

WELCOME

We'll begin shortly.

While you are waiting, please mute your sound.

CA Advancing PREA Office Hours: Systems Advocacy in Detention Settings

Tuesday, May 23, 2023
1:00-2:00pm PST



Introductions



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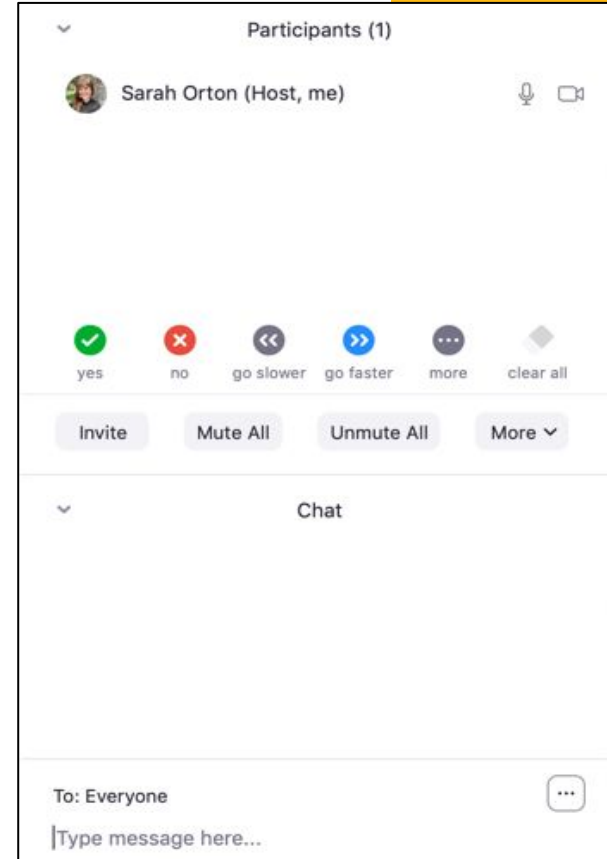
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How to Use Zoom

- Text chat
- PowerPoint
- Slides
- Phone



ValorUS' Mission

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



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

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

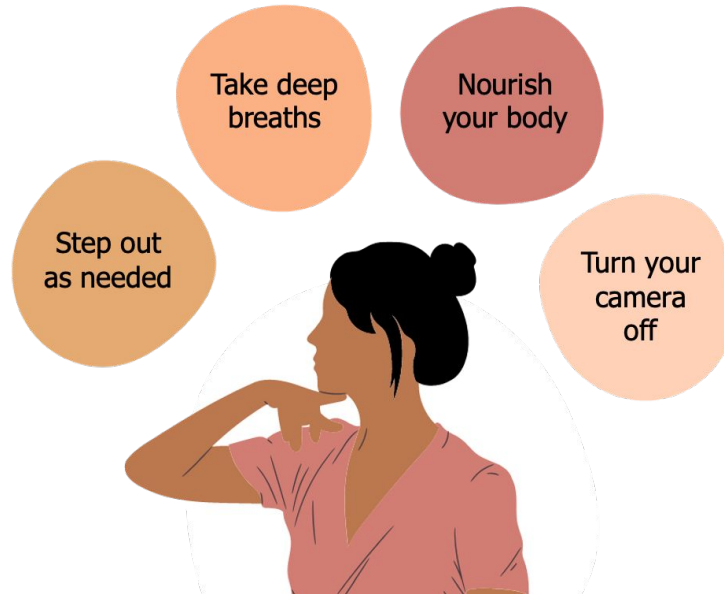
Session Objectives



- Define systems and individual advocacy in detention settings
- Provide strategies for building successful and sustainable relationships with corrections
- Consider key patterns and common scenarios when building relationships with detention staff and advocating for incarcerated survivors

Practice Self Care

GIVE YOURSELF
PERMISSION TO



Defining Systems and Individual Advocacy In Detention Settings



Individual Advocacy	Systems Advocacy
Often short-term	Long-term, longer process
Focuses on one client	May impact many people
Usually front line staff to front line staff	May involve people higher up at agency or facility
<p>Examples:</p> <p>Helping clients with housing issues, getting clients proper gender search cards, filling out paperwork with clients</p>	<p>Examples:</p> <p>Addressing issues related to confidential mail policies; strengthening SART model/audits</p>

Identifying Your Team

- PREA coordinator and/or PREA compliance manager, leadership staff, medical and mental health staff
- RCC directors, SART coordinators/managers, victim advocates
- CA Advancing PREA partners (ValorUS and JDI)



Picture credit: JDI Survivor Artwork

Considerations

- This can be confusing!
- Remember your core goal: serve and support incarcerated survivors
- Caring for yourself is not self-indulgent
- Prepare to witness additional suffering

