

Specialized Training: Investigating Sexual Abuse in Correctional Settings Notification of Curriculum Utilization December 2013

The enclosed *Specialized Training: Investigating Sexual Abuse in Correctional Settings* curriculum was developed by The Moss Group, Inc. (TMG) as part of contract deliverables for the National PREA Resource Center (PRC), a cooperative agreement between the National Council on Crime and Delinquency (NCCD) and the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA). The PREA standards served as the basis for the curriculum's content and development with the goal of the *Specialized Training: Investigating Sexual Abuse in Correctional Settings* curriculum to satisfy specific PREA standard requirements.

It is recommended that the *Specialized Training: Investigating Sexual Abuse in Correctional Settings* curriculum be reviewed in its entirety before choosing which modules to use. Any alterations to the original materials must be acknowledged during their presentation or requires removal of the PRC and TMG logos.

BJA is currently undergoing a comprehensive review of the enclosed curriculum for official approval at which point the BJA logo may be added.

Note: Utilization of the enclosed curriculum, either in part or whole, does not guarantee that an auditor will find a facility "meets standard". Rather, an auditor will take into consideration the curriculum used as part of their overall determination of compliance.





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Notice of Federal Funding and Federal Disclaimer – This project was supported by Grant No. 2010-RP-BX-K001 awarded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance. The Bureau of Justice Assistance is a component of the Office of Justice Programs, which also includes the Bureau of Justice Statistics, the National Institute of Justice, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, the Office for Victims of Crime, and the Office of Sex Offender Sentencing, Monitoring, Apprehending, Registering, and Tracking. Points of view or opinions in this document are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice nor those of the National Council on Crime and Delinquency (NCCD), which administers the National PREA Resource Center through a cooperative agreement with the Bureau of Justice Assistance.

NATIONAL PREA RESOURCE CENTER



Module 3: Investigations and Agency Culture

Time: 12:45 p.m. – 1:45 p.m. (1 hour)

Training Objectives:

- 1. Explain how agency and facility culture impacts inmate/resident reporting and sexual safety.
- 2. Describe how agency and facility culture impacts investigations *and* is impacted by investigations.
- 3. Provide strategies for enhancing a culture of safety.

Materials Needed:

- 1. Easel pad and markers
- 2. PowerPoint[®] player/machine (lap top computer and LCD projector)
- 3. Screen or monitor

Teaching Tips:

- This module is intended to help investigators understand the link between successful investigations and the overall culture of the agency. The PREA Standards do not directly address culture. However, the <u>Preamble to the United States Department of Justice</u> <u>National Standards to Prevent, Detect, and Respond to Prison Rape</u> offers an important discussion of the critical role of leadership is creating a healthy culture. The Standards contain specific requirements for investigations that are best met when the agency's culture is supportive of the investigative process.
- This module is primarily targeted to facility investigators. If training law enforcement, we recommend highlighting characteristics of correctional culture. Examples of cultural issues impacting investigations by outside law enforcement may include:
 - The potential for a high degree of contamination of evidence through multiple interviews.
 - Challenges in protecting crime scenes.
 - The high level of mistrust within the inmate/resident population.
 - $\circ\,$ The multiple and complicated relationships among staff and among inmates/residents.
 - The unique nature of sexual abuse in corrections. Victims of sexual abuse in corrections may experience repetitive assaults by multiple assailants over a period of time, and they are confined to the location of the abuse. They cannot escape the environment of people that caused them harm. This level of trauma is more debilitating and can lead to severe and chronic Post

- Traumatic Stress Disorder. The sexual abuse can also impact the victim's social status and safety within the facility and may impact the victim's trust in the system as a whole, which may delay or inhibit reporting.
- It is important to continually emphasize how culture can influence the investigative process and how the PREA Standards support creating and maintaining a healthy culture.
- This module includes a number of points where the trainer is instructed to discuss a question or statement with the audience. Emphasize throughout the training that participants should discuss what they believe most staff or offenders in the agency think. As a trainer, make use of the following exercises throughout this module to keep the class engaged:
 - Class-wide discussion: Ask the class as a whole and invite individuals to speak up.
 - Paired discussion: Ask the class to split into pairs and have the pairs discuss the question briefly before sharing with the class.
 - Group discussion: Ask the class to split into groups of four or five and discuss the question for five or ten minutes. Have the groups present their conclusions.
- In the agenda provided, this module is one hour long. However, a trainer could extend the module to one hour and 30 minutes if he or she decided to further emphasize the discussions within the module.





