

## Strengthening Victims Services Partnerships

Connecticut Alliance to End Sexual Violence

February 23, 2022



JUST DETENTION  
CONNECTICUT ALLIANCE TO END SEXUAL VIOLENCE

IMPACT JUSTICE

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### PRC Mission

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.

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### Logistics

#### Mute

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**Logistics**

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**Logistics**

**Submitting questions**

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**Agenda** **Strengthening Victim Services Partnerships**

- Welcome & Introductions
- Corrections Culture
- The CT Department of Corrections MOU
- Laying the Groundwork
- Connecting with Corrections
- Problem Solving
- Planning for the Future
- Q and A

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### Training Series

- December 15<sup>th</sup> – PREA 101 (recording available)
- January 19<sup>th</sup> – Providing Services to Incarcerated Survivors
- January 28<sup>th</sup> – Coaching Session with JDI #1
- **February 23<sup>rd</sup> – Strengthening Victim Services Partnerships**
- February 25<sup>th</sup> – Coaching Sessions with JDI #2
- March 25<sup>th</sup> – Coaching Sessions with JDI #3




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### Nicole de la Torre

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### Matthew Van Winkle

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 Just Detention International  
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### JDI's Mission

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



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### JDI's Mission

JDI carries out its mission by:

- Working with corrections officials, rape crisis advocates, and policymakers to make detention facilities safe
- Promoting public attitudes that value the dignity and safety of people in detention
- Supporting incarcerated survivors of sexual abuse and sexual harassment



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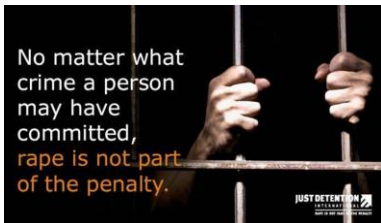
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### JDI's Core Principle



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Self Care



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Corrections Culture

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Share your thoughts

- When you think about "corrections culture" what comes to your mind?

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**Share your thoughts**

- When you think about "corrections culture" what comes to your mind?
- When you think about the culture that exists at rape crisis centers and among advocates, what comes to your mind?




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**Corrections' Role**

- Enforce rules to maintain safety and security
- Supervise activities of people in custody
- Respond to emergencies
- Report and investigate misconduct of staff/people in custody
- Aid in rehabilitation and counseling of people in custody



California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation




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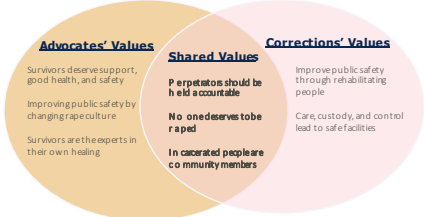
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**Core Values**



**Advocates' Values**  
Survivors deserve support, good health, and safety  
Improving public safety by changing rape culture  
Survivors are the experts in their own healing

**Shared Values**  
Perpetrators should be held accountable  
No one deserves to be raped  
In incarcerated people are community members

**Corrections' Values**  
Improve public safety through rehabilitating people  
Care, custody, and control lead to safe facilities




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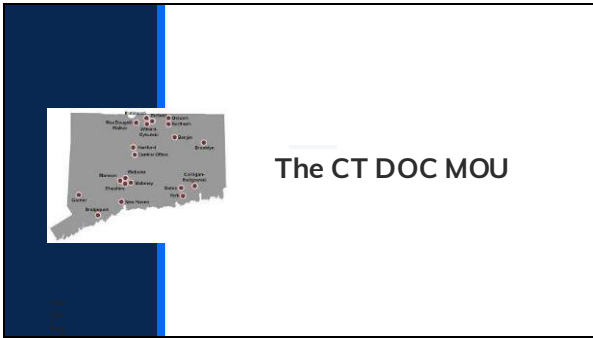
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The CT DOC MOU

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### Quick Refresher: PREA Standards

- ✓ Keep people safe
- ✓ Protect survivors from abusers
- ✓ Provide multiple ways to report
- ✓ Offer medical and mental health care
- ✓ Increase accountability
- ✓ Provide survivors access to victim services



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### Types of PREA Defined Advocacy Services

- Provide forensic exam and investigatory interview accompaniment
- Receive hotline calls from incarcerated survivors
- Provide incarcerated survivors with confidential written correspondence

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### The CT DOC MOU at a Glance

- Established in 2014, with no term end
- Original text included access to RCC hotlines, but this was removed via amendment in 2015
- Lays out that CT DOC will notify CTSAEV for accompaniment when survivors are transported to a forensic exam
- Recognizes the confidential nature of communication between an advocate and a survivor, per CGS 52-146k
- Establishes that CT DOC will allow RCC advocates to provide in-person services at facilities




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### The CT DOC MOU at a Glance

