

Developing Facility-Level Sexual Assault Response Teams (SARTs)

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Introduction and Welcome

Just Detention International (JDI)

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

National PREA Resource Center (PRC)

PRC was established through a cooperative agreement between the Bureau of Justice Assistance and the National Council on Crime and Delinquency. 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.

Today's Moderator



Nicole de la Torre
Program Officer
Just Detention International

Webinar Agenda

- I. SART Basics
- II. SARTs and the PREA Standards
- III. Experiences from the Field:
Miami-Dade Department of
Corrections and
Rehabilitation
- IV. SART Protocol and Critical
Incident Checklist
- V. SART Partner Conversation
- VI. Question and Answer



JDI staff with Lincoln County Sheriff's
Office staff in Colorado.

Logistics

Webinar Information

- **Raise your hand** if you need assistance
- 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



I. SART Basics



Cynthia Totten, Esq.
Senior Program Director
Just Detention International

Sexual Assault Response Team (SART)

SART → **Coordinated Response**

A multi-disciplinary team designed to coordinate a survivor-centered response to sexual assault





Goals of the SART Model

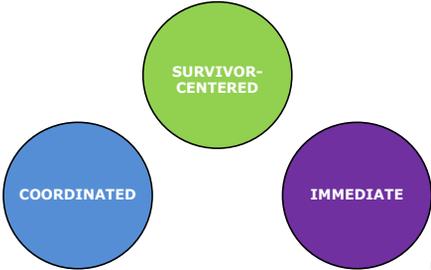


Michelle, a transgender woman who was threatened with rape while in the Los Angeles County Jail

- Encourage survivor healing and well-being
- Strengthen investigations
- Eliminate sexual violence
- Ensure compliance with PREA




The SART Response





Institution-Based SARTs

Core Functions:

- Leads agency efforts to **eliminate** sexual abuse, through **prevention, detection, and response** efforts
- Draws expertise from key departments and ranks within the agency
- **Monitoring** → SARTs evaluate facility compliance with PREA and conduct incident reviews




II. SARTs and the PREA Standards

Institutional Coordinated Response Plan (§115.65)



A written plan to coordinate actions taken in response to an incident of sexual abuse, amongst first responders, medical and mental health practitioners, investigators and facility leadership.

MDCR agency employees




SARTs and PREA Compliance

Institution-based SARTs help to comply with:

- Evidence protocol and forensic medical examinations (§115.21)
- Policies to ensure referrals of allegations for investigations (§115.22)
- Inmate reporting (§115.51)
- Inmate access to outside confidential support services (§115.53)
- Staff and agency reporting duties (§115.61)
- Reporting to other confinement facilities (§115.63)
- Staff first responder duties (§115.64)




SARTs and PREA Compliance (cont.)

Institution-based SARTs help to comply with:

- Coordinated response (§115.65)
- Agency protection against retaliation (§115.67)
- Criminal and administrative agency investigations (§115.71)
- Reporting to inmates (§115.73)
- Access to emergency medical and mental health services (§115.82)
- Ongoing medical and mental health care for sexual abuse victims and abusers (§115.83)
- Sexual abuse incident reviews (§115.86)



Institution-Based SARTs

Key Members

Members' roles may vary depending on a facility's population and needs, but should include a **minimum of three staff**, preferably from among the following positions:

- Administrator
- Classification Supervisor
- Chief of Security
- Transportation Officer
- Internal Affairs Investigator
- Mental Health Staff
- Medical Staff



Institution-Based SARTs – Key Members (cont.)

The following community representatives are strongly recommended as members of an institution-based SART:

- Law Enforcement
- Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE)
- Rape Crisis Advocate
- Prosecutor



Photo by Michael Futana



Institution-Based SARTs – Key Members (cont.)

Building collaboration among facility- and community-based partners:



III. Experiences from the Field: Miami-Dade Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (MDCR)



Gwyn Smith-Downes
Senior Program Director
Just Detention International



Building An Institution-Based SART

The Sexual Assault Response Team is a key aspect of PREA implementation:

- Assign staff or a committee to develop the SART
- Identify SART members and roles
- Define the team goals
- Conduct outreach to external partners
- Develop a written protocol
- Incorporate the SART into ongoing policy development and review processes



SART Coordinating Committee at MDCR

- Overseen by MDCR PREA Coordinator
- Composed of select staff from MDCR leadership, including PREA Compliance Manager from each facility and community members
- Convenes 6 or more times a year



MDCR SART Coordinating Committee



Coordinating Committee Members

Additional MDCR SART Coordinating Committee members may include:

- Correctional Health Services administrators
- Civilian Staff, such as Program Services
- Transportation Supervisor
- Security and Internal Affairs Bureau Chief
- Intake Supervisor



Coordinating Committee Goals

- Monitor department and facility compliance with PREA standards and MDCR policies
- Review successes, challenges, and strategies for overcoming barriers to ensure a coordinated response to allegations
- Review and revise policies, training materials, MOU, and contracts related to sexual abuse prevention and response



Small Jails Can Do This Too!