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	example, does policy allow staff to touch an offender?	
	Policy is often quite rigid, but informal norms may allow	
	for more flexibility – for example, what if an offender's	
	mother just died or the offender just graduated from a	
	program?	
	• Would informal norms sometimes grant permission for	Ask: What is your
	staff to give an offender/resident a handshake, pat on	agency "touch"
	the back or even a hug in these situations?	policy?
1 min	Objective investigations support the administration's value of	
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	zero tolerance while having a positive impact on culture	
	Objective investigations support the administration's value of zero tolerance while having a positive impact on culture. NUMBER What does culture depend on? Cultures adapt from the top – so the top needs to model the behavior they want to have in their staff. If the top doesn't communicate, the lack of transparency leads to distrust. If staff does not trust administration, staff will not cooperate with investigations and will often not support	Discuss with the class. Why is this important? What are the ways the investigative process improves or damages a positive culture?
	official policy.	
4 min	Influences on Agency Culture	
	Influences on Agency Culture	Influences on Agency Culture
	History: critical events	
	Hiring process: qualities sought, backgrounds	
	considered, questions asked.	
	Promotional process How is it determined?	
	How is it perceived?	
	Leadership and agency ethics	
	Are rules enforced for everyone? NATIONAL	
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	Culture is influenced by major events in the bistom of the	,]
	Culture is influenced by major events in the history of the agency. Our agency's culture is particularly influenced by	Insert historical event significant to your agency, e.g.
	 Culture is influenced by staff perception of the hiring process. Is staff promoted based on experience and qualifications? Is it based on who you know? Does staff believe that more recent hires were hired based on different qualifications than hires from years ago? Do staff talk about who gets certain jobs based on their relationship with someone? Are relationships (marriages, immediate family relationships, friendships) common among staff in your agency's facilities? Are these relationships seen as influential to the hiring or promotional process? Do staff perceive there to be favoritism or inequality in rules 	major lawsuit, leadership change, etc. Ask participants what other events they believe have influenced the agency's culture.
	enforcement?	Discuss.
1 min	Influences on Agency Culture	
	Influences on Agency Culture Characteristics and behaviors of staff members - What kind of behavior is each toward the other? Staff-staff interactions - Does line staff trust administration? Staff-offender dynamics - Are interactions professional? - Are offenders talking about staff business?	Influences on Agency Culture
	 Are staff relations respectful and honest? Are they team focused? 	
	 Are they gossipy? Back biting? Sexual? 	Diama
	 Is there dating in the workplace? 	Discuss.
	How does this impact investigations?	Some possible answers are: Culture can impact staff's perception of whether they can trust agency processes, and

		their fellow staff, and leadership have their best interests in mind. Investigators should be aware, to the extent possible, of the cultural undercurrents in a facility so as to better understand the information they gather and the context within which the alleged incident occurred.
1 min	Staff believe that administration practice follows policy	
		Discuss. Why is this important? What is their impression within your agency?
	Staff believe that administration practice follows policy.	
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	Staff members' decisions on whether or not to follow policy or	
	how to follow policy depends a lot on whether they perceive	
1 min	their facility or agency administration to be following policy. Influences on Agency Culture	
	Influences on Agency Culture	Influences on Agency Culture
	Agency policy and procedures – Does practice match policy? – Does staff care about policy or is it ignored?	
	Language – Is there a sexualized work environment?	
	Disciplinary process – Is discipline considered fair? – Do staff trust the process? NATIONAL PREA RESOURCE CENTER	
	What is a sexualized work environment? It's an environment	

