



Working with Incarcerated Survivors

Washington Coalition
of Sexual Assault Programs

June 25, 2015

Today's Speakers



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Deputy Executive Director



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JDI's Mission

Just Detention International is a health and human rights organization that seeks to end sexual violence in all forms of detention.

JDI's Core Goals

1. Hold government officials accountable
2. Change public attitudes about sexual violence behind bars
3. Ensure survivors get the help they need

JDI's Core Belief

No matter what
crime someone
may have
committed,
rape is not part
of the penalty.



Webinar Agenda

1. Types of corrections facilities
2. Prevalence and dynamics of sexual abuse in detention
3. PREA standards and MOUs
4. Basics of providing services to incarcerated survivors
5. Questions and wrap-up

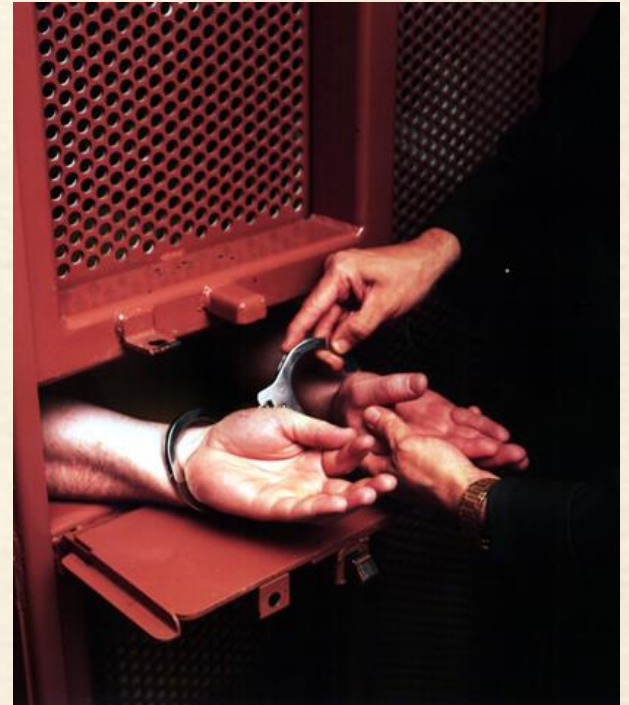


Photo credit: California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation



Incarcerated Survivors Need You

“If I had an advocate, it would have saved me so much grief. Going through it alone I didn’t know who I could trust and who I could talk to about it — which appeared to be nobody.”