Who Would Be on Your Coordinating Committee?

Who would be part of your facility-based SART?



Pitkin County Jail where JDI is working with local law enforcement and Aspen community providers to establish a facility-level SART.



Facility-level SARTs at MDCR

- Lead the Department's efforts to eliminate sexual abuse with a multi-disciplinary team
- Developed the SART protocol
- Overseen by the PREA Compliance Manager
- Meet once per month or as directed by the PREA Coordinator



MDCR Sexual Assault Response Team Protocol

- Initiating the SART Response
- Facility-SART Process/Timeline
 - A. Immediately Following an Allegation of a Sexual Assault
 - B. During Transport to the Exam
 - C. During the Medical Forensic Exam
 - D. If a Forensic Exam is not Necessary/Not Wanted
 - E. Following the Exam or After Acute Care is Provided
 - F. Long-Term Facility SART Duties
- SART Competencies and Training Requirements
- Sexual Assault Incident Reviews

Appendix 1: Definitions
 Appendix 2: Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) Standards
 Appendix 3: SART Review Checklist
 Appendix 4: MDCR SART Evaluation Form
 Appendix 5: Sexual Assault Survivors' Rights



Align SART Protocol with PREA Standards

Appendix 2: National Standards to Prevent, Detect, and Respond to Prison Rape
 The SART Protocol will assist MDCR to comply with the following standards from the Department of Justice's National Standards, Subpart A – Standards for Adult Prisons and Jails:

§115.21 Evidence protocol and forensic medical examinations.

The MDCR SART:

- Establishes a uniform evidence and response protocol, adapted from Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women's publication, "A National Protocol for Sexual Assault Medical Forensic Examinations, Adults/Adolescents";
- Offers all survivors of sexual abuse access to medical forensic examinations, without financial cost, whenever evidentially or medically necessary;
- Ensures that only Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANEs) or Sexual Assault Forensic Examiners (SAFEs) perform the medical forensic exam.
- Attempts to make available victim advocates from the Rape Treatment Center to provide survivors with emotional support, crisis intervention, information, and referrals;
- Coordinates with the rape crisis advocates and counselors from Rape Trauma Center to accompany and support the survivor through the forensic medical examination process and investigatory interviews;
- Works with outside law enforcement to ensure timely, thorough investigations.



SART Training Recommendations

- Cross-training on roles and responsibilities of each SART team member
- Basic training on a variety of topics to maintain the multidisciplinary approach and to ensure the SART's success



MDCR Coordinating Committee developing SART Protocol



PREA Drills



A scene from MDCR's PREA Inmate Orientation video

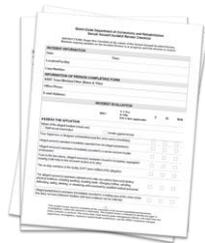


IV. SART Protocol and Critical Incident Checklists



SART Protocol and Checklists

- Overview of the development of the SART Protocol and Critical Incident Checklists
- Review current drafts of the Protocol and Checklists
- Discuss implications for current response to allegations of sexual abuse within MDCR and future training needs



SART Protocol and Checklist

Sexual abuse incident reviews (§115.86)

- Conduct within 30 days following close of investigation
- Include upper management investigators and medical
- Examine need for changes in policy or practice
- Determine motivation of allegation
- Assess if physical barriers needed
- Assess adequacy of staffing levels
- Evaluate technology needs



V. SART Partner Conversation



Lt. JC Smith
MDCR Inspections
Lieutenant for
CRIPA Compliance



**Lt. Wynnie
Testamark-Samuels**
MDCR PREA Coordinator
and Accreditation
Manager



Captain Eric Garcia
Miami-Dade Police
Department Special
Victims Bureau



VI. Questions and Answers



For More Information

For more information about the **National PREA Resource Center**, visit www.prearesourcecenter.org. Direct questions to info@prearesourcecenter.org

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For more information about **Just Detention International**, visit www.justdetention.org. Direct questions to info@justdetention.org.

Connect with JDI:

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www.twitter.com/justdetention



Thank you for joining us today!

Evaluation

We would like to ask you to please complete a brief evaluation. It will take just three minutes of your time and your feedback will help us to better assist you in the future!

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

<http://www.justdetention.org/en/developing-facility-sart-evaluation.aspx>

Please forward it to others who may have joined you.

THANK YOU!