	where sex permeates everything – jokes, appearances,	
	relationships between staff.	
1 min	Sexualized Work Environment	
	Sexualized Work Environment	Sexualized Work Environment
	Undue or over-familiarity between staff/offenders	
	Staff/staff relationships unprofessional	
	Staff/offender relationships cross boundaries	
	Staff off-duty conduct impacts work	
	• Everything comes back to "sex"	
	Does this agency have a sexualized work environment? Do	
	certain facilities?	
	When a work environment is sexualized – such as	
	between staff and staff – it implicitly gives offenders	
	permission to act similarly.	
	 When there are problems among the staff in any form, it can ripple down to the offenders. Offenders watch 	
	everything we do.	
	 This sexualization of an environment can shift the 	
	cultural norms. If sexual harassment is perceived as	
	socially acceptable, the risk of sexual abuse will increase.	Discuss. Why is this
	As an investigator, keep an eye out for signs of a sexualized	important?
	work environment and be prepared to bring that information to	
	the appropriate person if you think the environment could	
	decrease sexual safety.	
1 min	In my facility, romantic relationships among staff are	
		4











	Offenders in my facility could report an incident of sexual abuse without fear of retaliation from other offenders or staff	Discuss. Why is this important? What is
	True? False? What can be done to increase offender comfort in reporting?	their impression within your agency?
1 min	Code of Silence – Many Costs	
	Code of Silence – Many Costs Baron v. Hickey, 242 F. Supp.2d 66 (2003) • County Corrections officer reported supervisor playing cards with inmates – violation of policy • Harassed by co-workers (referring to him as a rat; throwing cheese at him; derogatory posters on locker; feces on car; slashing tires) • Complained on 30 separate occasions • No discipline for officers • Claimed that he was forced to resign	Code of Silence
	Here's an example of a lawsuit that took place due to a very	
	active code of silence culture in an agency. In this case, an	
	officer who reported a policy violation by a supervisor experienced retaliation and was eventually forced to resign.	
1 min	Code of Silence	
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	All the time? Sometimes? Never? Do you know?	Discuss. If participants don't know, this is equally worthy of discussion. Why don't they know? How does the answer to this question impact investigation strategies and perceptions of investigations within the agency?
1 min	Impact of Prosecutions on Agency Culture	
	Impact of Prosecutions on	Impact of
	Agency Culture	Prosecutions on
	 Get's everyone's attention Defines the issue as serious Prosecutors have unique tools Subpoena powers Grand jury Successful prosecution can be a defining moment Makes things serious 	Agency Culture
	Prosecutions, or lack thereof, can have a substantial impact on	
	the culture of an agency, including staff and offenders'	
	perceptions of the seriousness of sexual abuse.	
	 Prosecutions define the issue as serious and bring 	
	people's attention to the problem.	
	 A lack of prosecutions can do the exact opposite. 	
	 We will discuss prosecutions and how investigators can 	
	enhance the likelihood that cases will be successfully	
	prosecuted later in the training.	
1 min	Challenges for Leadership	Challenges for Leadership

	Challenges for Leadership	
	 Discover the root of the problem Understand that the problem may be a 	
	 Understand that the problem may be a symptom of the culture 	
	 Addressing the problem in a systematic way is about making cultural change 	
	 Cultural change is the challenge for leadership 	
	 Must shift deeply ignored norms and attitudes 	
	 Key positions must institute the change 	
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	Of course, this isn't always an easy problem to solve. Culture	
	change is slow and requires intentional steps over a long period	
	of time.	
1 min	Strategies for Changing Culture	
	Strategies for Changing Culture	Strategies for
		Changing Culture
	Employee screening (115.17/317) It starts with staff at the beginning of their service	
	<u>Training</u> (115.31/331)	
	What do they hear at the academy?How are they initially trained at the institution?Supervisor training vs. line staff	
	Zero tolerance (115.11/311) Make staff aware and impose consequences. Zero tolerance must mean zero tolerance. Something has to happen to make it real.	
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	RESOURCE CENTER	
	Strategies for changing culture impact an organization at all	
	levels.	
	 They start with who is hired, how they are trained and, 	
	of course, agency mission statements and values. The	
	PREA Standards support this through requiring agencies	
	to take a zero-tolerance approach and through requiring	
	specific training.	
	 Strategies must address what staff hears at the Academy 	
	and how initial facility training is sequenced with that.	
	Consistency of training at this point is also important;	
	trainees should not learn one thing at the Academy and	
	then be taken under the wing by a seasoned staff at the	
	facility and told that things are done differently on-the-	