— Frank, prisoner rape survivor and member of JDI’s Survivor Council



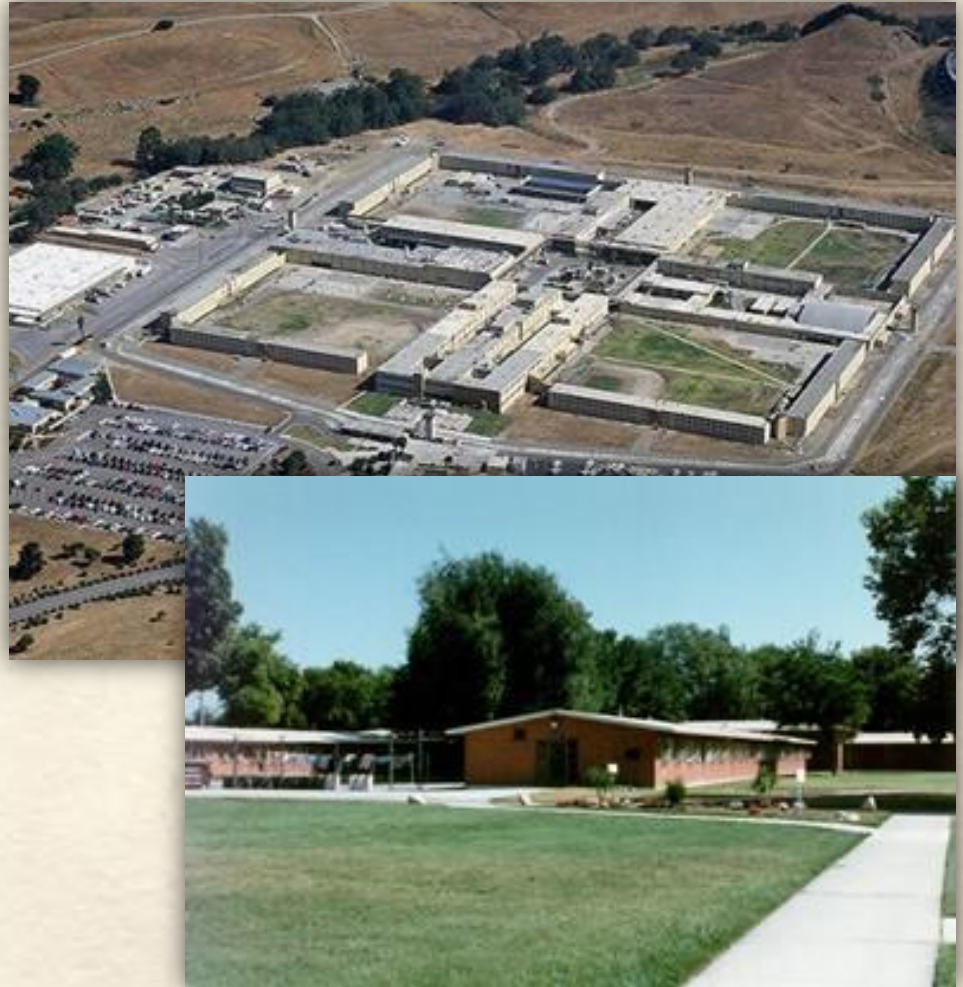
Overview: The Criminal Justice System



Photo credit: California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation

Prisons

- Large facilities
- Prisoners serving more than a year
- Heavy surveillance and different levels of security
- Programming and employment programs



Jails

- Prisoners held from a few hours to a year, or more
- Many restrictions on movement
- Limited programming
- Often have mixed gender units or wings



Lockups

- Operated by law enforcement
- Hold prisoners immediately after arrest
- Length of stay is up to 72 hours
- Facilities vary in size



Community Confinement

- Residents pose little or no risk to the community
- Require employment or education
- Include halfway houses, drug treatment centers, and mental health programs



Immigration Detention

- Operated by Federal government or private contractors
- Considered civil or administrative confinement, not criminal or punitive



Tribal Facilities

- Operated by Nations or the Bureau of Indian Affairs
- Small jails or youth facilities
- Prisoners typically held for misdemeanors



Juvenile Facilities

- State-run facilities
- County-run facilities
- Private contractor facilities



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Prevalence of Sexual Abuse Behind Bars