- Established in 2014, with no term end
- **What's your feedback on the current CT DOC MOU?**
- **How is it working in terms of providing services for survivors in CT DOC?**
- **Do you have concerns about confidentiality?**
- **Are there things you would like to change about the current CT DOC MOU?**

provide in-person services at facilities




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### PREA and Youth Facilities

- Same PREA standards regarding access to rape crisis center services
- Same confidentiality standards as in the community



Photo credit: Peter Lindberg/50r




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**Laying the Groundwork**

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**Preparing to Partner with Your Local Prison, Jail, or Youth Facility**

**Assess agency capacity**

- What services does your RCC already provide to incarcerated survivors?
- What additional services can your RCC provide to incarcerated survivors?
- Are your intake forms appropriate to capture information that might be needed from incarcerated survivors?




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**Preparing to Partner with Your Local Prison, Jail, or Youth Facility**

**Bridge knowledge gaps**

- What training will be needed for your staff to serve incarcerated survivors?
- Create space to openly discuss serving incarcerated survivors
- Listen to your staff's concerns

**Identify the team**

- Which staff will provide services to incarcerated survivors?




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**Preparing to Partner with Your Local Prison, Jail, or Youth Facility**

**Information is power:**

- Learn about the PREA Standards and incarcerated survivors' rights
- Understand the PREA compliance requirements to partner with victim advocates
- Identify the corrections facilities in your service area
- Identify the key people to work at each facility



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**Preparing to Partner with Your Local Prison, Jail, or Youth Facility**

**Know your roles and responsibilities:**

- Define your role as an advocate working with incarcerated survivors
- Define your goals for collaboration with the corrections facility
- Anticipate and develop responses to common concerns you anticipate from corrections staff



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**Connecting with Corrections**

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### Connecting with Your Local Facilities

- Reach out via phone and email, documenting your attempts
- Use a concise and direct communications style
- If you are already working with another correctional location, refer to that in your outreach

**Remember:** Your agency is in a position to help facilities be PREA-compliant, as they are required to maintain an MOU with their local RCC



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### Facility Tour Checklists

**This handy one-pager includes:**

- ✓ What to bring
- ✓ What to see
- ✓ Who to meet
- ✓ What to ask

**WHAT TO BRING**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Staff contact list
- \_\_\_\_\_ Checklist for items on this checklist
- \_\_\_\_\_ Confidentiality waiver sheet
- \_\_\_\_\_ Business cards
- \_\_\_\_\_ Business agenda (including your services)

**WHAT TO SEE**


- \_\_\_\_\_ Jailing cells
- \_\_\_\_\_ Administrative segregation
- \_\_\_\_\_ Intake area
- \_\_\_\_\_ Prisoner handbook for in-prison services
- \_\_\_\_\_ Medical and mental health staff
- \_\_\_\_\_ Locations of "high to moderate" programs
- \_\_\_\_\_ Inmate phone area

**WHO TO MEET**

- \_\_\_\_\_ PREA Compliance Manager
- \_\_\_\_\_ Investigative Services Unit (ISU) Lieutenant
- \_\_\_\_\_ Mental health staff
- \_\_\_\_\_ Medical staff
- \_\_\_\_\_ Community Resource Manager
- \_\_\_\_\_ Inmate Advisory Council

**WHAT TO ASK**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Who are the points of contact with LSC in the facility?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Is there a grievance process? Can meet with grievance to present?
- \_\_\_\_\_ What do you need to know about facility safety procedures while inside?
- \_\_\_\_\_ What programming is offered to inmates here, and how do they access it?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Can we make a site-specific call to the agency?
- \_\_\_\_\_ When can we schedule a follow-up/implementation meeting?



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### Who to Meet at the Facility

Speaking with people in custody helps you:

- ✓ Meet your clients "where they're at"
- ✓ Show staff that you are serious about serving people in detention
- ✓ Clarify that you are not part of CT DOC
- ✓ Answer questions about your agency and your services
- ✓ Establish trust with people in custody

**WHO TO MEET**

- \_\_\_\_\_ PREA Compliance Manager
- \_\_\_\_\_ Investigative Services Unit (ISU) Lieutenant
- \_\_\_\_\_ Mental health staff
- \_\_\_\_\_ Medical staff
- \_\_\_\_\_ Community Resource Manager
- \_\_\_\_\_ Inmate Advisory Council



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### Where to Start: Initial Discussions

#### At the initial meeting discuss:

- Your shared goal of eliminating sexual abuse and supporting survivors
- Each person's role and responsibilities within their agency (i.e. a day in the life of an advocate vs a PREA Coordinator)
- Each partner's sexual abuse protocols
- Facility facts and figures
- Describe the work of the RCC
- Begin discussion of scope of services