	ground. Supervisory training can also be adjusted to	
	ensure appropriate oversight is provided. Finally,	
	training can impact staff perception of zero tolerance as	
	either a meaningless phrase or as a core value of the	
	agency.	
2 min	Strategies for Changing Culture	
	Strategies for Changing Culture	Strategies for Changing Culture
	 <u>Policies.</u> Practice must match policy. Policies must be communicated and update. More than just something in writing. 	
	 <u>Role Model</u>. Model ethical behavior for other staff and offenders. The culture will not tolerate hypocrisy. 	
	Assistance. Employees who need help are not afraid and get it. PREA RESOURCE CENTER	
	Strategies include policy writing, ensuring practice matches	
	policy, and providing assistance to employees in need.	
	 What kind of assistance is provided to employees within the facilities? What if they start to have problems with 	Discuss.
	the facilities? What if they start to have problems with	
	boundaries? Would they feel comfortable seeking help?	Discuss. If yes, why?
	The second bullet is particularly relevant to	If no, why not? How
	investigators: Are you role modeling ethical behavior?	can you improve?
	Does staff trust investigators in your agency to be	
	impartial and do your job in an ethical manner?	
	Role modeling also extends into the reporting area as the PREA	
	Standards require all employees to immediately report	
	knowledge, suspicion, or information regarding sexual abuse	
	and harassment. If staff is not actually meeting this	
	requirement, then investigators are not receiving the	
	information they need to follow up.	
2 min	Strategies for Changing Culture	
		Strategies for Changing Culture

	Strategies for Changing Culture	
	 Mandated Reporting (115.61/361)- Are staff disciplined for failure to report? Multiple Reporting Mechanisms 115.51/351)- Is there a way for both staff and offenders to report anonymously? Is there a way to report outside the agency itself? Discipline and Prosecution (115.71/371 and 115.76/376)- Are staff or offenders involved in these actions treated fairly but prosecuted or disciplined to the fullest extent? If staff aren't disciplined for failing to report, many staff won't feel that the benefits of reporting (which are ambiguous and far 	
	in the future) will outweigh the potential risks (which include	
	isolation, alienation from peers, loss of job opportunities, etc.).	
	Providing anonymous reporting mechanisms can help	
	encourage both staff and offenders to report.	
	More importantly, investigations must lead to some sort of	
	consequence for those who are found to have violated policy or	
	broken the law. If offenders and staff don't see appropriate	
	discipline or prosecution, they will see little incentive in	
	reporting. In some cases, they may also see little incentive in	
	not perpetrating sexual abuse themselves.	
1 min	Impact of Culture on Investigations	
	Impact of Culture on Investigations	Impact of Culture on
		Investigations
	 Culture can either support or obstruct an investigation 	
	 Need to understand culture to know how to 	
	facilitate investigation processOutcomes of investigations can influence culture	
	 Understanding issues related to close 	
	communities	
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	Culture has an enormous impact on investigations and their	
	success or failure. Understanding the culture in which you are	
	investigating can help an investigator ask the right questions to	

	increase cooperation.	
1 min	Staff in my facility trust the investigative process	
	Staff in my facility trust the investigative process.	
	True? False?	Discuss. What does trust mean in this context? Why is this important? What is their impression within your agency?
1 min	If asked, how many staff would be able to describe what would happen to them if they were under some kind of investigation?	
	If asked, how many staff would be able to describe what would happen to them if they were under some kind of investigation?	
	How many staff members receive pre-service training on the investigative process? Do you do a mapping exercise with them?	Discuss. Why is this important? What is their impression within your agency?
1 min	If a staff member is innocent but under investigation, how many would say they have trust in the investigative process to exonerate them?	

