



# Implementing Victim Services in Immigration Detention Facilities

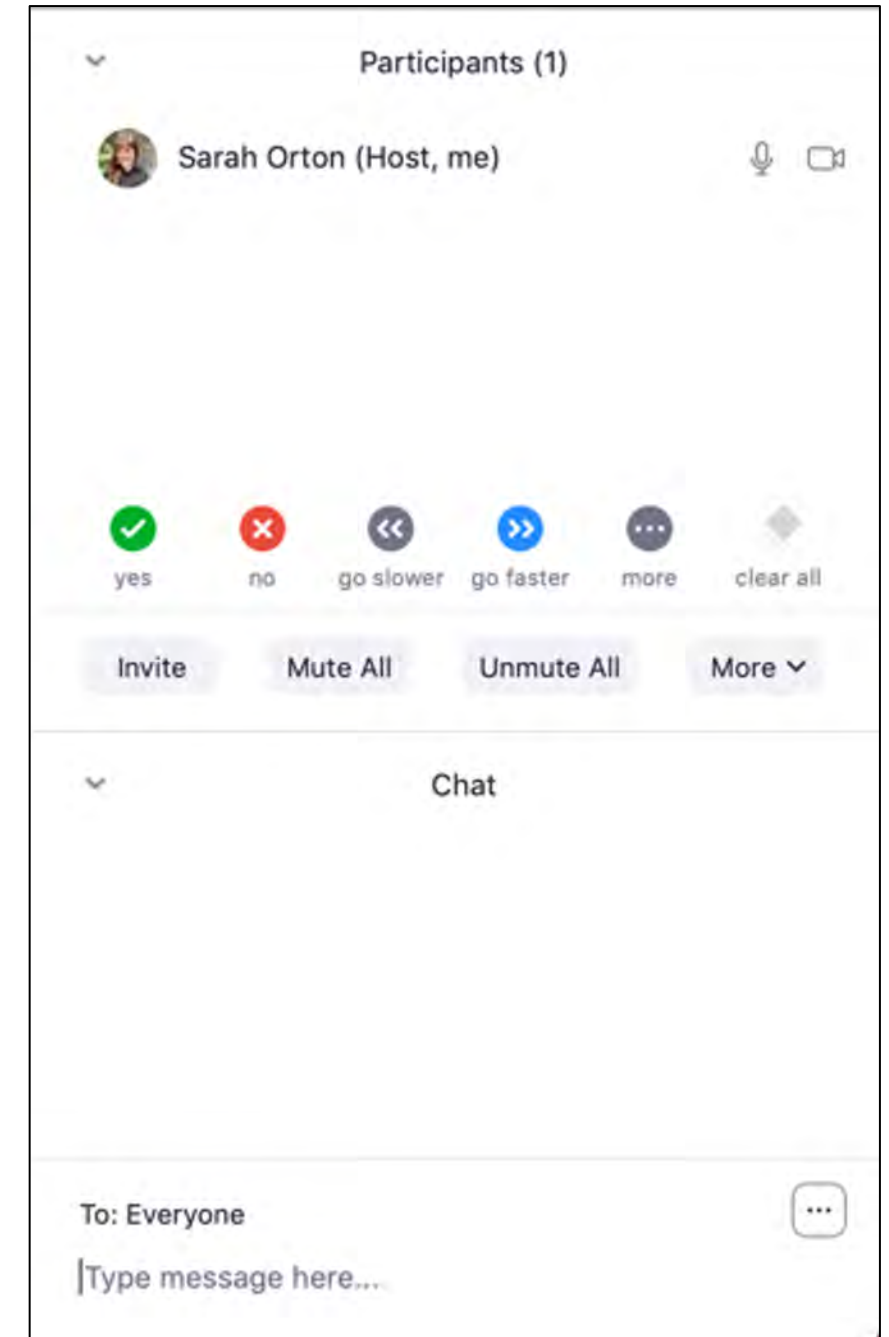
**CALCASA**  
CALIFORNIA COALITION  
AGAINST SEXUAL ASSAULT



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# How to Use Zoom

- Text chat
- PowerPoint Slides
- Polling Questions
- Phone
- Closed Captioning
- Web Conference Guidelines (hand raising)



# MEET THE CALCASA TEAM



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# ON THIS WEB CONFERENCE



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# Building Refuge for Detainees through Governance and Engagement

This project offers training and technical assistance to CA rape crisis centers with immigration detention facilities in their service area

- Build and maintain relationships with Immigration Detention staff
- Create sustainable agreements and protocols for the provision of victim services to survivors

# Learning Objectives:

- Generate an understanding of immigration detention in the United States
- Form an understanding of how sexual abuse and harassment manifests in immigration detention
- Establish an understanding of the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) in immigration detention
- Develop tools for building relationships with facility staff for the provision of victim services

# Self Care





# Overview of Immigration Detention in the U.S.



# Growth of Detention: Fiscal Years 1979 - 2019

The number of people held on an average day by ICE and its predecessor, the Immigration and Naturalization Service, has grown more than twentyfold since 1979.

