Developing Facility-Level Sexual Assault Response Teams (SARTs)

October 23, 2013

Introduction and Welcome

Just Detention International (JDI)

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

National PREA Resource Center (PRC)

PRC was established through a cooperative agreement between the Bureau of Justice Assistance and the National Council on Crime and Delinquency. The mission of the PRC is to assist adult prisons and jails, juvenile facilities, lockups, community corrections, and tribal facilities in their efforts to eliminate sexual abuse by increasing their capacity for prevention, detection, monitoring, responses to incidents, and services to victims and their families.

Today's Moderator

Nicole de la Torre
Program Officer
Just Detention International

Webinar Agenda

I. SART Basics
II. SARTs and the PREA Standards
III. Experiences from the Field: Miami-Dade Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation
IV. SART Protocol and Critical Incident Checklist
V. SART Partner Conversation
VI. Question and Answer

Logistics

Webinar Information

- Raise your hand if you need assistance
- Use the questions box to ask a question
- An archive of this webinar will be posted on the PREA Resource Center website: www.prearesourcecenter.org

I. SART Basics

Cynthia Totten, Esq.
Senior Program Director
Just Detention International
Sexual Assault Response Team (SART)

SART → Coordinated Response

A multi-disciplinary team designed to coordinate a survivor-centered response to sexual assault

Goals of the SART Model

- Encourage survivor healing and well-being
- Strengthen investigations
- Eliminate sexual violence
- Ensure compliance with PREA

Michelle, a transgender woman who was threatened with rape while in the Los Angeles County Jail

The SART Response

COORDINATED
IMMEDIATE
SURVIVOR-CENTERED

Institution-Based SARTs

Core Functions:

- Leads agency efforts to eliminate sexual abuse, through prevention, detection, and response efforts
- Draws expertise from key departments and ranks within the agency
- Monitoring SARTs evaluate facility compliance with PREA and conduct incident reviews

II. SARTs and the PREA Standards

Institutional Coordinated Response Plan (§115.65)

A written plan to coordinate actions taken in response to an incident of sexual abuse, amongst first responders, medical and mental health practitioners, investigators and facility leadership.

SARTs and PREA Compliance

Institution-based SARTs help to comply with:

- Evidence protocol and forensic medical examinations (§115.21)
- Policies to ensure referrals of allegations for investigations (§115.22)
- Inmate reporting (§115.51)
- Inmate access to outside confidential support services (§115.53)
- Staff and agency reporting duties (§115.61)
- Reporting to other confinement facilities (§115.63)
- Staff first responder duties (§115.64)
SARTs and PREA Compliance (cont.)

Institution-based SARTs help to comply with:
- Coordinated response (§115.65)
- Agency protection against retaliation (§115.67)
- Criminal and administrative agency investigations (§115.71)
- Reporting to inmates (§115.73)
- Access to emergency medical and mental health services (§115.83)
- Ongoing medical and mental health care for sexual abuse victims and abusers (§115.83)
- Sexual abuse incident reviews (§115.86)

Institution-Based SARTs

Key Members
Members’ roles may vary depending on a facility’s population and needs, but should include a minimum of three staff, preferably from among the following positions:
- Administrator
- Classification Supervisor
- Chief of Security
- Transportation Officer
- Internal Affairs Investigator
- Mental Health Staff
- Medical Staff

Institution-Based SARTs – Key Members (cont.)

The following community representatives are strongly recommended as members of an institution-based SART:
- Law Enforcement
- Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE)
- Rape Crisis Advocate
- Prosecutor

III. Experiences from the Field: Miami-Dade Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (MDCR)

Building collaboration among facility- and community-based partners:

Gwyn Smith-Downes
Senior Program Director
Just Detention International

Building An Institution-Based SART

The Sexual Assault Response Team is a key aspect of PREA implementation:
- Assign staff or a committee to develop the SART
- Identify SART members and roles
- Define the team goals
- Conduct outreach to external partners
- Develop a written protocol
- Incorporate the SART into ongoing policy development and review processes
SART Coordinating Committee at MDCR