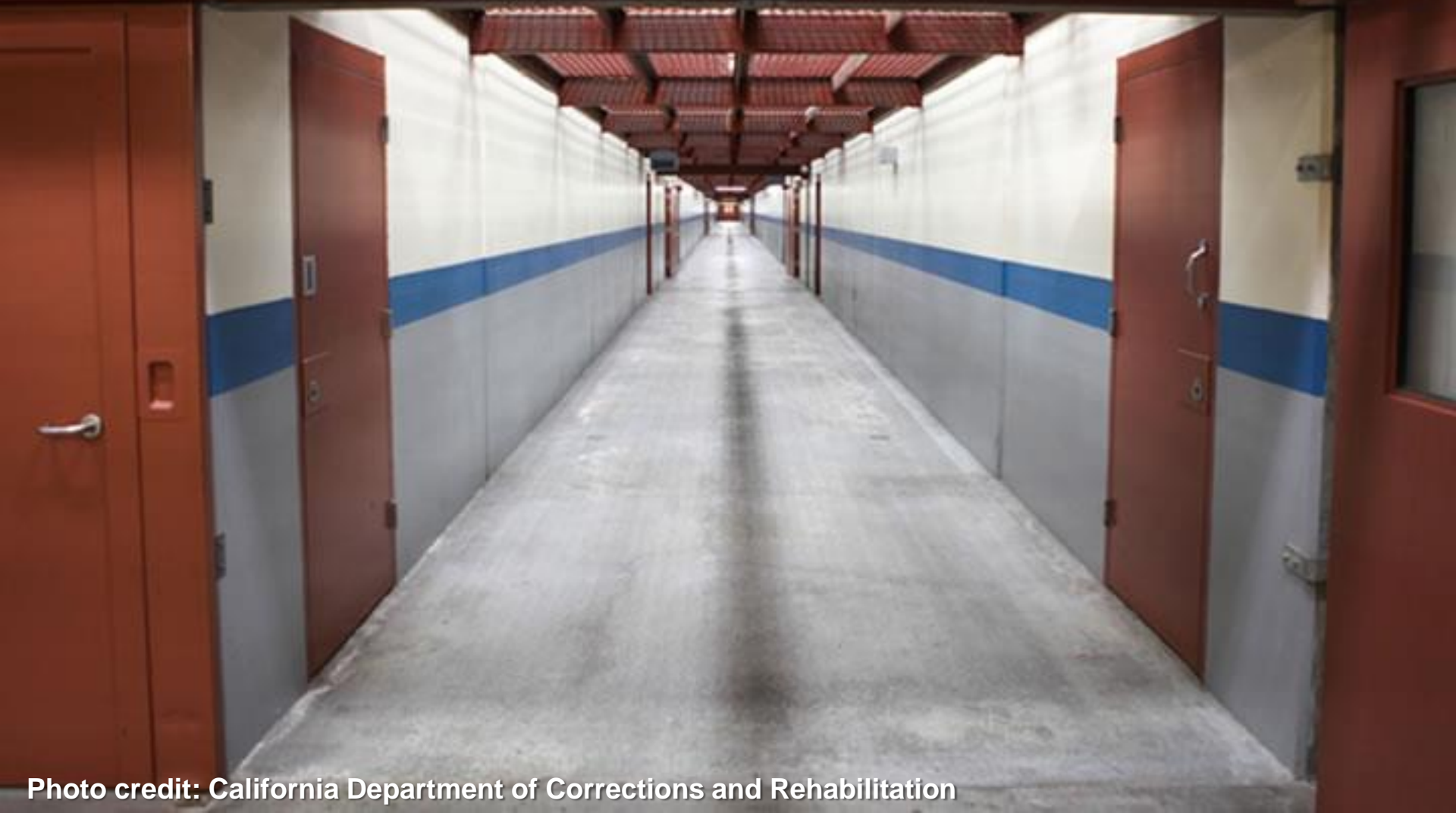


Photo credit: California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation



1 IN 10

former adult state inmates
reported being sexually
abused while in detention

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Sexual Victimization Reported By Former State Prisoners, 2008*, May 12, 2012. Graphic by Just Detention International.



