

Addressing Sexual Violence in Detention: the *Paths to Recovery* Model



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Assault Conference
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Workshop Outline

- Introductions and Definitions
- The Basics About Sexual Violence in Detention
 - Prevalence
 - Dynamics
 - Impact
- The *Paths to Recovery* Model
 - Program description
 - Corrections perspective
 - Rape crisis center perspective
- Best Practices
 - Working as a team
 - Working with survivors of sexual abuse behind bars



JDI is a non-profit human rights organization that seeks to end sexual abuse against adults and children in all forms of detention.

JDI's three core goals are:

- to hold government officials accountable for prisoner rape;
- to change ill-informed public attitudes about sexual violence behind bars;
- to ensure that survivors of this kind of abuse get the help they need.

California Correctional Institution, Tehachapi

CCI is a men's prison that houses 5,768 inmates at all security levels except death row. CCI employs 2,000 staff members.



CCI's mission is to "incarcerate and control felons, while providing the opportunity for meaningful work, training and other programs."

Women's Center High Desert, Inc.



Women's Center-High Desert, Inc. (WCHD) is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing services to survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and child abuse in Eastern Kern and surrounding counties. WCHD also educates the public and community agencies to reduce the risk of victimization.

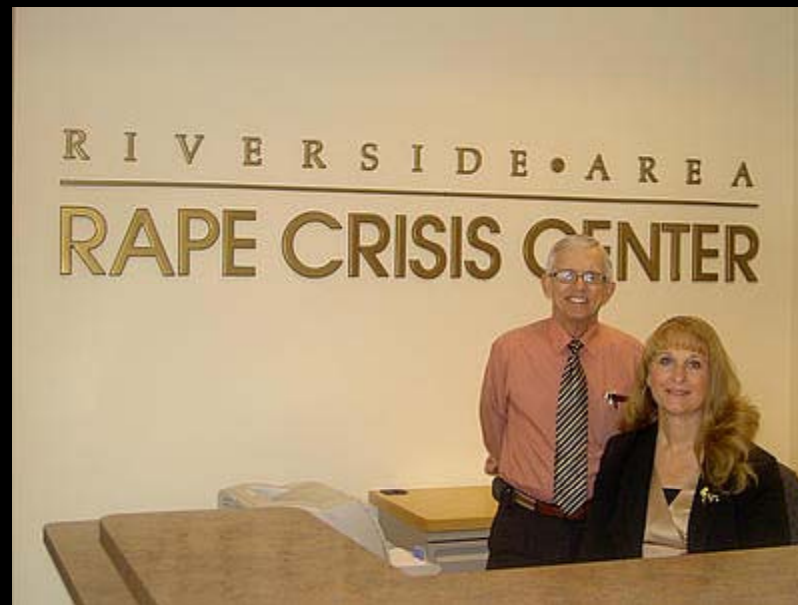
Women's Center High Desert, Inc.

Works with CCI to offer confidential crisis counseling to incarcerated survivors of sexual assault as part of the *Paths to Recovery* program.

- **Provides** advocacy and accompaniment to survivors during forensic examinations and related investigative interviews
- **Provides** short term follow-up counseling
- **Provides** cross training
- **Attends** SART meetings at CCI
- **Maintains** regular communication with team members.

Riverside Area Rape Crisis Center

The Riverside Area Rape Crisis Center (RARCC) is committed to providing support services to survivors of sexual assault and their families, and to providing community education to achieve awareness and prevention of sexual assault in Riverside County.



Riverside Area Rape Crisis Center



Works with the California Institution for Women (CIW) to offer confidential crisis counseling to incarcerated survivors of sexual assault as part of the *Paths to Recovery* Program.

Sexual Violence:

any form of unwanted sexual contact

Sexual violence may include:

- harassment
- sexual exploitation
- sexual battery
- penetration of any body opening with a body part or object

Perpetrators may use:

- threats
- coercion
- authority
- extortion
- physical force

Bryson's Story



Photography by James Stenson

Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003

- The first federal legislation to address sexual violence in detention
- Mandates that correctional systems establish zero tolerance for sexual assault



Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003

Applies to: lock-ups, jails, state prisons, federal prisons, (ICE) immigration detention facilities, juvenile detention facilities, individuals on probation and parole, and community corrections facilities

Established the National Prison Rape Elimination Commission (NPREC), which released national standards in June, 2009



Key NPREC Standards for Community Service Providers

- Facilities must follow a uniform protocol for sexual assault medical forensic examinations based on the Office on Violence Against Women's national protocol.
- Facilities must enter into memoranda of understanding (MOUs) with community service providers who are able to provide inmates with confidential support services.
- Facilities must provide inmates with access to outside victim advocates for support services.