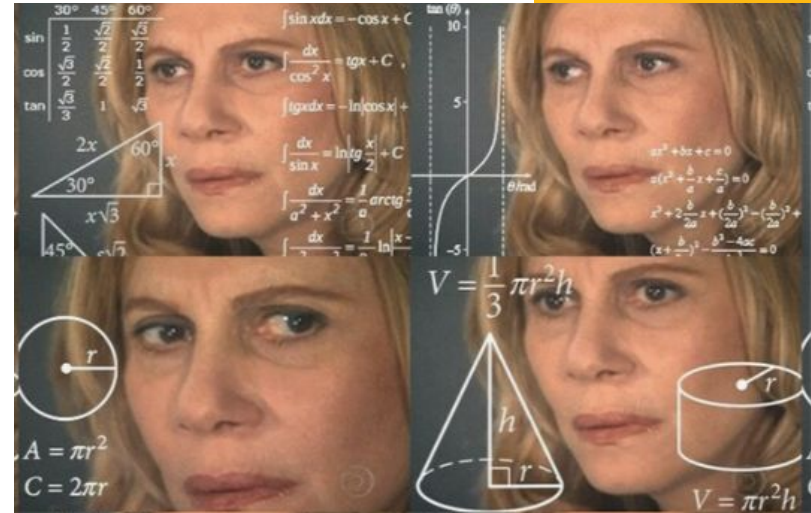
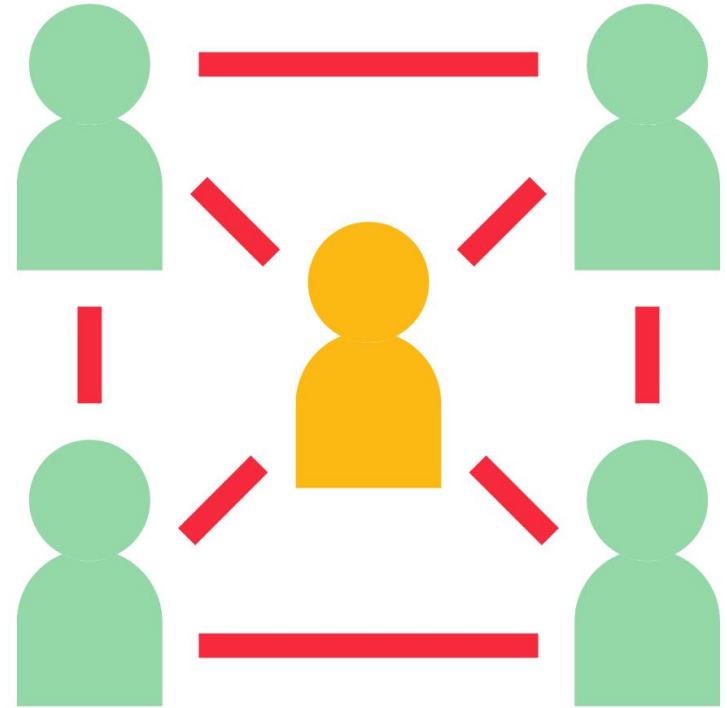


Photo description:: Meme of Brazilian actress Renata Sorrah playing Nazaré Tedesco in a scene from the telenovela, Senhora do Destino

Strategies for Building Successful and Sustainable Relationships with Corrections



Tips for Outreach

- Begin outreach via phone or email
- Document your attempts
- Use concise and direct communication style until rapport is established
- Remember: Your agency is in a unique position to help facilities be PREA-Compliant

Initial Discussions

- Learn each stakeholder's role and responsibilities within their agency
- Scheduling a meeting to explore the facility
- Cultivate a shared goal of eliminating sexual abuse in detention

WHAT TO BRING
State-issued identification
Clothing that meets visitor dress code
Comfortable walking shoes
Notebook
Business cards
Outreach materials describing your services

WHAT TO SEE
Housing units
Administrative segregations
Intake area
Private locations for in-person services
Medical and mental health areas
Locations of rape crisis center posters
Phone areas

WHO TO MEET
PREA Compliance Manager (PCM)
Investigative Services Unit (ISU) Lieutenant
Mental health staff
Medical staff
Community Resources Manager (CRM)
Incarcerated Person Advisory Council

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 to incarcerated people here, and how do they access it?

Roll-through checklist

Good Rapport Opens Doors

- Strategic communication
- Create opportunities to provide informal TA and training
- Appealing to corrections goals of safety and compliance



Picture credit: California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation

Balancing your goals and their comfort zones – sometimes

- Starting slow if necessary
- Recognizing hesitation
- Celebrating their efforts
- Have a plan, but hold it lightly



Sustainability and Self Care

- Honoring your values as an advocate
- Guilt when working within oppressive systems
- Being triggered is natural
- Entering/Leaving the facility itself
- Advocating internally for yourself
- Allowing yourself to feel

Key Patterns and Common Scenarios



Scenario #1:

You find out a report was made two days ago and staff did not reach out to you to support the survivor. When you ask why, the staff says that “It wasn’t a real PREA case, the guy was definitely lying. Plus I know you’re super busy.”

Scenario #2:

As you enter the facility, you and a correctional officer joke about last night's basketball game. When you meet with your client, they share that they feel uncomfortable sharing with you because you seem too friendly with staff at the facility. They worry that you will let staff know about their situation.

Scenario #3:

In their letters to you, a few survivors write that the facility is opening and reading your letters to them. They worry about the staff knowing about their abuse and retaliating against them.

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



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.

CDCR Facilities	County Jails
Challenges	Challenges
Red tape and bureaucracy; may require staff with different degrees of expertise	Understaffed, may be more relationship-dependent
Leverages	Leverages
MOU, audits, your expertise	Time, staff, your expertise

Highlighting Your Services

- Providing access to your services helps
detention facilities
pass audits
- The services you offer will ultimately make the jobs of those working in the prison easier



Max Oppenheim/Getty Images

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 staff, or staff just beginning to provide services to clients in detention
- Meet with both staff *and* incarcerated folks

Next Steps

- Establish regular meetings or methods of communication (can be in-person or remote)

Conference Calls

Teleconference

- Draft MOU (or familiarize yourself with MOU already in place)
- Plan for cross-training
- Bring the forensic exam sites into the conversation

Correctional Staff often use the following terms	RCC staff often use the following terms
Offender or inmate	Incarcerated survivor, victim, or client
Alleged assault	Assault
Report	Support
Safety and Security	Healing and recovery
Mandated reporter	Confidential advocate