1 IN 10

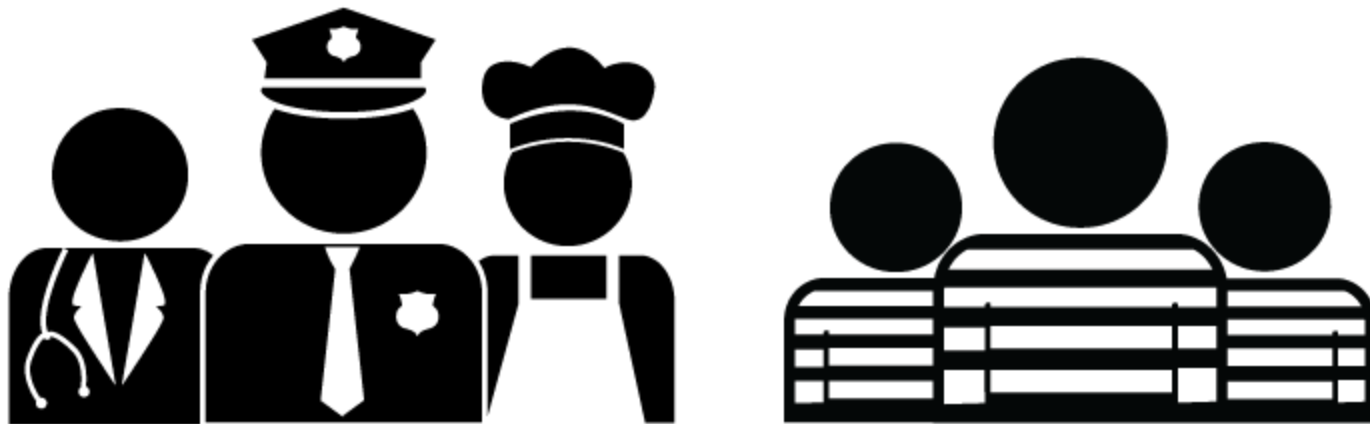
YOUTH IN JUVENILE FACILITIES
REPORTED BEING SEXUALLY
ABUSED WHILE IN DETENTION



Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Sexual Victimization in Juvenile Facilities Reported by Youth, 2012* (June 2013). © Just Detention International.



STUDY SHOWS NEARLY EQUAL RATES OF SEXUAL ABUSE BY STAFF AND OTHER INMATES



Source: Beck, Berzofsky, Caspar, & Krebs (2013), *Sexual Victimations in Prisons and jails reported by inmates, 2011-2012*. © Just Detention International



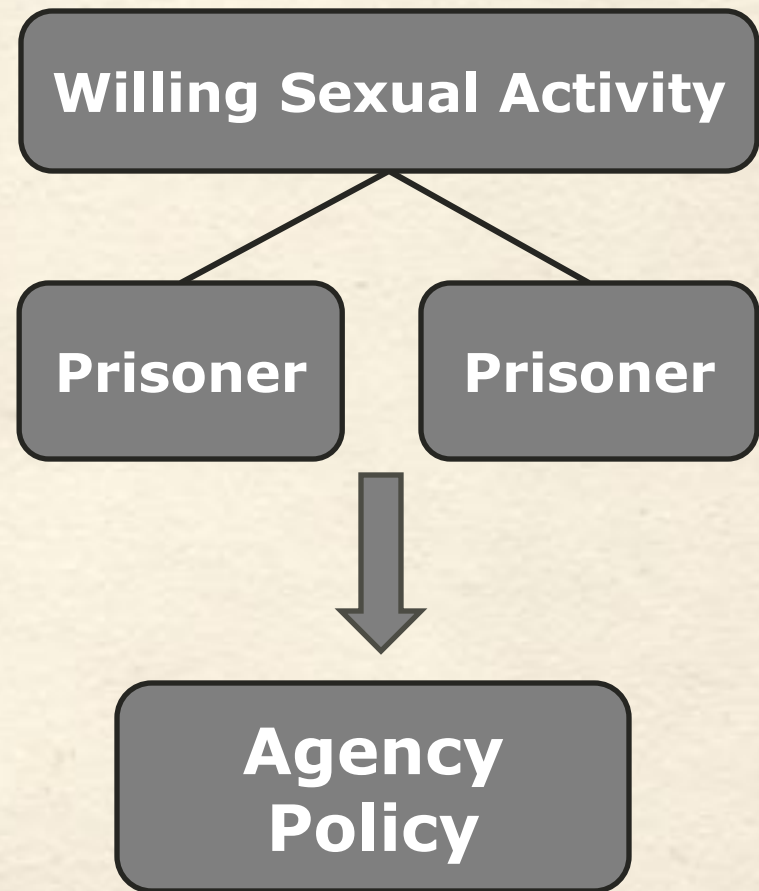
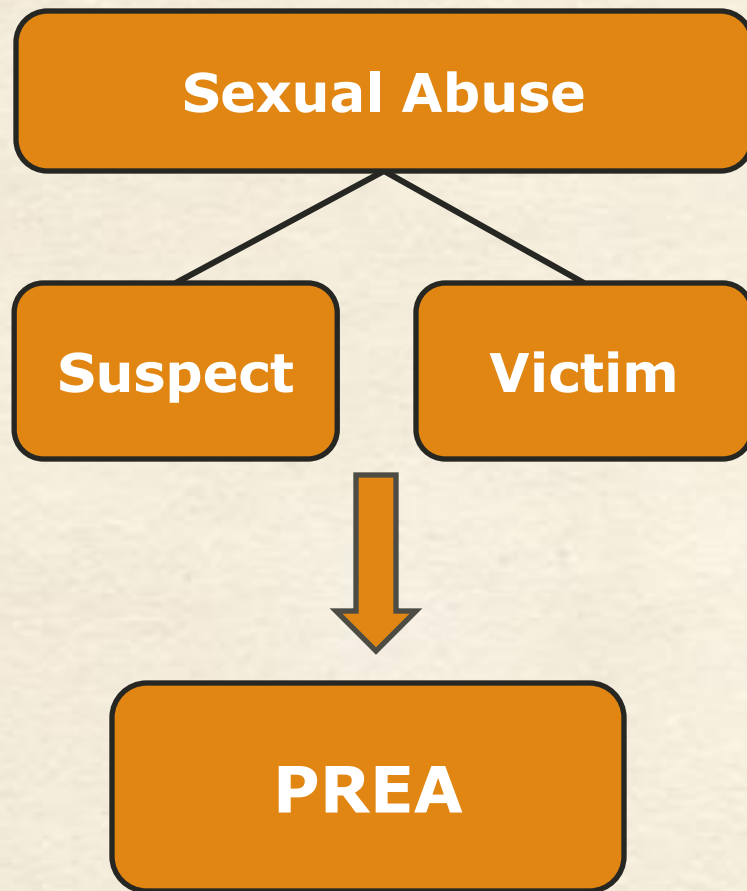
81% OF REPORTED SEXUAL ASSAULTS
IN YOUTH DETENTION ARE
COMMITTED BY STAFF



Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Sexual Victimization in Juvenile Facilities Reported by Youth, 2012* (June 2013) © Just Detention International



Consent in a Custody Setting



What groups of people do you think are most likely to be targeted for sexual abuse behind bars?

People Likely to be Targeted for Sexual Abuse Behind Bars

- First-timers
- Young
- Small in stature
- Minorities
- Survivors of previous trauma
- Mentally ill
- Physically disabled
- Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex



Sexual Abuse of LGBT Prisoners

1 IN 8 PRISON
INMATES



1 IN 12 JAIL
INMATES



who identify as **LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, or OTHER**
were sexually abused by another inmate.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Sexual Victimization in Prisons and Jails Reported by Inmates, 2011–12*, May 2013. © Just Detention International

Prisoners with a Mental Illness



In federal and state prisons, inmates with serious psychological distress are

9X MORE LIKELY

to be sexually abused by another inmate than those with no indication of mental illness.

Source: Allen J. Beck et al, *Sexual Victimization in Prisons and Jails Reported by Inmates, 2011-12* (Bureau of Justice Statistics, May 2013). © Just Detention International

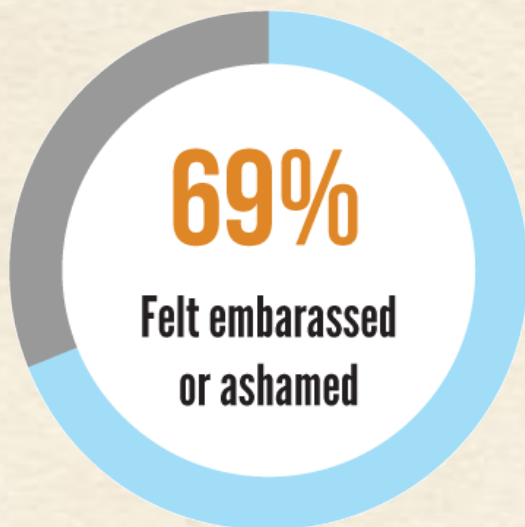
Dynamics of Sexual Abuse

- Sexual Harassment
- Protective pairing
- Sexual exploitation
- Gang abuse
- Rape
- Abusive searches
- Domestic violence



**What are some reasons
why survivors may not
want to report sexual
abuse behind bars?**

Reasons Victims Did Not Report



Outcomes of Reports

FACILITY RESPONSE TO REPORTS OF SEXUAL ABUSE BY OTHER INMATES



29%

**Victim was
written up**



34%

**Moved to
restrictive
housing**



37%

**No facility
response**

Outcomes of Reports

FACILITY RESPONSE TO REPORTS OF SEXUAL ABUSE BY STAFF



46%

**Victim was
written up**



41%

**Moved to
restrictive
housing**



15%

**No facility
response**

The PREA Standards

*They may try to tell you
that it didn't happen...
that you're making
something out of nothing...
or that you caused it...
that it was all your fault.*

No matter how they deny it or make you feel guilty, you know what happened to you. And no amount of minimizing or blaming you can change that. Talk to staff, and help us stop anyone who sexually violates you or others!

