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PANEL 1

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MS. STILL: Thank you very much.

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Hello. My name is Wendy Still. I would like

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to thank the Panel for the opportunity to provide

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testimony on the very important issue of in-custody

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inmate safety and the systemic changes that the CDCR

8

has made to eradicate in-prison sexual violence.

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In my current --

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MR. MCFARLAND: Excuse me. Can you all

11

hear back there?

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MS. STILL: In my current assignment I am

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the Associate Director for the Female Offender

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Programs and Services providing oversight and

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overall program management for the 11,800 adult

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women felons housed in four prisons, three

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conservation camps and one community correctional

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facility and five mother and children community

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correctional programs.

20 I have also had the responsibility of being
21 executive project sponsor for the Prison Rape
22 Elimination Program for the California Department of
23 Corrections and Rehabilitation. This responsibility
24 included developing CDCR's strategy for complying
25 with the 2003 Prison Rape Elimination Act and

1 working with the California Legislature by providing
2 input through our legislative office related to the
3 development of AB 550, Sexual Abuse in Detention
4 Elimination Act, sponsored, and actually authored by
5 Assemblywomen Jackie Goldberg, and developing and
6 implementing the compliance plan with this new law.

7 As a first step, the Department created the
8 Prison Rape Elimination Committee which held its
9 first meeting in March 2005. This committee was
10 designed to include internal stakeholders from the
11 field and headquarters as well as external
12 stakeholders, which included Stop Prison Rape, Kathy
13 Hall-Martinez, and several individuals from Stop
14 Prison Rape, Dr. Val Jenness, University of
15 California at Irvine, lead researcher, and Dr.
16 Barbara Owen, PREA expert, Fresno State University,
17 warden, legal staff, institutional staff and
18 investigative policy reps from various areas and
19 trainee staff.

20 During the initial meeting, tasks for the
21 committee were discussed. Some of the items
22 included: preparing a zero tolerance policy
23 statement from our agency secretary for Department
24 wide dissemination to all employees, collecting and
25 reviewing all current policies regarding sexual

1 misconduct and utilize those to develop a statewide
2 standard, determining whether the classification
3 systems needs to be modified to consider risk
4 factors and detection of predators and victims,
5 ensure inmate accessibility to the hot line for
6 reporting of in-custody sexual assault/rapes,
7 housing and programmatic needs, appeals process,
8 medical and mental health treatment concerns,
9 confidentiality and reporting process, training and
10 orientation for both staff and inmates, inmate peer
11 education, intervention and rehabilitation, and
12 prosecution and accountability for violations of
13 policy.

14 The initial meeting of CDCR Prison Rape
15 Elimination Committee began the process of promoting
16 collaboration among individuals, organizations and
17 agencies within the prison system and the community.
18 Also during this initial committee meeting a project
19 manager was assigned.

20 I think it is worth taking a moment here to
21 stop and talk about this committee. We have formed
22 two committees at the time. One was on PREA and one
23 was a gender response strategies commission; and
24 this was a really big step for the Department
25 because it had been pretty much a closed Department.

1 We hadn't reached out to experts beyond our walls,
2 so to speak, and ask them historically to come
3 partner with us, and as such you can imagine the
4 problems that we realized. We didn't have the
5 experts that we needed to really fully form our
6 programs.

7 So at the time we reached out and we got those
8 experts, and it made a huge difference. It opened
9 our world. We thought of issues that we wouldn't
10 have necessarily thought of and brought expertise to
11 the table that really helped form our program.

12 As we moved through the initial phase of
13 developing the project, we were in contact and
14 received very positive support from the National
15 Institute of Corrections, specifically Director
16 Morris Thigpen and Dee Halley.

17 The Department submitted several requests for
18 technical assistance to the National Institute of
19 Corrections which were all generously approved. The

20 Moss Group and specifically Andie Moss' assistance
21 was invaluable. The Moss Group provided assistance
22 related to the review of the Department's Prison
23 Rape Elimination Program, including the policy and
24 protocols. They also put together an expert team to
25 conduct the review and provide written feedback

1 which was incorporated to policies and procedures.

2 We were also very fortunate that Dr. Barbara
3 Owen, who is a PREA expert and also an expert on our
4 gender responsive program, female gender reform
5 initiative, was available for ongoing consultation.

6 Additionally, in early 2004, the CDCR applied
7 for and was awarded a federal grant under the 2004
8 Protecting Inmates and Safeguarding Communities
9 discretionary grant program. These grant funds were
10 used for two projects. The first one to complete a
11 research project assessing violence in prisons with
12 a specific emphasis on sexual assault and rape. The
13 project was initially designed to assess the adult
14 male population. Very early in the project, as a
15 matter of fact, it was after the federal hearing in
16 San Francisco where it became really clear to me
17 that we needed to include the transgender population
18 in our study, a modification to the contract was
19 made to include surveying of the transgender

20 population as part of the research population. The
21 project is close to completion. All data collection
22 and validation has been completed. The data
23 analysis phase has begun. It is expected that
24 Dr. Val Jenness, U.C. Irvine, a main researcher on
25 the project, will have a written report completed in

1 spring 2007.

2 The second was to provide a partial funding
3 for the development of a standardized curriculum
4 which will include a sexual assault prevention
5 component of inmate peer education program. In
6 January 2006, we assessed our progress on improving
7 offender safety and eliminating in-custody sexual
8 violence. There was an important element that was
9 missing, and it was really the detention components.

10 NIC and the Moss Group hosted a western
11 conference meeting in Arizona where all the states,
12 western states, came together, including jails and
13 corrections, and it was very helpful. They provided
14 information to us relative to what the other states
15 were doing. And from that we identified that we
16 wanted to add a component to our program that we
17 would study the impact of putting cameras into our
18 institutions. We subsequently were awarded, in
19 February 2006, we applied for and were awarded a

20 federal grants under the 2006 Protecting Inmates and
21 Safeguarding Communities discretionary grant
22 program.

23 These grant funds have been earmarked to
24 develop a pilot program at three institutions, adult
25 male institution and adult female institution and a

1 female juvenile facility. The pilot program will
2 place cameras and recording equipment in one
3 facility in each of the three institutions and
4 require comparison with the remaining facilities at
5 each respective institution. The cameras perform
6 dual roles: one to detecting and reporting
7 information that will assist in prosecution of
8 cases, and two to prevent inappropriate sexual
9 misconduct from occurring within an area because of
10 the camera recording equipment.

11 In response to question No. 2, I think I will
12 hold that for a moment, and our Director has joined
13 us, and so perhaps we would have the Director
14 provide his testimony and he will also be responding
15 to question No. 1.

16 MR. MCFARLAND: Good morning, Mr. Dovey.

17 MR. DOVEY: Good morning. My apologies
18 for my entrance.

19 MR. MCFARLAND: I realize this is not the