**2019**

Average daily population

**49,403**



Detained annually

**486,190**



Average days in detention

**33**



Source: INS, ICE. Note: Some categories were unavailable from 1997 through 2000. Fiscal year 2019 figures current as of Sept. 10.

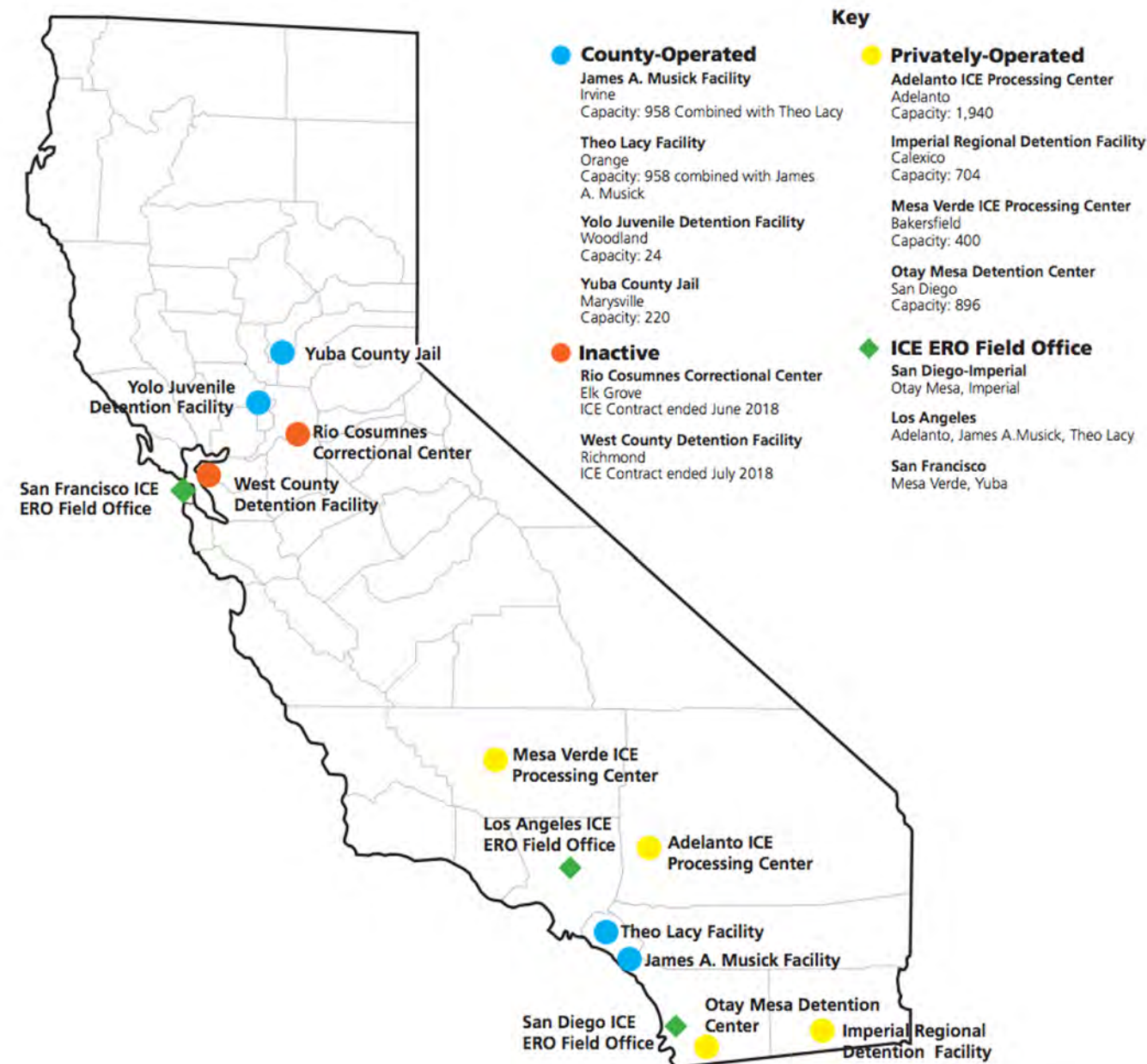
Source: *How the United States Created the Largest Immigrant detention System in the World*, The Marshall Project and the Guardian

# Audience Poll

The poll question will  
appear on your zoom  
window

Are you aware of any  
immigration detention  
facilities in your service  
area?

