

WELCOME

We'll begin shortly.

While you are waiting, please mute your sound.

CA Advancing PREA Office Hours: PREA Audits as an Advocacy Tool

Tuesday, March 14, 2023
1:00-2:00pm PST



Introductions



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ValorUS



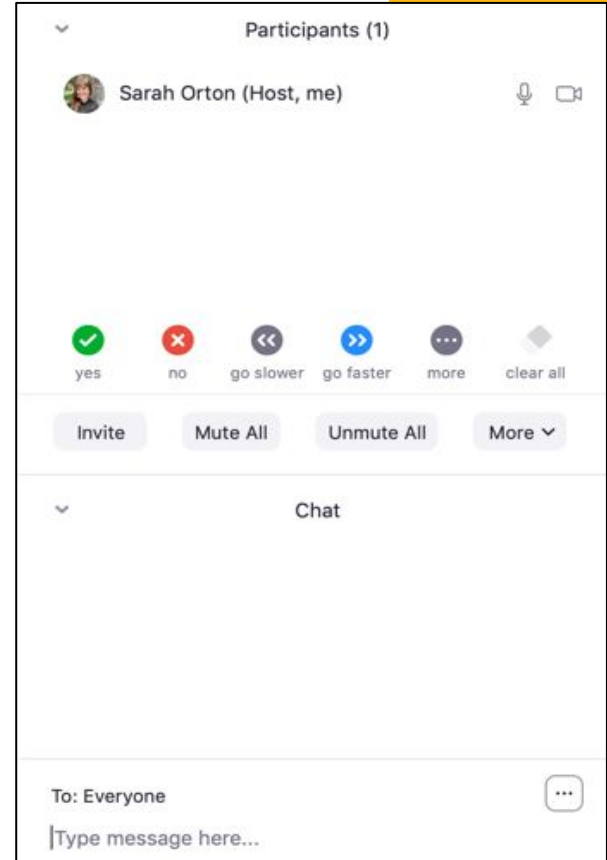
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ValorUS



JESSICA SERRANO SEIPEL
(She/Her/Hers)
Senior Program Director
Just Detention International

How to Use Zoom

- Text chat
- PowerPoint
- Slides
- Phone



ValorUS' Mission

ValorUS is committed to preventing and ending sexual violence by advancing equity and eradicating oppression.



CA Advancing PREA Overview

- Build strong relationships between CA state prison/ county jail staff and rape crisis advocates
- Create sustainable agreements and protocols for the provision of victim services to survivors



Cal OES
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE
OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

JDI's Mission

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



JUST DETENTION
INTERNATIONAL

RAPE IS NOT PART OF THE PENALTY

JDI's Core Principle

No matter what crime a person may have committed, rape is not part of the penalty.



Session Objectives



- Understand the PREA audit process and requirements
- Identify ways that advocates can become part of the audit process, including addressing challenges
- Identify resources available to learn more about PREA audits

PREA Audit Basics

- PREA compliance requires PREA audits
- Passing a PREA audit means complying with every single PREA standard and all substandards



Who is in charge of PREA?

PREA Management Office (PMO)

- Under the Department of Justice at the federal level
- Responsible for:
 - PREA audit/auditor oversight
 - Governor assurances
 - Decision-making

PREA Resource Center (PRC)

- Hosted by non-profit Impact Justice
- Serves as an information hub for all things PREA
- Responsible for:
 - Training and support for corrections and auditors
 - Implementing PMO directives

