



## Connections: Working Together to Stop Sexual Abuse in Youth Detention

Part 2 of 3  
April 11, 2013  
11am – 12:30pm PST




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### Today's Moderator



**Vivian Jojola**  
Program Director  
Just Detention International




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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




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## Special Thanks

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.



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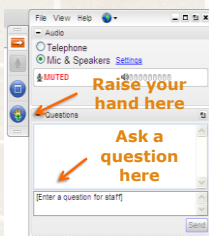
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## Webinar Logistics

- 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: <http://nsvrc.org/projects/NSDVERP>



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## Webinar Agenda

- I. Call to Action
- II. Philosophy of Youth Detention
- III. Trauma Informed Care
- IV. Challenges and Issues of Differing Cultures
- V. Model Partnership
- VI. Benefits of this Partnership
- VII. Question and Answer



*Cyryna, a survivor of sexual abuse in youth detention*



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## Recap of Part 1




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## Call to Action



**Kevin Dubose**  
 Director of Administrative  
 Investigations  
 Texas Juvenile Justice  
 Department




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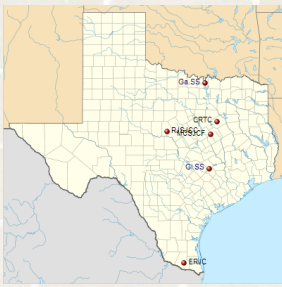
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## Call to Action



Texas Juvenile Justice Department youth facilities




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## Call to Action



Giddings State School in Giddings, Texas



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## Call to Action

### Los Angeles Times

THE NATION

#### Texas youth prison board forced out in abuse scandal

All six members step down after reports that officials covered up molestation allegations.

March 17, 2007 | Miguel Bustillo | Times Staff Writer

HOUSTON — The entire governing board of the Texas Youth Commission resigned Friday;

### SCANDAL AT TYC

Abuse and mismanagement in Texas juvenile corrections

Brutality, sexual abuse, faked leadership and questionable business dealings often went unchecked at the Texas Youth Commission, the state agency that is supposed to rehabilitate young offenders.

Then The Dallas Morning News began revealing a sexual abuse scandal and subsequent cover-up at a remote TYC prison in West Texas in late November that throughout the year with a series of investigative reports on TYC's systemic misdeeds.

That coverage has helped to compel state legislators to reform TYC in the biggest overhaul of the agency in more than a decade. Follow our complete coverage below.



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## Call to Action



West State Texas School closed in 2010. Photo: New York Times



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## Call to Action



A 16-year-old boy at the Giddings State School, a high-security youth facility for boys in Giddings, Texas. The facility is run by the Texas Juvenile Justice Department.

*Photo: Richard Ross, Juvenile-in-Justice*



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## Philosophy of Youth Detention



**Caleb Asbridge**  
Senior Associate,  
Juvenile Services  
The Moss Group, Inc.



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## Philosophy of Youth Incarceration

- **1990's** — Fears over perceived rise in youth violence prompts reliance on large youth correction facilities
- **2000's** — Concerns over conditions of confinement leads to increased social science research on effectiveness of incarceration



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## Philosophy of Youth Incarceration



- **Current** – Increasing data demonstrates limitations of incarceration as an intervention for offenders



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## Philosophy of Youth Incarceration

### Current best practices encourage:

- Youth held close to home
- Community-based settings
- Increased family involvement
- Focus on assessment—risk/need determination
- Education and skills provision
- Recognition of adolescent development and trauma
- Rehabilitation rather than punishment



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## Trauma-Informed Approach

- Juvenile Justice field moving toward recognition of the relationship between trauma and delinquency
- More sophisticated understanding of how complex trauma in childhood leads to increased risk for delinquency



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## Role for Advocates

- Increased recognition of the role of trauma contributes to increased need for trauma-informed programmatic and therapeutic responses at juvenile facilities
- JJ system recognizing need for resources and support—including support from advocates, who can bring crucial resources to the table



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## Trauma, Sexual Abuse and PREA

- Many youth enter facilities with a history of sexual abuse, are vulnerable to sexual victimization while in the facility, or are a risk to sexually abuse others while incarcerated
- Some youth will fall into more than one category
- All of these youth require specialized services or interventions



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## PREA Standards

- The PREA Standard provide guidance for corrections to implement trauma-informed practices.
- Standards take the following into account:
  - Role of adolescent development
  - Role of trauma-informed practices
  - Role of victim advocacy in the event of sexual assault
  - Access to outside reporting mechanisms
  - Access to outside advocates



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### PREA Standards



There are many PREA requirements that increase the resident's access to support and advocacy.



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### Residents with Disabilities and Limited English Proficiency

- The PREA Standards require that youth with disabilities or who are limited English proficient have access to orientation materials and other programs intended to prevent, detect, and respond to sexual abuse and harassment
- This would include access to interpretation services when necessary



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### Evidence Protocol and Forensic Medical Examinations

- Facilities are required to provide victims of sexual abuse with access to forensic medical examinations
- They are also required to provide a victim advocate from a local rape crisis center
- If no such advocate is available, they shall provide advocacy services from a qualified staff member from a community-based organization or a qualified agency staff member



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### Forensic Medical Examinations and Interviews

As requested by the victim, the victim advocate, qualified agency staff member, or qualified community-based staff member shall accompany and support the victim through the forensic medical examination process and investigatory interviews and shall provide emotional support, crisis intervention, information, and referrals.