Nobody Deserves To Be A Victim Of Sexual Violence!



PREA Standards and Service Providers

The PREA Standards say that facilities must:

1. Offer survivors emergency care, a forensic exam, and ongoing treatment
2. Follow a coordinated response for incidents
3. Attempt to enter into working agreements with community service providers



PREA Standards and Service Providers

Facilities must also:

- Allow survivors access to advocates in as confidential a manner as possible
- Provide treatment that is consistent with the community standard of care



Building the Relationship



Find Common Ground

- Safer facilities
- Prevent sexual abuse
- Hold perpetrators accountable
- The facility can be part of a larger public safety effort
- Each member of the team is important



Written Agreements

- Describe the commitments of each party
- Include any deal breakers
- Allow for flexibility



Memorandum of Understanding

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

October __, 2013

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is entered into between **BARNWELL COUNTY DETENTION CENTER (BCDC)**, and **THE CUMBEE CENTER TO ASSIST ABUSED PERSONS (Cumbee Center)**, and is written to facilitate an agreement between the parties for services related to goals and implementation of federal Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) mandates.

I. UNDERSTANDING, AGREEMENTS, SUPPORT AND RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS:

A. BARNWELL COUNTY DETENTION CENTER (BCDC) agrees to:

- 1) Make involvement of certified rape crisis advocates a component of the standard response to a report of sexual abuse and/or a request for help from a survivor of sexual violence.
- 2) Any time that an incident or allegation of sexual abuse is discovered or reported within 120 hours of the incident, BCDC will transport the victim of sexual abuse to Barnwell County Hospital for a forensic medical exam, and to meet with a rape crisis advocate from the Cumbee Center.
- 3) If the incident occurred more than 120 hours prior to the report, BCDC will ensure that the victim receives a medical evaluation and any needed treatment; a mental health evaluation; and contact information for the Cumbee Center.
- 4) Facilitate follow-up, whenever possible, between the inmate and a Cumbee Center advocate by mail or telephone while the inmate is detained by BCDC. BCDC will also provide Cumbee Center contact information to all inmates upon release. This should be done without regard to the presence or status of an investigation.
- 5) Provide inmates with confidential, 24-hour access to the Cumbee Center's rape crisis hotline, at no cost, through the inmate telephone system.
- 6) Respect the confidential nature of communication between Cumbee Center advocates and clients detained at BCDC.
- 7) Ensure that Cumbee Center advocates are cleared to enter the Jail for meetings, training sessions, or to meet with clients. Provide for other logistical needs, such as a private meeting space for counseling sessions.
- 8) Facilitate the placement of informational placards with instructions on how to access the Cumbee Center's rape crisis hotline in areas visible to inmates.



Memorandum of Understanding

Memorandum of Understanding
Barnwell County Detention Center and the Cumbee Center to Assist Abused Persons
Page 2 of 2

- 9) Communicate any questions or concerns to the Cumbee Center staff.

B. THE CUMBEE CENTER TO ASSIST ABUSED PERSONS (Cumbee Center) agrees to:

- 1) Respond to requests from BCDC to provide advocacy when inmates are brought to Barnwell County Hospital for sexual assault forensic exams.
- 2) Respond to calls from BCDC inmates received on the Cumbee Center's rape crisis hotline.
- 3) Provide follow-up services and crisis intervention contacts to victims of sexual assault at BCDC, as resources allow.
- 4) Work with designated BCDC officials to obtain security clearance and follow all facility guidelines for safety and security, as necessary.
- 5) Maintain confidentiality of communications with clients detained at BCDC.
- 6) Communicate any questions or concerns about the MOU to BCDC.

II. TERM OF MOU:

This MOU shall begin October __, 2013 and continue until it is terminated by either party.