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### Finding an Ally

- Connect with staff beyond the PCM
- Keep in regular contact
- Meet in person



California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation




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### Highlight the Benefits of Your Services

- Make clear that your services are not limited to incarcerated survivors
- As applicable, refer to the latest PREA audit's notes for relevant Corrective Action
- Remember that services you offer will make their jobs easier
- When survivors trust that their safety is a priority, they are more likely to make an official report




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### Have a Plan, and Hold it Lightly

- Get feedback and ideas from staff
- Be consistent and reliable
- Be upfront about your concerns
- Be aware that conditions at the facility can require a change in plans
  - Lockdowns
  - Transfers of people from one CT DOC facility to another



Nea Mathews Photography

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### Additional Considerations for Youth Facilities

- Have a regular physical presence at the facility
- Ensure that all your outreach materials are youth-oriented and appropriate
- Focus on other topics of concern (e.g., healthy relationships) rather than leading with crisis services



Juvenile Detention Center, Bridgeport, CT

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## Problem Solving

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### In an Advocate's Own Words



Photo credit: Resilience, Honesty, Reproductive Advocacy

"I would tell other advocates who are new to this kind of work that the struggle is worth it. Everyone deserves an advocate, deserves someone there if they have survived a rape no matter what their past is."

Jesse, a Crisis Intervention Peer Counselor



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### Staff Turnover

**Concern:**

- Turnover and promotions at both the facility and the rape crisis center

**Solution:**

- Partnerships that involve teams, not individuals
- Strong, clear, written policies and protocols informing the work



Photo credit: Compliance Officer and DOJ Advocate



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### Capacity

**Concerns:**

- Call volume (small rural centers)
- Working with incarcerated survivors

**Solutions:**

- Use existing hotline, limited hours
- Advocate training and ongoing education



Photo credit: Kim Jettly



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**Communication**

**Concern:**

- Staff stretched thin on both sides, with competing responsibilities

**Solutions:**

- Better understanding of each other's daily operations and limitations
- Have back-up contacts

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**Planning for the Future**

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**What's Your WOOP?**

Wish  
Outcome  
Obstacle  
Plan

<https://woopmylife.org/>

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### Focus on What You Can Control

**Examples:**

- Make a plan to connect to your local facilities
- Revise intake forms to be inclusive for incarcerated survivors
- Document your outreach efforts
- Have a plan, and hold it lightly
- Keep the subject of your agency's work in detention a living topic



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### A Survivor's Strength

"The sexual assaults left me feeling devastated. But I also became committed to ensuring that no one ever has to go through what I did. To find the strength to fight back, I needed the support of a movement behind me — a movement made up of people on the outside who care about human rights. Thank you so much for believing in me!"

- Nicole, JDI Survivor Council Member



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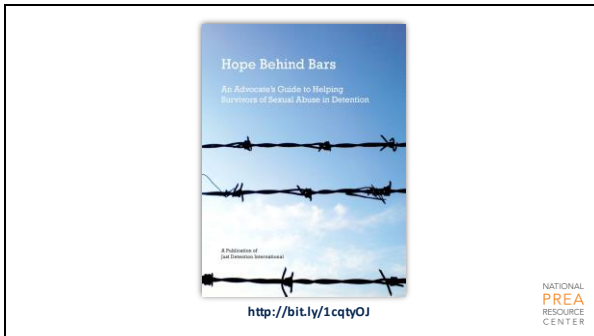
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**Additional Resources**

**OVW Webinar Series – Vulnerable and Underserved**  
<https://justdetention.org/webinar/#archived>

**Fact Sheets for Service Providers**  
<https://justdetention.org/resource/publication/>

**Justice for Victims Behind Bars** <http://bit.ly/1KPyui3>

**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://1.usa.gov/1S1ID5>

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### Additional Resources

JDI PREA Resources (No One Left Behind)  
<https://justdetention.org/resources/prea-resources/>

FAQ: Are rape crisis centers or other victim service providers appropriate entities to serve as external reporting entities, pursuant to PREA Standard 51(b)?  
<https://www.prearesourcecenter.org/frequently-asked-questions/are-rape-crisis-centers-or-other-victim-service-providers-appropriate>



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### Supplementary Questionnaire

Supplementary Questionnaire on Community Advocate Engagement  
<https://justdetention.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/Supplementary-Questionnaire-on-Community-Advocate-Engagement.pdf>



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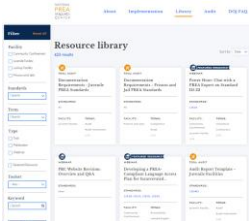
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### PRC library



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**Notice of Federal Funding and Federal Disclaimer**

This project was supported by Grant No. 2019-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. The opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this publication/program/exhibition are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of Justice or grant-making component.



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