

## Creating a Safe Space: PREA and Victim Services in Community Confinement July 18, 2013

## Introduction and Welcome



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



## PREA Resource Center

### National PREA Resource Center (PRC)

PRC was established through a cooperative agreement between the Bureau of Justice Assistance and NCCD. 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.

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. Points of view or opinions in this document are those of the author and do not represent the official position or policies of the United States Department of Justice.



## Today's Moderator

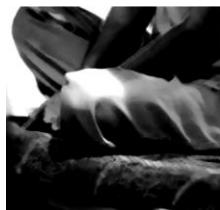


**Carolina Aparicio**  
Communications Officer  
Just Detention International



## Webinar Agenda

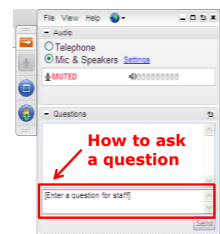
- I. Call to Action
- II. Overview of PREA Victim Services Standards in Community Confinement Facilities
- III. Prevalence and Dynamics of Sexual Abuse in Detention
- IV. Lessons from the Field: Alvis House's PREA Protocol
- V. Survivor Story
- VI. Policy in Action
- VII. Questions and Answers



## Logistics

### Webinar Information

- 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](http://www.prearesourcecenter.org)



## Call to Action



**Ramona Swayne**  
Vice President of Operations and  
PREA Coordinator  
Alvis House, Columbus, Ohio



## Who We Are: Alvis House

### What is Alvis House?

- Human services organization
- **Denise M. Robinson, President/CEO**
- Specializes in Community Corrections programs
- Five Ohio cities (Columbus, Chillicothe, Dayton, Lima, Toledo)
- 23 residential & nonresidential facilities, serving 460 clients daily, approx. 7,000 annually



## Call to Action



Photo by Alvis House



## Call to Action



Photo by Alvis House



## Call to Action



Photo by Alvis House



## Call to Action

### Lesson's Learned

- Para-military vs. therapeutic
- Train, Train, Train!
- Buy-in from top to bottom



Photo by Alvis House



## PREA Standards on Victim Services in Community Confinement Facilities



**Gwyn Smith-Downes**  
Senior Program Director  
Just Detention International



## PREA Standards on Victim Services in Community Confinement Facilities

### PREA-compliant victim services programs include:

- Immediate steps when resident is at substantial risk of imminent sexual abuse (§115.262)
- An institutional coordinated response plan (§115.265)
- Formal agreements with victim advocates & outside confidential support service providers (§115.253)
- Use of uniform evidence protocol that maximizes potential for collecting usable physical evidence (§115.221)\*

\*Based on "A National Protocol for Sexual Assault Medical Forensic Examinations, Adults/Adolescents," <https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/ovw/241903.pdf>.



## PREA Standards on Victim Services in Community Confinement Facilities

### Community Confinement Facilities must offer these services to victimized residents:

Provision of emergency medical and mental health care and forensic evidence collection, as appropriate (§115.221, §115.282, §115.283)

- Preventive measures (§115.282, §115.283)
- Forensic evidence collection (§115.221)
- Accompaniment by victim advocate (§115.221(d))



## PREA Standards on Victim Services in Community Confinement Facilities

### Community confinement facilities must ensure:

- Sexual abuse incident reviews (§115.286)
- Protection of staff & residents from retaliation for reporting sexual abuse and harassment, or cooperating with investigations (§115.627)



## Prevalence, Dynamics, and Impact



**Cynthia Totten, Esq.**  
Senior Program Director  
Just Detention International



## Definitions Related to Sexual Abuse (§115.6)

*Sexual abuse of a resident **by another resident** includes any of the following acts, if the victim **does not consent, is coerced into such act, or is unable to consent or refuse:***

1. Contact between the penis and vulva or penis and anus
2. Contact between mouth and penis, vulva, or anus
3. Penetration
4. Intentional Touching



## Definitions Related to Sexual Abuse (§115.6)

*Sexual abuse of a resident **by a staff member** includes any of the following acts, **with or without consent**:*