# Map of Immigration Detention Facilities in California



Source: *The California Department of Justice's Review of Immigration Detention in California, 2019*



# Detention vs. Incarceration



# Immigration Detention Conditions

- Restrictions on movement
- Language and cultural barriers
- Issues with access to medical and mental healthcare
- Obstacles to contacting family and other support systems



Source: *LAtimes.com*

Source: *The California Department of Justice's Review of Immigration Detention in California, 2019*



# Role of Deportation Officers

- Control over detention, immigration status, and deportation
- Provide people in detention with information related to their immigration cases
- Note: Corrections staff do not play a role in the prosecution or sentencing of a criminal defendant



# Who is in Immigration Detention?

- About 90% men and 10% women
- Average age: 33 years old
- Asylum Seekers
- Non-citizens in removal proceedings



Source: *Desafíos del tren llamado "La Bestia"*

# Ten Most Represented Countries of Origin in all California Facilities

Country	No. of Detainees	Percentage
Mexico	28,944	38.68%
India	9,118	12.19%
Guatemala	5,023	6.71%
Honduras	3,814	5.10%
El Salvador	3,500	4.68%
China	2,575	3.44%
Haiti	2,371	3.17%
Nepal	728	0.97%
Armenia	644	0.86%
Cameroon	631	0.84%
Other Countries	14,471	19.34%
Not Provided	3,003	4.01%
TOTAL	74,822	100.00%

Source: *The California Department of Justice's Review of Immigration Detention in California, 2019*



# Sexual Abuse in Immigration Detention



# Survivor Story

"A lot of girls here had problems like this. Most of them don't even end up complaining or saying anything about it because they're scared of retaliation."

-- Rosanna Santos



Source: *Freedom for Immigrants,  
Widespread Sexual Assault*

# Text Chat Question

What words of affirmation  
would you share with survivors  
like Rosanna?



# Dynamics of Sexual Abuse in Detention

- Sexual abuse in detention often mirrors abuse experienced in home countries or in U.S.
  - Sexual abuse during migration
  - Gang rape
  - Verbal abuse/harassment
- The code of silence



Source: *Travelers mull safety amid Arizona-Mexico border violence*, abcnews

# Unsafe Housing Assignments

- LGBT Detainees often experience abusive use of solitary confinement
- Survivors of sexual and domestic violence can be re-traumatized and re-victimized



Source: [WINDY CITY TIMES](#), *Trans, Queer Immigrants Demand ICE Release LGBTQ Detainees*

# Barriers to Reporting Sexual Abuse

- Fear of authority, retaliation, and deportation
- Short period of stay at the facility
- Constant movement between facilities
- Lack of access to legal counsel  
(American Immigration Council study, 2016)



Source: *How to Report Sexual Abuse: 13 Steps*, WikiHow

# Challenges to Healing and Recovery in Detention

- Little control over their immediate environment
- Lack of autonomy and privacy
- Isolated from friends and family
- Ongoing contact with abuser



# Audience Poll

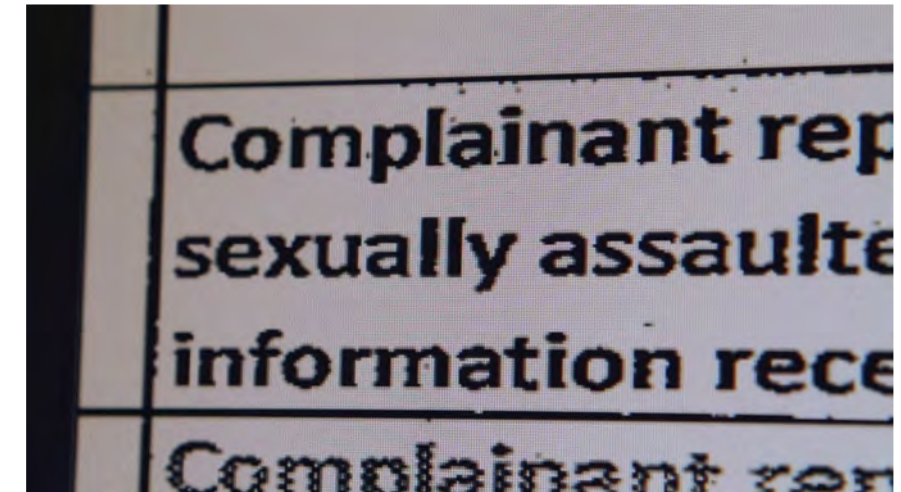
The poll question will  
appear on your zoom  
window

Who do detained survivors  
most often report sexual  
abuse to?