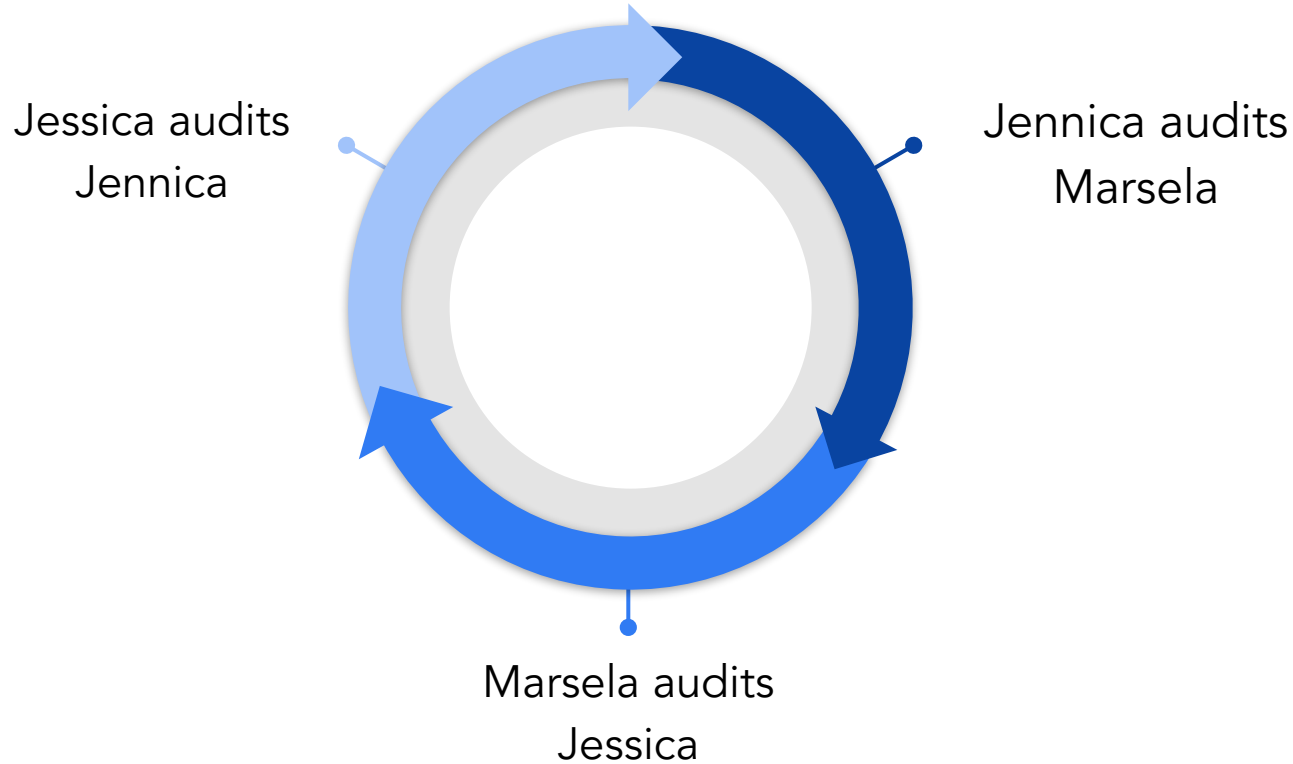
PREA Auditors

- Trained and certified by the Department of Justice via the PREA Resource Center
- Responsible for:
 - Independent, objective, and credible evaluation of PREA Compliance
 - Maintaining active certification

Who are PREA Auditors?

- Typically, but not exclusively, current or former corrections officials
- Trained and certified by Department of Justice
- Cannot receive financial compensation from agency being audited three years before or after audit

PREA Audit Consortia



How do audits get started?

- Audits are initiated by facility or agency
- Facility can contact an auditor or use an auditing company
- PREA Management Office must approve audit



Communication with Auditors

- Incarcerated people “shall be permitted to send confidential information or correspondence to the auditor in the same manner as if they were communicating with legal counsel.” Standard 115.401(n)
- “Auditors shall attempt to communicate with community-based or victim advocates who may have insight into relevant conditions in the facility.” Standard 115.401(o)

PREA Audit Phases

Pre-Onsite

Facility must:

- Post notice of upcoming audit 6 weeks prior
- Complete a pre-audit questionnaire

Auditor must:

- Connect with advocacy organization
- Complete initial review of pre-audit questionnaire

Onsite

Facility must:

- Allow auditor full access to all areas of the facility
- Allow auditor to interview staff and incarcerated people

Auditor must:

- Interview staff and incarcerated people
- Test hotline phones

Post-Onsite

Facility must:

- Provide all requested information to auditor
- Comply with corrective action as needed

Auditor must:

- Do a final review of all evidence
- Write a final PREA audit report

PREA and Legal Remedies

- PREA is not a criminal law
- Agencies cannot be sued for non-compliance alone
- Non-compliance can support claims of constitutional or other legal violations



PREA Audit Oversight

- Auditor feedback form
- Audit report reviews
- Auditor decertification
- Limited structural oversight for local corrections



How Advocates Can Get Involved

- Helping with mock audits
- In person and follow up support for survivors and interviewees
- Auditor feedback



Photo credit: JDI Survivor Art

How do you find info about an audit or auditor?

Agency / Facility Name **Auditor Name**

Enter an agency or facility name to search Enter an auditor name to search

Facility Type **Jurisdiction**

Audits for county and other local facilities may be found by searching by the state in which the jurisdiction is located.

Onsite Start Date **Onsite End Date**

MM/DD/YYYY MM/DD/YYYY

Sort by

Auditor search

Type of certification

Adult facilities
 Juvenile facilities

Certification status

Certified ⓘ
 Inactive ⓘ
 No longer certified ⓘ
 Decertified ⓘ

Search by city **Or by state**

Keyword search **Auditors per page**

QUESTIONS?



Additional Resources

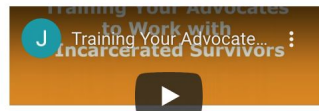
- ValorUS
valor.us
- Just Detention International
justdetention.org
- PREA Resource Center
prearesourcecenter.org

CA Advancing PREA: Resources for California Advocates

CALIFORNIA ADVANCING PREA: RESOURCES FOR CALIFORNIA ADVOCATES

The below resources were developed by Just Detention International and ValorUS to support California advocates.

Training Your Advocates to Work with Incarcerated Survivors



September 24, 2019
CA Advancing PREA Webconference



This webinar introduces a PowerPoint presentation and facilitators guide to RCC staff who will train volunteers and advocates at their agency about how to best serve survivors of sexual abuse and sexual harassment who are incarcerated.