1. Contact between the penis and the vulva or the penis and the anus
2. Contact between the mouth and any body part with the intent to abuse, arouse, or gratify sexual desire
3. Penetration
4. Contact intended to abuse, arouse, or gratify sexual desire
5. Display of genitals, buttocks or breasts in presence of inmate
6. Voyeurism

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## Definitions Related to Sexual Abuse (§115.6)

### Sexual Harassment

1. **Repeated and unwelcome** sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, or verbal comments, gestures, or actions of a derogatory or offensive sexual nature **by one resident** directed **toward another**.
2. **Repeated** verbal comments or gestures of a sexual nature to a resident **by a staff member, contractor, or volunteer**, including demeaning references to gender, sexually suggestive or derogatory comments about body or clothing, or obscene language or gestures.

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## Prevalence of Sexual Abuse of Prison and Jail Inmates



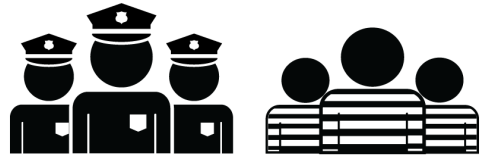
Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Sexual Victimization Reported by Former State Prisoners*, 2008 (May 2012). (Approximately 9.6% of former state prisoners reported one or more incidents of sexual abuse during the most recent period of incarceration in a jail or prison.)

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## Prevalence of Sexual Abuse of Prison and Jail Inmates

STUDY SHOWS NEARLY EQUIVALENT RATES  
OF ABUSE BY STAFF AND OTHER INMATES



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Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Sexual Victimization in Prisons and Jails Reported by Inmates*, 2011-12 (May 2013).

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## Prevalence of Sexual Abuse of Prison and Jail Inmates



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Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Sexual Victimization in Prisons and Jails Reported by Inmates*, 2008-09 (August 2010).

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## Incidence of Sexual Abuse in Community-Based Facilities



A yard at Albert M. Bo Robinson Halfway House/ Treatment Center in Trenton, New Jersey.  
Data source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Sexual Victimization Reported by Former State Prisoners*, 2008 (May 2012)

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## Incidence of Sexual Abuse in Community-Based Facilities



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## Vulnerable Inmates

**What groups are most likely to be targeted for sexual abuse?**

*Please submit your answers in the questions box.*

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## Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Inmates



Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Sexual Victimization In Prisons And Jails Reported By Inmates, 2011-12* (May 2013).

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## Inmates with Mental Illness

**RATES OF MENTAL ILLNESS**  
are substantially higher in jails and prisons than in the community



In federal and state prisons, inmates with serious psychological distress are **9X MORE LIKELY** to be sexually abused by another inmate than those with no indication of mental illness.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Sexual Victimization In Prisons And Jails Reported By Inmates, 2011-12* (May 2013).

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## PREA Protocol & Client Care: Alvis House



**Susan Dalton-Miller, LICSW**  
Clinical Trainer  
Alvis House



**Ramona Swayne**  
Vice President of Operations  
and PREA Coordinator  
Alvis House

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## Protocol Design: Alvis House

- PREA is Not PREA
- Pave a Road; Don't build a Tower
- Policies & Procedures + Help

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## Alvis House PREA Teams

### CAT (Client Assistance Team)

- Clinical Staff
- Responds to other types of Crises
- Oversight of cognitive-based client programming



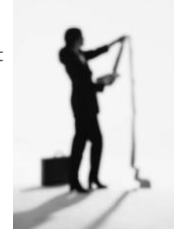
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## Alvis House PREA Teams

### SART (Sexual Abuse Response Team)

- Incident Review
- Document Management
- Policy Review



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## Client Care: Alvis House

### ASSESSMENT



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## Common Reactions to Sexual Abuse

- Physical: sudden sweating, pain, nausea, headaches, change in sleep
- Behavioral: panic attacks, eating disorders, self-mutilation, exaggerated feelings, increased violence and aggression

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## Effects of Sexual Abuse

- Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)
- Rape Trauma Syndrome (RTS)
- Anxiety / Depression
- Suicidal Tendencies
- Contract HIV / AIDS, TB, Hepatitis B and C

