban Jails

- High rates of sexual abuse in large jails
- Far-reaching impact of this violence
- Need for comprehensive rape crisis services for incarcerated survivors



Turner Guilford Knight Correctional Center, Miami, FL



Survivors' Rights to Rape Crisis Services in Jail



Hope, a JDI Survivor Council member, was raped in the Washington, DC Jail and later received services from a rape crisis counselor.

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



What are some of your **concerns** about providing services to inmates in large urban 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



Best Practices for Providing Services to Survivors in Large Urban Jails



Providing Services in an Urban Jail

- Be sensitive to the high level of need among the inmate population
- Anticipate resistance and possible disruptions in services
- Focus on continuity of care for survivors leaving jail



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



Photo: Hope Clinic Center of Health and Support Services



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

- Always maintain confidentiality
- Respect jail rules and procedures
- Check-in with designated staff
- 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



A Model Collaboration: A Conversation



Capt. John Johnson,
MBA, CPM
Miami-Dade Corrections
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**Lt. Wynnie
Testamark-Samuels,**
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Caroline Yeardley,
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Building a Model Collaboration: MDCR and MUJER

- Partnership between JDI, Miami-Dade Dept. of Corrections and Rehabilitation (MDCR), and Women United in Justice, Education, and Reform (MUJER)
- *Inmate Safety Project* funded through the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC)
- Focus on developing models to address sexual assault in large urban jails



Project Goals

- Offer confidential, in-person rape crisis counseling and hospital accompaniment for all survivors in MDCR's five facilities
- Develop Sexual Assault Response Teams (SARTs) in each facility
- 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:



Gwyn Smith-Downes, from JDI, with Chief Junior of the Miami-Dade Metro West Jail.

1. *Comprehensively address inmate survivors' needs*
2. *PREA compliance/protection from liability*
3. *Culture change*



How to Work Together

- Build trust and respect
- Address safety concerns
- 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 Large Urban 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:



Need for SARTS in Jails



Michelle, a transgender woman who was threatened with rape while in the men's wing of the Los Angeles County 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 an Urban 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

Serving Survivors of Sexual Abuse in Juvenile Detention Facilities

- Starting in March, 2013

Serving Survivors of Sexual Abuse in Other Forms of Custody

- Starting in April, 2013



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/the-right-response-evaluation.aspx

Please forward it to others who may have joined you.

THANK YOU!