III. MOU TERMINATION AND MODIFICATION:

This MOU may be terminated, without cause, by either of the parties with no less than thirty calendar days' written notice. The MOU may be terminated by either party, with cause, with two days written notice.

Otherwise, any modification must be agreed to and signed by both parties and attached to this MOU as a modification.

Barnwell County Detention Center Representative

Date

Cumbee Center Representative

Date

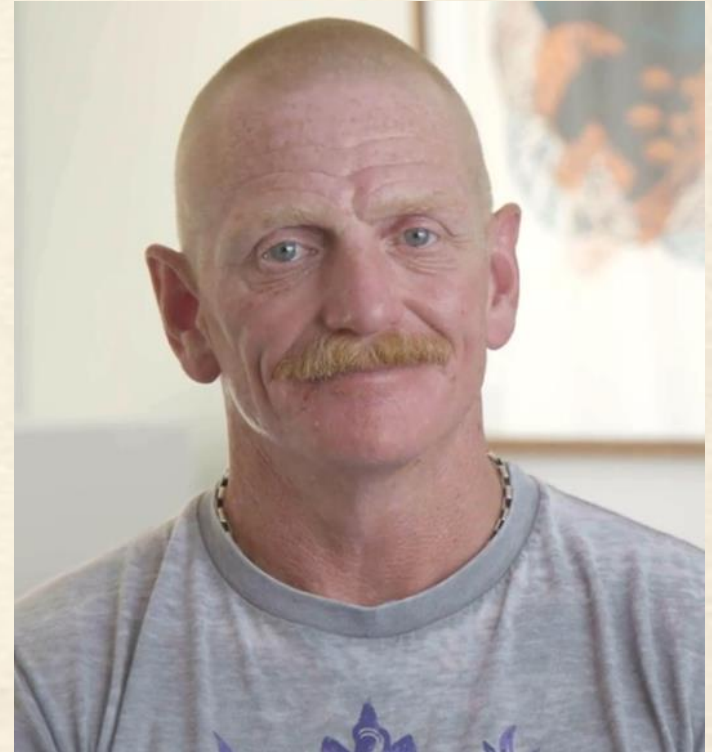




How You Can Help

Take a Non-Judgmental Approach

- Remember that a prisoner is a complex person and worthy of respect
- Be open-minded
- Avoid discussing the prisoner's criminal case



Joe Booth, JDI Survivor Council member



Be Patient, Consistent, and Persistent

- Prisoners and residents may see the advocate as their only safe person
- It takes time to build trust
- Any interaction could be your last



Trust Your Expertise

- Rape crisis advocates already work with a diverse group of clients
- The survivor-centered model works for everyone
- Support services should be tailored to meet the specific needs of the client



Professional Boundaries

- Be clear about your role, boundaries, and limitations of services
- Expect prisoners and residents to ask for help with things that are unrelated to sexual abuse
- Learn facility guidelines about interactions with prisoners and residents





Crisis Intervention

Establish Safety

- How is the person contacting you?
- Is there an immediate safety need?
- Establish the reason for the call and what you can do



PHOTO: MIKE KOOZMIN/THE S.F. EXAMINER FILE PHOTO



Explore Feelings and Needs

- Listen for what the caller needs
- Validate feelings
- Provide information about common reactions to sexual abuse



Problem Solving

- Clarify the problem
- Discuss options
- Develop a plan
- Clarify limits of services



Troubleshooting

- How will you manage off-topic or prank calls?
- What if you need to inform the facility of a problem?
- What if prisoners are unable to reach out for help safely?
- What if you hear of retaliation for using services?