Sexual Violence in Detention: Prevalence

- Just like in the community, sexual violence in detention is a severely under-reported crime.
- JDI receives 30+ letters a week from people behind bars experiencing sexual violence, many of whom do not report.
- A survey of the literature indicates that anywhere from 4.4% - 27% of inmates report some form of sexual violence. Most report being abused repeatedly.
 - Struckman-Johnson, 1996, 2001, 2002, 2006
 - Valerie Jenness, et al., 2007
 - BJS, 2006, 2007

Anyone may be a target of sexual violence in detention, but are there any groups that are at a heightened risk?



In general, perpetrators target:

Younger or older inmates, people locked up for the first time who are not experienced in the ways of prison life, not street smart, and not gang-affiliated;

“Trouble makers” and those who are not well liked and/or isolated;

Lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) inmates or those who are perceived to be gender non-conforming;



In general, perpetrators target:

People who are small in stature or physically weak;

“Attractive targets” (physical appearance or resources);



Photography by James Stenson

People with disabilities, mental illness, and a previous history of trauma/sexual assault;

People convicted of certain crimes.



The Dynamics of Sexual Abuse Behind Bars

Inmate-on-Inmate Sexual Violence

At most jails, prisons, and juvenile facilities, sexual contact is prohibited among inmates.

Continuum of sexual violence:

- Sexual comments and touching
- Sexual pressure or intimidation
- Stalking and “fatal attractions”
- Sexual violence in intimate relationships
 - Abusive relationships
 - Protective pairing
- Sexual assault

Protective Pairing

- Common terms: “hooking up” or “getting married”
- An arrangement where one inmate exchanges protection for sexual and other favors
- One party wields the power and exerts control
- Exists on a continuum, from relationships where the less powerful inmate has some choices to extremely violent scenarios
- Rigid gender (or other) roles are enforced, with two sets of rules: *punk/jockey, old man/girl, husband/wife, daddy/kid, man/bitch*

Chino's Story



Staff-on-Inmate Sexual Violence

In all 50 states, it is illegal for staff to engage in sexual activity with inmates or juveniles in detention.

Continuum of sexual violence:

- Inappropriate comments/harassment
- Sexual requests
- Voyeurism
- Abuse of search authority
- Sexual exchange
- Sexual intimidation
- Sexual assault

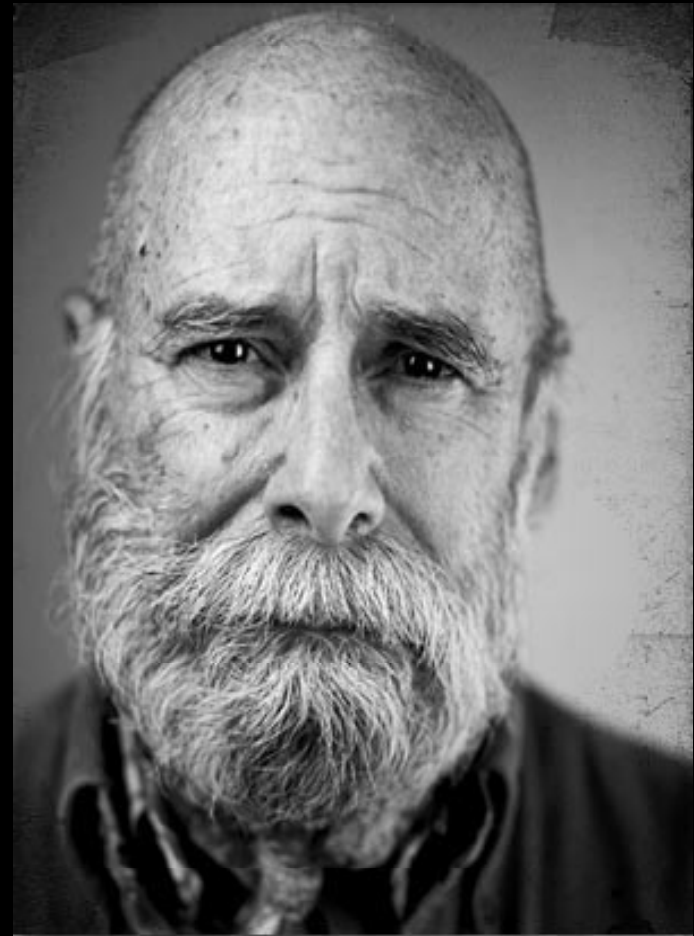
Garrett's Story



Impact of Sexual Violence

Consequences for **survivors**:

