

MDCR Culture Change Training
TGK and TTC, June-August 2013

Dynamics and Impact of Sexual Abuse in Detention

TRAINING FOR TRAINERS GUIDE

What Would You Do Next

Module 3, Appendix B

Facilitator's Note: Print out enough of these scenarios for each small group to receive one full set. Separate each option into piles before the training to make it easier to hand them out as the groups make their decision. Give each group their next page only after they make their decision.

Scenario 1

An inmate named David gets moved to your unit. He is young, about 19. He tells you that he "got caught for messing around with drugs." He's placed in a general population cell with an inmate who was also arrested on a drug charge.

The following week, you notice that David has a new cellmate named Rodney. You recognize Rodney from when you used to work in a neighboring county, where he was locked up for a string of violent robberies. He was also well-known among staff for openly masturbating in his cell. Rodney's file does not mention his previous sexual misconduct. He and David appear to be getting along well, but you are concerned they may not be a good match. David seems to be keeping to himself, not interacting with other inmates as much as he used to do.

WHAT DO YOU DO?

Option 1A: Report your concerns to your supervisor, even though there have not been any problems between the cellmates. [Skip to Scenario 2A, page 2]

Option 1B: Keep your concerns to yourself, but keep an eye on Rodney. [Skip to Scenario 2B, page 3]

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.

Scenario 2A

After you report Rodney's previous misconduct, he is assigned to a single cell. After that, David seems to be doing better and enrolls in a GED class. He likes the coursework and his teacher, Miss Wilson. He's always talking about how pretty she is and that she reminds him what it means to be a man.

Other inmates start to joke that David is "hooking up" with Miss Wilson. He stays after class to help her with special projects and seems to know more about her than most of the staff do. You suspect he may be involved in a romantic relationship with Miss Wilson, but you have no proof.

WHAT DO YOU DO?

Option 2C: Report your suspicions to the shift commander, even though you have no concrete evidence. [Skip to Scenario 3C, page 4]

Option 2D: Talk to Miss Wilson directly about your concerns since there's no sense reporting rumors to your supervisor. [Skip to Scenario 3D, page 5]

Option 2E: You let it go since you trust Miss Wilson to do the right thing. You know she could lose her job over a false allegation. [Skip to Scenario 3E, page 6]

Scenario 2B

You say nothing, but notice a few weeks later that David is acting withdrawn. He has bruising on his arms and around his neck. He stays in bed most of the time and seems to be losing weight.

During cell checks you ask David about the bruises. Rodney interrupts and says that David got the bruises working out. David looks at you blankly and Rodney tells you to “butt out” and “quit acting like David’s mother.” You suspect Rodney may be abusing David in some way, but you have no proof.

WHAT DO YOU DO?

Option 2F: When David refuses to shower the next morning, you threaten to write him up. He starts crying and tells you that he is afraid to leave the cell because Rodney said his boys will jump David in the shower. [Skip to Scenario 3F, page 7]

Option 2G: You wait until David is alone in the cell and ask if anything is going on. You tell him that his safety is your first priority and you are there to help him. He refuses to tell you anything. A few days later, you escort him to the clinic for a medical appointment. [Skip to Scenario 3G, page 8]

Option 2H: You warn Rodney about insubordination and wait for further proof of any possible abuse before taking any action. It would be a waste of time to report your suspicions without evidence. [Skip to Scenario 3H, page 9]

Scenario 3C

The report is forwarded to law enforcement. The investigation uncovers that Miss Wilson was having a sexual relationship with three inmates in the jail. She is terminated and charged with sexual abuse.

David is provided with confidential counseling services by a local rape crisis center.

WHAT DID YOU DO WELL?

WHAT COULD YOU HAVE DONE BETTER?

Scenario 3D

You talk to Miss Wilson about your suspicions. She laughs and dismisses your concerns, claiming David has an “innocent crush” and is “nothing but a gentleman” to her.

A few weeks later, David is found with a cellphone and sexually explicit letters addressed to Miss Wilson in his cell. He is written up and moved to another unit. Since there is no evidence to determine that Miss Wilson provided him with the cellphone or was aware of the letters, she is not disciplined in any way. She is later promoted to principal of the school.

WHAT DID YOU DO WELL?

WHAT COULD YOU HAVE DONE BETTER?

Scenario 3E

You say nothing, but the rumors about David and Miss Wilson intensify. David gets into a fight with another inmate. When you ask him about it, David says that the other guy was "flirting" with Miss Wilson.

You assume it's harmless, until a few weeks later when you discover David and Miss Wilson engaged in oral sex in the classroom. She begs you not to report it and says that it was a one-time mistake.

You tell your supervisor a few weeks later and are written up for failing to report your concerns sooner.

WHAT DID YOU DO WELL?

WHAT COULD YOU HAVE DONE BETTER?

Scenario 3F

David is separated from Rodney immediately and moved to another unit. When he's moved there, David tells his counselor that Rodney sexually abused him two days ago.

The local police department sex crimes unit is contacted. David is taken to the local sexual assault forensic exam site at the county hospital for a forensic exam. The hospital also contacts the local rape crisis program to provide crisis intervention and information during the forensic exam.

The allegation is substantiated and Rodney is charged with sexual battery. David is released from the jail shortly thereafter.

WHAT DID YOU DO WELL?

WHAT COULD YOU HAVE DONE BETTER?

Scenario 3G

David discloses to the facility nurse that Rodney sexually abused him a week ago. The nurse contacts the shift commander, who notifies the city police department sex crimes unit.

It is determined that David is not eligible for a forensic exam because too much time has passed since the alleged sexual abuse occurred.

The sexual abuse allegation is unsubstantiated due to a lack of evidence. David is returned to general population, where he is physically assaulted by a group of inmates for "snitching."

Rodney remains in general population until he is transferred to prison.

WHAT DID YOU DO WELL?

WHAT COULD YOU HAVE DONE BETTER?

Scenario 3H

David continues to become more withdrawn and increasingly agitated. Medical services starts him on psychotropic medication, which only seems to make him more sluggish.

A few weeks later, he attempts to commit suicide. He is taken to the county hospital for medical treatment. When David later returns to the unit, Rodney asks if he can cell with David. Your supervisor grants the request, despite David's pleading not to be celled with Rodney.

A few days later, David is found dead in his cell.

WHAT DID YOU DO WELL?

WHAT COULD YOU HAVE DONE BETTER?