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### Resident Access to Outside Support Services and Legal Representation



- Facility shall provide access to outside victim advocates for emotional support services related to sexual abuse
- Must make available mailing addresses, telephone numbers, other information



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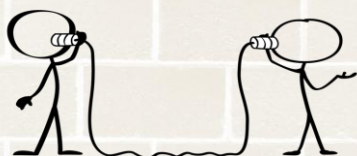
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### Resident Access to Outside Support Services and Legal Representation

- Must enable reasonable communication between residents and advocacy organizations in as confidential manner as possible
- Facility must provide services pursuant to a MOU or other agreement when possible



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## Going Beyond the Standards

Advocates and Youth Corrections professionals can go beyond simply the "letter of the law" through forming genuine partnerships to help improve the services provided to youth.



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## Opportunities for Collaboration

There are many opportunities for advocates to work with youth and collaborate with administration to improve services:

- Crisis intervention
- Institutional SART
- In-Person Sessions
- Resident Education
- Staff Training
- Workshops
- Prevention Awareness



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## Common Challenges in Providing Services



**Derek Murray**  
Program Director  
Just Detention International



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## What are some of your **concerns** about providing services to incarcerated youth?

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



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### **Challenge:** **Differing Priorities and Cultures**

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



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### **Confidentiality and Youth Detention**

- Everyone is a mandated reporter
- Every state has their own laws regarding mandated reporting
- Consent issues can be complicated
- Advocates can be known as the “rape lady” within the facility



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### Challenge: Fears About Working in Facilities

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




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### Challenge: High Staff Turnover

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




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### Memoranda Of Understanding (MOU)

**A. Ventura Youth Correctional Facility agrees to:**

- 1) Contact Safe Harbor West to arrange for a full SART response. VYCF will request that Safe Harbor West, per their agreement with VYCF, contact CFH and request the presence of a certified crisis counselor each time they will provide a SAFE for a person under the jurisdiction of VYCF.
- 2) Contact CFH each time there is an allegation of sexual assault, regardless of the timing of the report.
- 3) Respect the nature of privileged communication between a certified crisis counselor and client.
- 4) Facilitate follow-up, whenever possible, between the inmate and certified crisis counselor.
- 5) Complete any necessary security clearances for collaboration with CFH and JDI, and maintain custody, safety, and security while at Safe Harbor West.
- 6) Provide training for CFH and JDI staff as needed.
- 7) Communicate any questions or concerns to CFH and JDI staff.
- 8) Facilitate the placement of informational placards in the areas visible to inmates (number to be determined).




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## MOU, continued

### B. Coalition for Family Harmony agrees to:

- 1) Respond to requests to provide accompaniment during sexual assault forensic examinations for individuals who are under the jurisdiction of VYCF/DJI.
- 2) Provide follow-up services, crisis intervention contacts, and resources and referrals to survivors of sexual assault at VYCF, as resources allow. Contact information for arrangements are Jennie Dillon or Joe Schofield at (805) 485-7951 x 3334.
- 3) Work with designated VYCF officials to obtain security clearance and follow all guidelines for safety and security.
- 4) Maintain confidentiality as required by state standards for certified crisis counselors and CFH policies and procedures. Obtained signed release of information from clients as therapeutically appropriate in order to work with continuum of care.
- 5) Provide training for VYCF and JDI staff as needed and as resources allow.
- 6) Communicate any questions or concerns to JDI and VYCF staff.




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## 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




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## Model Partnership



**Rebecca Lovelace**  
Executive Director  
Nampa County Family  
Justice Center



**Steven Jett**  
Director  
Southwest Idaho Juvenile  
Detention Center




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## Model Partnership



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## Keys to Working Together

- Find common goals
- Value different areas of expertise
- Utilize relationships in developing policy, practice, and training
- Communicate effectively



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## Benefits for Survivors

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



Maribel, survivor and peer educator



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## Benefits for Youth Corrections

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




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## Upcoming Youth Webinars

### Part Three:

### *Safe and Secure: Providing Services to Incarcerated Youth Survivors*

May 1, 2013 at 11:00AM (PST)




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## For More Information

For more information about the **Sexual Abuse in Detention Resource Center** and additional resources, visit: <http://www.nsvrc.org/projects/NSDVERP>

Direct questions to: [info@justdetention.org](mailto:info@justdetention.org)

For more information about **Just Detention International**, visit [www.justdetention.org](http://www.justdetention.org).

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 [www.twitter.com/justdetention](http://www.twitter.com/justdetention)




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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/connections-evaluation.aspx](http://www.justdetention.org/connections-evaluation.aspx)

Please forward it to others who may have joined you.

**THANK YOU!**



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