- Development of Rape Trauma Syndrome and PTSD
- Increased suicidality
- Exposure to sexually transmitted infections, including HIV
- Exacerbation of preexisting psychiatric disorders



Photography by James Stenson

Impact of Incarceration on Survivors

- Lack of control over body and surroundings
- Punishment for normal reactions to crisis
- Little or no access to services or support
- Ongoing contact with perpetrator(s)
- Retaliation
- Isolation
- Revictimization
- Retraumatization



Impact of Sexual Violence



Consequences for institutions:

- Destabilizes institutional safety and security
- Contributing factor in violence and suicide
- Increases tension and decreases morale

Impact of Sexual Violence

Consequences for **society**:

- 95% of incarcerated individuals are eventually released, bringing with them the physical and emotional scars of the abuses they experienced behind bars.
- Releasing survivors without the treatment they need may result in increased public health costs, such as the spread of HIV and other sexually transmitted infections and emergency treatment for other medical and mental health conditions.
- Formerly incarcerated survivors who have not developed healthy coping skills are far more likely to revert to risky or criminal behavior and become trapped in a cycle of revictimization and re-incarceration.

Barriers to Reporting

- Lack of confidentiality
- Fear of not being believed
- Fear of isolation and loss of privileges
- Fear of retaliation and revictimization
- Fear of violence as a result of being labeled a “snitch”
- Lack of trust in staff to protect survivors



RG's Story



“It’s like it’s happening all over again. I feel like I’m going over some edge...”

The image features a light blue background with a black border. Two dark silhouettes of hands are shown, one on the left and one on the right, both reaching towards the center. The hand on the left is positioned higher than the hand on the right. In the center, the text "Paths to Recovery: A Model Program" is displayed in a bold, black, sans-serif font. The words "Paths to" and "Recovery:" are on separate lines, and "A Model Program" is on a third line below them.

*Paths to
Recovery:*
A Model Program

Paths to Recovery

- Provides confidential, in-person crisis intervention counseling for survivors of sexual abuse in two California prisons
- Program started in 2005
- Partnership between JDI, two state prisons, and community rape crisis centers

California Correctional Institution

PREA Implementation

- Support of the prison administration
- Role of the Investigative Services Unit (ISU)
- Need to work in collaboration with community rape crisis center



California Correctional Institution

Working with community partners:

- Cross-training and sharing of resources
- Coordinating responses to incidents of sexual violence

Benefits of the program:

- Cost savings to CCI
- Culture change
- Increased awareness about sexual violence
- Staff better able to respond to sexual assaults
- Increased institutional safety
- Development of a strong SART

Women's Center High Desert, Inc.

Barriers to starting the program:

- **Board of Directors**
 - Concerns about alienating donors by working with prisoners
 - Safety concerns for staff
- **Staff resources**
 - Limited staff and volunteers
 - Concerns about lack of expertise
 - Lack of on-site medical equipment for forensic exams

Women's Center High Desert, Inc.

Practicalities of working with survivors in prison:

- Maintaining confidentiality
- Addressing safety issues
- Coordinating with corrections officials
- Adapting interventions for the institutional environment



Women's Center High Desert, Inc.

Benefits of the program for survivors:

- Provides same quality of care that is available in the community
- Reduces the impact of trauma and promotes healthy coping skills
- Provides opportunities to address historical trauma and its impact
- Increases likelihood that survivors will participate in the investigative process