Safety Planning



Safety Planning with the Survivor

- Help identify and assess threats
- Review what the survivor has already done
- Explain how the survivor can file a report
- Create a list of people and places to go to for help
- Discuss what to do in an emergency



Advocating for Survivors' Safety

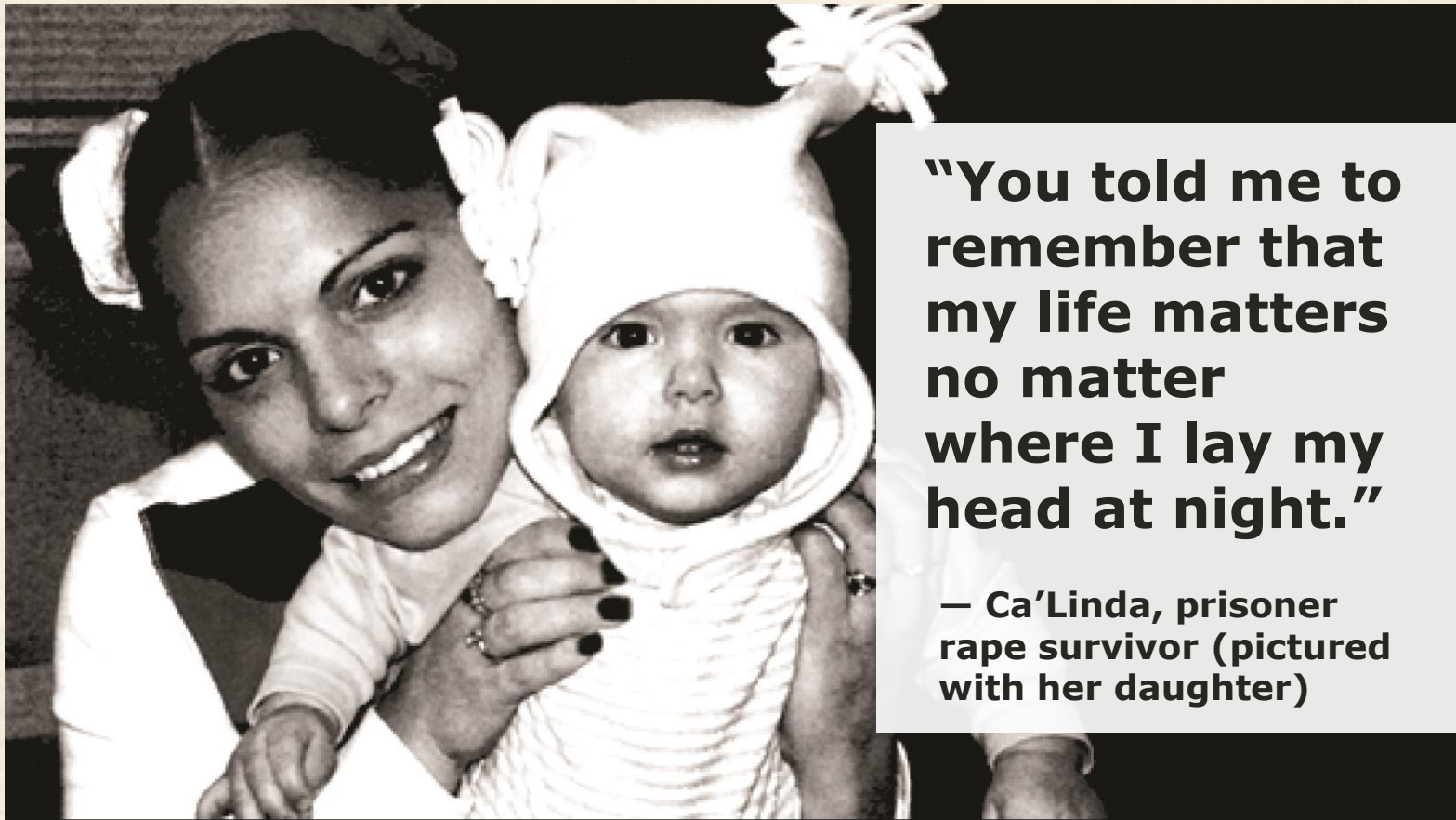
- Follow up on grievances
- Contact medical or mental health staff about treatment
- Inquire about the status of the investigation
- Reach out to the PREA Coordinator or head of the facility



Compassion Fatigue

- Practice self-care
- Be prepared for challenging sessions and grueling stories
- Anticipate feeling powerless to help





**“You told me to
remember that
my life matters
no matter
where I lay my
head at night.”**

**— Ca’Linda, prisoner
rape survivor (pictured
with her daughter)**



QUESTIONS?