# Who do survivors normally report sexual abuse to?

"The data suggests that alleged victims tend to self-report to various third parties after leaving CBP custody, such as health care professionals, non-governmental organizations, and other agencies."



Source: *How Much Sexual Abuse Gets "Lost in Detention"?*, PBS.org

Source: *Annual Report Assessing CBP Efforts to prevent, detect, and respond to sexual abuse in holding facilities, 2017*



# Partnering with Immigration Detention Facilities



# Why Partner with Immigration Detention Facilities?

- There are survivor of sexual abuse in immigration detention facilities that would benefit from crisis intervention and advocacy
- Advocates are experts in providing trauma-informed care to survivors



# Text Chat question

Please share why you think  
it's important for rape  
crisis centers to partner  
with immigration  
detention facilities?

# Project Goals

Enter into operation MOUs with your local immigration detention facility, which include:

- forensic exam accompaniment
- toll-free, non-monitored, non-recorded, confidential calls
- confidential written correspondence
- confidential in-person services

# Build Relationships

- Familiarize yourself with staff and facility culture
- Frame your services as supporting the facility's goals of safety and security, as well as necessary for PREA compliance
- Identify your allies among immigration detention staff, and maintain contact

The California Department of Justice's  
Review of

Immigration Detention  
in California

February 2019



Xavier Becerra  
California Attorney General

# Maintain Relationships

- Keep in constant contact when possible
- Create opportunities for informal TA and training
- Strong partnerships facilitate even stronger services for survivors



Image source: *Los Angeles Times*



# Know Your Facility

- Request a tour for 1-2 advocates at your agency
- Invite your agency's E.D. or CEO to attend the initial tour
- Invite recently-hired advocates, or advocates just beginning to provide services to clients in detention



Image source: *Jay Calderon, for USA Today*

# What to See

- Housing units
- Administrative segregation
- Intake area
- Private locations for in-person services
- Medical/mental health areas
- PREA postings including those which provide your agency info
- Detainee telephone areas



Image Source: *US Awards Immigration Detention Contracts in California*, VOA NEWS