- Overseen by MDCR PREA Coordinator
- Composed of select staff from MDCR leadership, including PREA Compliance Manager from each facility and community members
- Convenes 6 or more times a year

Coordinating Committee Members

Additional MDCR SART Coordinating Committee members may include:

- Correctional Health Services administrators
- Civilian Staff, such as Program Services
- Transportation Supervisor
- Security and Internal Affairs Bureau Chief
- Intake Supervisor

Coordinating Committee Goals

- Monitor department and facility compliance with PREA standards and MDCR policies
- Review successes, challenges, and strategies for overcoming barriers to ensure a coordinated response to allegations
- Review and revise policies, training materials, MOU, and contracts related to sexual abuse prevention and response

Small Jails Can Do This Too!

Who Would Be On Your Coordinating Committee?

Who would be part of your facility-based SART?

• Pitkin County Jail where JDI is working with local law enforcement and Aspen community providers to establish a facility-level SART.

Facility-level SARTs at MDCR

- Lead the Department’s efforts to eliminate sexual abuse with a multi-disciplinary team
- Developed the SART protocol
- Overseen by the PREA Compliance Manager
- Meet once per month or as directed by the PREA Coordinator

MDCR Sexual Assault Response Team Protocol

- Initiating the SART Response
- Facility-SART Process/Timeline
  o A. Immediately Following an Allegation of a Sexual Assault
  o B. During Transport to the Exam
  o C. During the Medical Forensic Exam
  o D. If a Forensic Exam is not Necessary/Not Wanted
  o E. Following the Exam or After Acute Care is Provided
  o F. Long-Term Facility SART Duties
- SART Competencies and Training Requirements
- Sexual Assault Incident Reviews

Appendix 1: Definitions
Appendix 2: Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) Standards
Appendix 3: SART Review Checklist
Appendix 4: MDCR SART Evaluation Form
Appendix 5: Sexual Assault Survivors’ Rights
Align SART Protocol with PREA Standards

SART Training Recommendations

- Cross-training on roles and responsibilities of each SART team member
- Basic training on a variety of topics to maintain the multidisciplinary approach and to ensure the SART's success

PREA Drills

IV. SART Protocol and Critical Incident Checklists

SART Protocol and Checklists

- Overview of the development of the SART Protocol and Critical Incident Checklists
- Review current drafts of the Protocol and Checklists
- Discuss implications for current response to allegations of sexual abuse within MDCR and future training needs

Sexual abuse incident reviews (§115.86)

- Conduct within 30 days following close of investigation
- Include upper management investigators and medical
- Examine need for changes in policy or practice
- Determine motivation of allegation
- Assess if physical barriers needed
- Assess adequacy of staffing levels
- Evaluate technology needs

MDCR Coordinating Committee developing SART Protocol

A scene from MDCR’s PREA Inmate Orientation video

Sexual abuse incident reviews (§115.86)
V. SART Partner Conversation

Lt. JC Smith
MDCR Inspections
Lieutenant for CRJPA Compliance

Lt. Wynnie Testamark-Samuels
MDCR PREA Coordinator and Accreditation Manager

Captain Eric Garcia
Miami-Dade Police Department Special Victims Bureau

VI. Questions and Answers

Questions?

For More Information

For more information about the National PREA Resource Center, visit www.prearesourcecenter.org. Direct questions to info@prearesourcecenter.org.

Michela Bowman
PRC Co-Director
mbowman@nccdglobal.org

Jenni Trovillion
PRC Co-Director
jtrovillion@nccdglobal.org

Tara Graham
Sr. Program Specialist
tgraham@nccdglobal.org

For more information about Just Detention International, visit www.justdetention.org. Direct questions to info@justdetention.org.

Connect with JDI:

www.facebook.com/JDIonFB
www.twitter.com/justdetention

Thank you for joining us today!

Evaluation

We would like to ask you to please complete a brief evaluation. 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.


Please forward it to others who may have joined you.

THANK YOU!