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## Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)

- Avoidance (voluntarily forgets, restricts activities, substance use)
- Arousal (startle reflex, irritability, sleep disturbance)
- Intrusion (flashbacks, nightmares, re-enact trauma)
- Chronic anxiety, depression
- Intense helplessness or fear

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## Environmental Triggers of PTSD

- Loud noises and bright lights
- Yelling and emotional outbursts
- Loss of control
- Threat of physical/sexual harm
- Lack of personal space



## Rape Trauma Syndrome (RTS)

- Form of PTSD found by studying rape victims
- Symptoms during the Acute Phase can include:
  - numbness, vomiting, paralyzing anxiety, obsession to clean self, bewilderment, diminished alertness, acute sensitivity to other's reactions, disorganized thought content



## Rape Trauma Syndrome (RTS)

- Longer term, possible RTS reactions include:
  - Minimization, dramatization, or suppression, or flight (move away from city or change identity)
- Symptoms: startle response, persistent fears (phobias), depression, mood swings, extreme anger and hostility, sleep disturbance (nightmares), flashbacks, panic attacks, drug and alcohol abuse



## Rape Trauma Syndrome (RTS)

- Personal security is damaged, hesitant to enter new relationships
- Question sexual identity or sexual orientation (most typical in men); sexual relationships are disturbed
- Views world as a threatening place



## Client Care: Alvis House

### Referrals

Community-based resources



## Survivor Account: Michael



## Policy in Practice: Staff First Responder Duties

**A written institutional response plan is key to responding to incidents of sexual abuse.**

### First Responder Duties (§115.264):

1. Immediately separate victim from suspect(s)
2. Preserve the crime scene
3. Request victim not take any action that could destroy evidence
4. Disclose information on “need-to-know” basis



## Policy in Practice: Access to Emergency Medical and Mental Health Services

- Access to ER medical care and crisis intervention services (§115.282)
- Victim not required to cooperate in investigation or name the perpetrator(s) (§115.282)
- Care is free of charge (§115.282)
- Access to victim advocate (§115.221)



## Policy in Practice: At the Hospital

- Forensic evidence collection (§115.221)
- Investigatory interviews (§115.221) with an advocate present
- Treatment of injuries (§115.282)
- HIV and STI care (§115.282)
- Crisis counseling (§115.282)

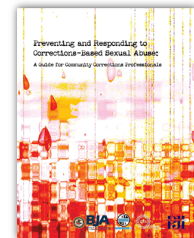


Photo: JB Clark/NEMS Daily Journal



## Tools and Resources

Preventing and Responding to Corrections-Based Sexual Abuse: A Guide for Community Corrections Professionals  
(<http://www.appa-net.org/eweb/docs/APPA/pubs/PRCBSA.pdf>)



## Available Resources

### Where can I get help?

- National PREA Resource Center ([www.prearesourcecenter.org](http://www.prearesourcecenter.org))
- International Community Confinement Association (<http://www.iccalive.org/icca/>)
- American Probation and Parole Association (<http://www.appa-net.org/eweb/>)
- Alvis House (<http://www.alvishouse.org/prea.html>)
  - Ramona Swayne: [ramona.swayne@alvishouse.org](mailto:ramona.swayne@alvishouse.org)
  - Susan Dalton-Miller: [susan.dalton-miller@alvishouse.org](mailto:susan.dalton-miller@alvishouse.org)
- Just Detention International ([www.justdetention.org](http://www.justdetention.org))



## Questions and Answers





## 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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For more information about **Just Detention International**, visit [www.justdetention.org](http://www.justdetention.org). Direct questions to [info@justdetention.org](mailto:info@justdetention.org).

Connect with JDI:

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[www.twitter.com/justdetention](https://www.twitter.com/justdetention)



## Thank you for joining us today!

### Evaluation

We would like to ask you to please complete a brief evaluation. Your feedback is extremely important to us.

Here is a link to the evaluation. We will also email it to you shortly.

<http://www.justdetention.org/en/creating-a-safe-space-evaluation.aspx>

Please forward it to others who may have joined you.

**THANK YOU!**

