



**PREA and Victim Services: A Trauma-Informed Approach
Notification of Curriculum Utilization
October 2014**

The enclosed *PREA and Victim Services: A Trauma-Informed Approach* curriculum was developed by Just Detention International (JDI) 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 Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) standards served as the basis for the curriculum's content and development, with the goal of the *PREA and Victim Services: A Trauma-Informed Approach* curriculum being to satisfy specific PREA standard requirements.

It is recommended that the *PREA and Victim Services: A Trauma-Informed Approach* curriculum be reviewed in its entirety before choosing which modules to use. Any alterations to the original materials must either be acknowledged during their presentation or have the PRC and JDI logos removed.

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

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

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.

First Response

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Acknowledgement

Just Detention International (JDI) developed this training and materials in partnership with the National PREA Resource Center (PRC).

***JDI** is a health and human rights organization that seeks to end sexual abuse in all forms of detention.*

*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.*

Module Objectives

- Learn the basics of first responder duties
- Understand first responder duties from a victim-centered perspective
- Be able to respond effectively and professionally to disclosures of sexual abuse and sexual harassment
- Apply an understanding of trauma reactions
- Plan for information sharing and preserving victim privacy, or applying 'need to know'
- Understand the basics of evidence preservation

First Response

An Opportunity

The reactions of the first few people that a victim of sexual abuse tells have the biggest effect on his or her healing.

First Responder Duties

A Victim-Centered Perspective

The First Responder

- Is the first staff member, contractor, or volunteer on the scene
- Contains and deescalates the situation
- Provides safety and support for the victim until the coordinated response team arrives
- Holds the scene and preserves evidence until investigators or designees arrive

First Responder Duties

§115.65 Coordinated Response

The facility shall develop a written institutional plan to coordinate actions taken in response to an incident of sexual abuse among staff first responders.

- Reporting responsibilities, including how to report privately
- Mechanism for informing appropriate staff
- How to maintain safety and preserve evidence until security staff or investigators arrive
- What to do if the victim indicates an unwillingness to participate in an investigation or name the perpetrator(s)

First Responder Duties

§115.64 First Responder Duties

- 1) Separate the victim and abuser
- 2) Preserve and protect crime scene
- 3) Request that the alleged victim not take any action to destroy evidence
- 4) Ensure that the alleged abuser not take any action to destroy evidence
- 5) If the first responder is not security staff, notify security staff

First Responder Duties

Goals: Discussion

What are the goals and responsibilities of the first responder?

First Responder Duties

Handling Disclosures

A compassionate, professional response is necessary for

- The health and well-being of the victim
- The safety of the facility
- Building a 'zero tolerance' and reporting culture
- The integrity of the investigation and likelihood that the victim can and will participate

First Responder Duties

Handling Disclosures

When someone tells you that he or she has been sexually abused, sexually harassed, or is in imminent danger, remember

- The effect of trauma on memory and ability to recount events
- Embarrassment, shame, and fear of not being believed

First Responder Duties

What Do I Say?

- Offer supportive, non-judgmental statements
- Give information about what will happen next
- Resist asking unnecessary questions
- Ask only what is needed to give information to the investigator or supervisor

First Responder Duties

What Do I Ask?

- What happened?
- When did it happen?
- Do you need medical attention now?
- Are you willing to tell me who else was involved?

First Responder Duties

Who Do I Tell?

- Who is the first person you tell?
- Does it depend what happened and who the alleged abuser is?
- Who needs to know? Who does not need to know?
- What do different staff members need to know?

First Responder Duties

§115.16 Inmates with disabilities and inmates who are limited English proficient

The agency shall take appropriate steps to ensure that inmates with disabilities and who are limited English proficient have an opportunity to participate in or benefit from all aspects of the agency's efforts to prevent, detect, and respond to sexual abuse and sexual harassment.

- *How is this facility doing in terms of accessibility of the first response?*

Responding to Imminent Threat

Case Example Discussion

1. Inmate Jones states that Inmate Smith leers and makes comments about Inmate Jones' body. Yesterday, Inmate Smith said, "Tonight's the night and I'm bringing friends."
2. Inmate Wells informs you that Officer Marks brought in a cell phone and Inmate Wells has called home twice. Inmate Wells is reporting it because Officer Marks said it was time to pay back the favor.

What would you do?

First Responder Duties

Crime Scene Preservation

- Ask the victim to refrain from actions that would destroy evidence
- Ensure that the alleged abuser does not destroy evidence
- Take steps to ensure the victim's comfort while preserving evidence
- Note the locations that may be included in the crime scene
- Note the victim's behavior and affect

First Responder Duties

Crisis Intervention 101: Review

- Make sure you have privacy
- Remember that the purpose is to protect and support the victim until the investigator arrives
- Reiterate or confirm what the victim tells you
- Respond affirmatively and supportively
- Offer clear, simple information about what will happen next
- Be clear about what help you can offer

First Responder Duties

Round Robin Role Plays

- 1) Listen to the victim statement
- 2) Keeping the steps of basic crisis intervention in mind, respond to the victim statement

The facilitator will ask the person next to you to say one thing you did well and one thing you might have added.

For More Information

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

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

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