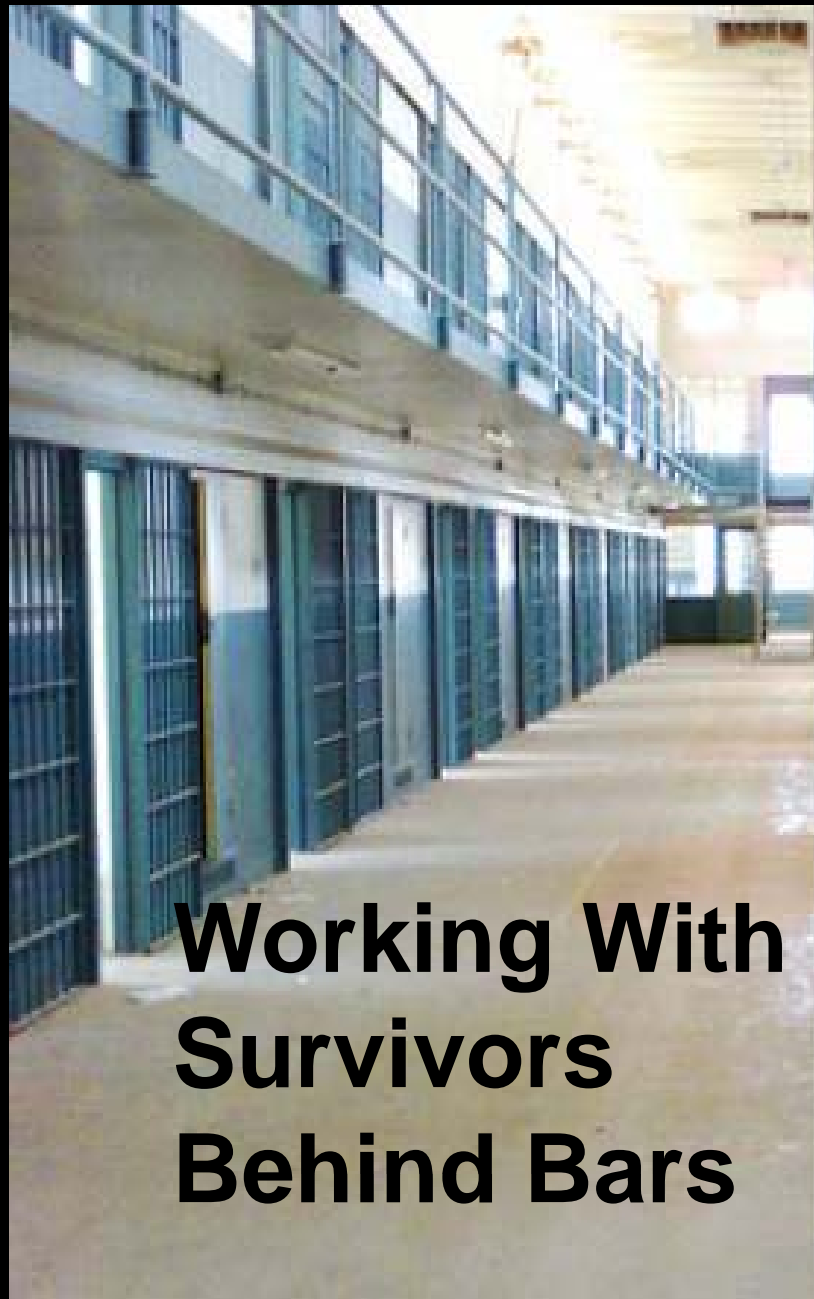
Riverside Area Rape Crisis Center

- Financial challenges to starting the program and how they were overcome
- History of work with the four institutions in the area
- Practicalities of working in a prison
- Benefits of the program for survivors

Best Practices for Working as a Team

Team members:

- **respect** each others' roles and the dignity of the survivor;
- **communicate** effectively around sensitive issues and when roles are in conflict;
- **trust** each member of the team to fulfill their role.



**Working With
Survivors
Behind Bars**



Keep in mind:

- Your expertise
- Importance of confidentiality and consistency
- Need to establish and maintain clear boundaries
- Institutional environment
- Likelihood of retraumatization and revictimization



Role Plays

- **Break off** into pairs.
- **Decide** who will play the role of survivor and advocate.
- Survivors read the scenario before beginning.
- **Role play** for 3-5 minutes.
- As soon as you finish, the advocate says one thing s/he did well and one thing s/he'd like to improve or any questions that came up during the role play.
- The survivor does the same thing.
- **Return** to group for discussion and wrap-up.

What Can You Do?

- **Identify** detention facilities (prisons, jails, youth detention facilities) in your service area.
- **Contact** the facility head and ask if they are currently implementing PREA.
- **Offer** to provide training to corrections staff about the dynamics of sexual violence.
- **Invite** a corrections official to be part of your community-based SART.
- **Offer** to provide on-site, confidential, crisis intervention services.

Resources

Websites

- **NPREC National Standards:**
www.cybercemetery.unt.edu/archive/nprec/20090820154816/http://nprec.us/publication/
- **Review Panel Reports on U.S. Prisons and U.S. Jails:**
www.ojp.usdoj.gov/reviewpanel/resources.htm
- **Just Detention International:** www.justdetention.org

Online OVC Training Course

- **Sexual Assault Advocate/Counselor Training:**
www.ovcttac.gov/saact/index.cfm

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