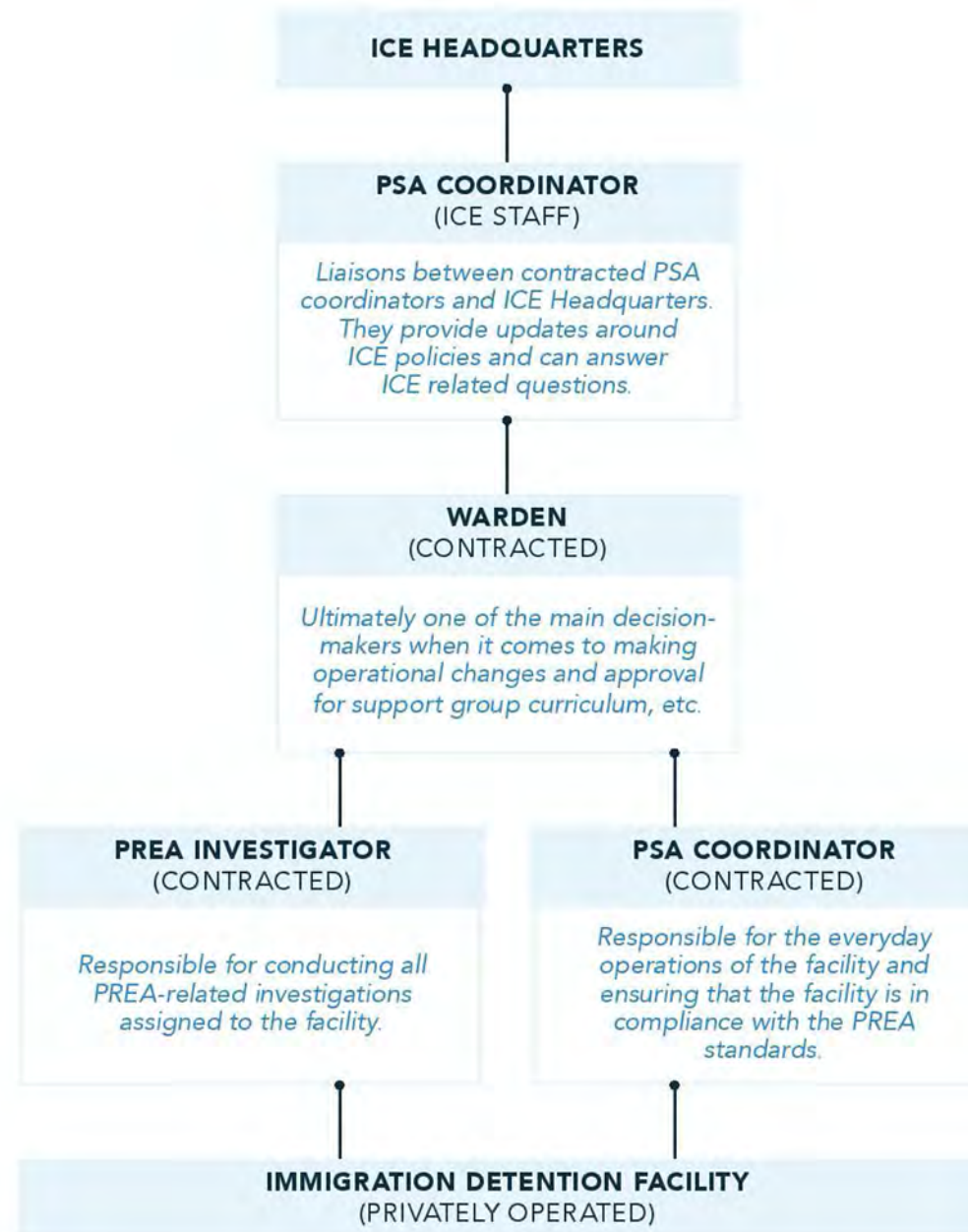
# Who to Meet

- PSA coordinator
- PREA investigator
- Mental health staff
- Medical staff
- Warden



Image source: *Reuters*

## PREA Chain of Command at Privately Operated Immigration Detention Facilities



# What to Ask

- Who are my points of contact while I am in the facility?
- Is there a space where I can meet with survivors in private?
- What do I need to know about facility safety procedures while inside?
- What programming is offered here, and how do they access it?
- Can we make a test phone call to my agency from the detainee phones?
- When can we schedule a follow-up/implementation meeting?



# PREA Standards in Immigration Detention



# Audience Poll

The poll question will  
appear on your zoom  
window

Who must be in  
compliance with the PREA  
standards?

# PREA Standards Checklist

- Keep people safe
- Protect survivors from abusers
- Provide multiple ways to report
- Offer medical and mental healthcare
- Increase accountability
- Provide survivors of sexual abuse access to victim services



# Access to Medical and Mental Health Care

- Free medical and mental health care
- A medical forensic exam, when appropriate
- Prophylactic medication to prevent pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections
- Ongoing medical care and mental health treatment



# Access to Victim Services

- Forensic exam and accompaniment
- Accompaniment at investigatory interviews
- Confidential follow-up services via phone or letter
- Equal opportunity and meaningful access





# Differences in Standards: Immigration vs. Prisons and Jails

- Voyeurism is explicitly stated as a form of sexual harassment and prohibited
- Cross gender pat downs and searches are prohibited, except in exigent circumstances
- Staff are required to be trained on appropriate ways to interact with LGBTI folks

# Audience Poll

The poll question will  
appear on your zoom  
window

Do the PREA standards  
cover abuse that  
happened prior to being  
detained in an immigration  
detention facility?

# Audience Poll

The poll question will  
appear on your zoom  
window

**Do advocates have to  
report abuse to facility  
officials?**

# Key Take Aways

- Survivors of sexual abuse and harassment are held in immigration detention facilities
- Facilities are over-crowded, re-traumatizing, and under-resourced
- Rape crisis centers have the skills and experience to provide trauma-informed victim services
- Survivors depend on a strong relationship between RCCs and IDFs for access to services

# Resources

- Freedom for Immigrants
- Just Detention International
- PREA Resource Center



NATIONAL  
**PREA**  
RESOURCE  
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