

NATIONAL  
**PREA**  
RESOURCE  
CENTER

**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.

# Sexual Assault Response Teams

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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

- Understand the basics of responding to sexual abuse, using the Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) model
- Recognize the role of SARTs in compliance with key PREA standards related to victim services
- Understand the role of medical and mental health care in the coordinated response to sexual abuse
- Learn the goals, role, and composition of corrections facility SARTs

# Sexual Assault Response Teams

## A Model, Collaborative Approach

The SART model is an effective way for communities and institutions to respond to sexual abuse.

The model can play a critical role in helping corrections facilities to implement key PREA standards related to victim services.

# Sexual Assault Response Teams

## Benefits of a SART

- Provides support for the PREA Coordinator
- Increases staff comfort with handling allegations
- Is a core component of the facility's coordinated response
- Creates a specialized team of staff members with expertise

# SART: A Coordinated Response Plan

## §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, medical and mental health practitioners, investigators, and facility leadership.

# PREA Standards and Sexual Assault Response Teams

## The SART Protocol Should Include

- How to preserve evidence, §115.21(a)
- Referral of all allegations for investigation, §115.21
- The multiple ways an inmate can report, §115.51
- How inmates can reach out to outside confidential support services, §115.53



# PREA Standards and Sexual Assault Response Teams

## The SART Protocol Should Include

- Immediate steps to take when an inmate is at substantial risk of imminent sexual abuse, §115.62
- The measures to protect inmates and staff against retaliation, §115.67

# Sexual Assault Response Team

## What Is a SART?

A multidisciplinary team that provides

- A coordinated, immediate, trauma-informed response to sexual abuse
- A broad range of necessary services (medical, mental health, legal)

A SART's goals are to enhance the well-being of the victim and improve criminal justice outcomes

# Goals of SART

## Corrections Facility SARTs Can

- Reduce long-term effects of trauma
- Eliminate sexual abuse and sexual harassment
- Ensure compliance with PREA standards

# Typical SART Members

## In the Community

- Sexual Assault or Child Abuse Victim Advocate
- Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE)
- Law Enforcement Officer
- Prosecutor

# Goals of SART

## The Sexual Assault Response Team in Corrections

- Leads implementation of zero tolerance policy
- Improves response to allegations of sexual violence
- Improves the institutional culture among staff and inmates
- Represents a broad range of staff
- Meets regularly

# Typical SART Members

## In Corrections

- PREA Coordinator
- Facility Administrator or Commander
- Classification Supervisor or Officer
- Head of Security
- Internal Affairs or Department Investigator
- Mental Health Staff
- Medical Staff
- Training Officer
- Transportation Officer

# Medical and Mental Health Care

## §115.81 Medical and mental health screenings

- (a) If the screening indicates that a prison inmate has experienced prior sexual victimization, staff shall ensure that the inmate is offered follow up with a medical or mental health practitioner within 14 days
- (b) If the screening indicates that a prison inmate has previously perpetrated sexual abuse, staff shall ensure that the inmate is offered follow up with a mental health practitioner within 14 days

Both (a) and (b) refer to sexual abuse either in an institution or in the community

# Medical and Mental Health Care

## **§115.82 Access to emergency medical and mental health services**

- (a) Inmate victims of sexual abuse shall receive timely, unimpeded access to emergency medical treatment and crisis intervention services
- (b) If no qualified medical or mental health practitioners are on duty at the time of a report of recent abuse is made, first responders will take steps to protect the victim and immediately notify medical and mental health practitioners
- (c) Inmate victims of sexual abuse shall be offered timely information and access to ER contraception and sexual transmitted infection care



# Medical and Mental Health Care

## **§115.83 Ongoing medical and mental health care for sexual abuse victims and abusers**

- (a) The facility shall offer medical and mental health evaluations and treatment to all inmates who have been sexually abused in any prison, jail, lockup, or juvenile facility
- (b) Evaluation and treatment for victims shall include follow up services, treatment plans, and referrals for care following transfer or release
- (c) The facility shall provide victims with medical and mental health services consistent with the community level of care

# Medical and Mental Health Care

## **§115.83 Ongoing medical and mental health care for sexual abuse victims and abusers**

- d) Inmate victims of sexually abusive vaginal penetration while incarcerated shall be offered pregnancy tests
- e) If pregnancy results from such sexual abuse, victims shall receive timely, comprehensive information and all lawful pregnancy-related medical services
- f) Inmate victims of sexual abuse while incarcerated shall receive tests for sexually transmitted infections, as needed

# Medical and Mental Health Care

## **§115.83 Ongoing medical and mental health care for sexual abuse victims and abusers**

- (g) Treatment services shall be provided to the victim at no cost and regardless of whether or not the victim names the abuser or cooperates with any investigation arising out of the incident

# Medical and Mental Health Care

## **§115.83 Ongoing medical and mental health care for sexual abuse victims and abusers**

- (h) All prisons shall attempt to conduct a mental health evaluation of all known inmate-on-inmate abusers within 60 days of learning of such abuse history and offer treatment when deemed appropriate by mental health practitioners

# Medical and Mental Health Care

## §115.83 Ongoing Care and SARTs

A SART protocol can outline

- How victims will be provided with emergency and ongoing care
- The role of medical and mental health staff on the SART and in the response to sexual abuse
- The collaboration between agency medical and mental health staff and outside service providers

# Wrap Up

## The Sexual Assault Response Team in Corrections

- Improves the well-being of the survivor
- Increases likelihood of successful prosecution
- Provides the framework for the coordinated response

# Small Group Exercise

## **Sexual Assault Response Teams in Corrections**

Making a SART work for your facility

# Additional Resources

A National Protocol for Sexual Assault Medical Forensic Examinations Adults/Adolescents, Second Edition:

<https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/ovw/241903.pdf>

Recommendations for Administrators of Prisons, Jails, and Community Confinement Facilities for Adapting the U.S. Department of Justice's A National Protocol for Sexual Assault Medical Forensic Examinations, Adults/Adolescents:

<http://www.ovw.usdoj.gov/docs/confinement-safe-protocol.pdf>

Protocols and Guidelines for Sexual Assault Response Teams (SART), at National Sexual Violence Resource Center:

<http://www.nsvrc.org/projects/sart-protocols>



# For More Information

For more information about the **National PREA Resource Center**, visit [www.prearesourcecenter.org](http://www.prearesourcecenter.org). Direct questions to [info@prearesourcecenter.org](mailto:info@prearesourcecenter.org)

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