If a staff member were innocent but under investigation, how many would say they have trust in the investigative process to exonerate them?	
Often, staff are confident that they'll be exonerated on the	
another. Is that the case here?	Discuss. Why is this important? What is their impression within your agency?
Staff members under investigation in my facility believe they	
are adequately kept up-to-date as the investigation proceeds Staff members under investigation in my facility believe they are adequately kept up to date as the investigation proceeds	Discuss. Is this a
True? False?	policy issue or a
Is staff kept in the dark or is there regular communication, if	practice issue? How can investigators
only to say that it's still ongoing? In my facility there is a strong rumor mill which is where	impact this?
	Under investigation, how many would say they have trust in the investigative process to exonerate them?

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	In my facility there is a strong rumor mill which is where people find out about ongoing investigations	Discuss. Why is this important? What is their impression within your agency?
	True? False?	
1 min	Staff in my agency believe investigations are handled in a	
	timely manner	
	Staff in my agency believe investigations are handled in a timely manner	Discuss. What does timely mean? How can investigators impact this?
	NATIONAL PREA RESOURCE CENTER True? False?	
1 min	Staff under investigation receive a written notice of results	
	when an investigation is concluded	
	Staff under investigation receive a written notice when an investigation is concluded providing the results	Discuss. Why is this important? What is their impression within your agency? Insert questions specific to agency policy, if appropriate.
	PREA resource c e n t e r	
	True? False?	

1 min	Offenders in my agency trust the investigative process	
	Offenders in my agency trust the investigative process	Discuss. How does this impact reporting? How can the agency impact this? How can investigators impact this?
	True? False?	
1 min	Investigative Process	
	Investigative Process Benefits of a Clear Investigative Process Staff appreciate that the process protects them Dispels anger and hostility Changes attitude that the process is arbitrary, unfair, etc. Prevents anxiety and fear Confirms employee rights and obligations Demonstrates value to security and operational	Investigative Process
	improvements that can be achieved Informs staff of penalties Encourages staff to cooperate PREA RESOURCE CENTER	
	A clear investigative process can be extremely beneficial to the	
	cooperation levels received by investigators and the eventual	
	success of the investigation.	
1 min	Strategies for Changing Culture – Demystifying the	
	Investigative Process	Strategies for Changing Culture

	Strategies for Changing Culture – Demystifying the Investigative Process • Educate. Staff need to know what is involved before they will trust. When do they learn about the process? • Iraining. For investigators and staff. Regular training on policy. • Consistent and Timely Practices. All staff treated fairly and timely results. Too long and the rumor mill takes over. • Report Results. To those accused and others when possible. Written results. PREA RESOURCE CENTER Consistency in investigations with regards to the process, the timing, and the information staff receive can enhance staff and offenders' trust in the process and make an investigator's job a lot easier.	
10 min	Activity Activity List 1. Five positive things about your agency culture 2. Five negative things about your agency culture 3. One action step for your agency to improve culture 4. One recommendation for improving culture, to share with the class	Activity
	 List: 1. Five positive things about your agency culture 2. Five negative things about your agency culture 3. One action step for your agency to improve culture 4. One recommendation for improving culture, to share with the class 	
1 min	A Word About Changing Culture	A Word About Changing Culture

	 A Word About Changing Culture Attempts to change = both positive and negative effects Staff need time to make adjustments and even longer to see the benefits of them. Staff accustomed to certain behaviors may be very resistant and demonstrate greater dissatisfaction with "administration." 	
	 Those who have been involved with change agree that developing a plan and establishing a vision with input from the management team and line staff begins the process of changing culture. Staff and managers do not work together effectively when they are unclear about the agency's vision, so the first step is always clarifying the vision from the top. Lessons learned in the field show that, after the direction has been established, leadership needs to listen and then talk to staff, inmates/residents, volunteers, contractors, the unions, and the community. Everyone needs to understand the plan and how the institution/organization hopes to achieve its goals. Participation from staff is key, as is finding ways to get staff invested in the mission. 	
1 min	Questions?	