

**Statement of Jenni Trovillion, Co-Director
National PREA Resource Center
Before the Department of Justice Review Panel on Prison Rape
January 8, 2014**

Good afternoon, and thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony today.

The National PREA Resource Center, or PRC, is managed through a cooperative agreement between the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) within the Department of Justice and the National Council on Crime and Delinquency (NCCD). I am an Associate Director with NCCD and serve as the Co-Director of the PRC alongside Michela Bowman, who is based in California and unable to participate in today's proceedings. As a cooperative agreement partner, the PRC works very closely with BJA staff, and I'd first like to thank BJA Director Denise O'Donnell, as well as Ruby Qazilbash, Thurston Bryant and the leadership of the Office of Justice Programs for both their collective dedication to PREA and their ongoing support and guidance in this joint endeavor.

The mission of the PRC is to assist state, local, and tribal confinement facilities nationwide in their efforts to eliminate sexual abuse by increasing their capacity for prevention, detection, and responses to incidents of sexual abuse, including services to victims and their families.

The PRC serves as a central repository for the best research in the field on trends, prevention and response strategies, and best practices in corrections. Technical assistance and resources are available through the PRC's coordinated efforts with its federal and other partners, and the PRC is helping the corrections field implement the Department of Justice's (Department) national Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) standards.

The release of the final PREA standards on May 17, 2012, initiated a tremendous level of activity from the PRC. Since that time, the PRC has been entrenched in providing assistance to the field, meeting urgent needs, and increasing attention to the standards.

Let me offer a few highlights of the types and volume of training and technical assistance (TTA) activities over the past 18 months:

- Since the PRC website launched in May 2012, it has had over 187,608 total visits, nearly half of those unique (90,638).
- The PRC has offered 51 webinars with more than 5,700 participants during the live broadcasts, and more than 13,000 views of archived files. Webinar topics included the following:
 - » Legal liability
 - » Victim services
 - » Role of victim advocates
 - » Inmate education
 - » Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex (LGBTI) adults and youth
 - » PREA toolkits
 - » Gender-responsive strategies
 - » Role of prosecutors
 - » Pretrial motions
 - » Offender-focused trial strategies
- The PRC has offered 26 regional training events. Agencies and facilities from all 50 states, plus the District of Columbia, have participated in at least one event, with several jurisdictions participating in multiple offerings. Nearly 370 separate entities were impacted. Topics covered included the following:
 - » Audit instrument
 - » Inmate education
 - » Human resources and legal liability
 - » Victim services
 - » Gender-responsive strategies for adults and juveniles
 - » Investigations
 - » Investigations training for trainers (T4T)
 - » Impact of PREA in tribal detention facilities
 - » Specialized training for medical/mental health staff
- Building on these regional trainings, the PRC has released comprehensive training curricula for specialized investigations and specialized medical and mental health care staff, as well as PREA curricula for tribal facilities. The PRC also has curricula forthcoming on

employee training (targeted to meet the employee training standard requirements); inmate education; victim services; gender-responsive strategies; and human resources. Other resources that are nearly complete and will be released in early 2014 include the following:

- » Videos on cross-gender pat searches and inmate education
 - » Graphic novels
 - » Prosecutors' resource guide
 - » Confidentiality resources including a 50-state survey
 - » Third-party reporting factsheet
- Beyond these targeted resources, the PRC delivers technical assistance at the request of jurisdictions. The PRC has received over 590 specific requests for training and technical assistance and more than 1,000 additional inquiries. The top three requests for assistance have focused on standards implementation, policy assessments, and investigator training. I should note that in our review protocol, facilities ranked with high incidence in BJS surveys are prioritized for assistance.
 - The PRC also tracks standards questions received from the field and informs BJA of interpretive guidance needed from the DOJ PREA Working Group. The PRC expands the frequently asked questions on the PRC website as additional guidance becomes available.
 - Finally, the PRC provides coaching to the now near 50 BJA PREA demonstration sites.

In addition these varied TTA activities, the PRC is providing direct financial assistance through 43 PREA grant awards totaling nearly \$5 million in funds. Local awardees around the country are using funds to:

- Improve leadership, organizational culture, and performance
- Review and revise policies and practices
- Educate inmates
- Establish victim support services
- Collect and analyze data on sexual abuse in facilities

Another robust area of PRC contribution is in supporting the Department's efforts to establish the PREA audit.

As the panel knows, the PREA standards establish a three-year audit cycle that began August 20, 2013. Beginning in July 2012, the PRC and its audit workgroup partners (including the American Correctional Association, the National Commission on Correctional Health Care, and Abt Associates and other DOJ representatives) worked to develop four audit instruments to be used by DOJ-certified auditors and facilities working towards compliance with the PREA standards. The instruments for adult prisons and jails, juvenile facilities, and community confinement facilities have

all been beta-tested and are awaiting final BJA approval. The audit instrument for lockups was beta-tested in December 2013 and is undergoing final revisions.

The PRC is also developing an online audit tool, which will automate the completion of the facility pre-audit questionnaire and the auditor's report, as well as the collection, sharing, and retention of documentation for both facilities and auditors. This tool is in the final stages of development and is currently undergoing a required security analysis by the Department.

The PRC has also developed the auditor training curriculum and auditor application process. Nearly 150 individuals have been trained to become DOJ-certified auditors. The first two auditor training events were held in June and November 2013. The PRC continues to receive applications from prospective auditors and is working to review applicant qualifications to fill subsequent auditor training courses.

In 2014, with oversight from BJA the PRC will conduct six auditor trainings with the intent to train 600 additional DOJ-certified auditors. The PRC will also provide auditor support through a helpline and frequent communication to keep auditors apprised of new interpretive guidance from the Department on the standards.

Furthermore, the PRC intends to undertake revision of the audit instruments as necessary, soliciting feedback from auditors and the field to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of the audits.

Looking forward, the PRC has received authorization from BJA to operate through September 2016, and we are excited about the continuing opportunity to support PREA implementation efforts.

As part of our planning for this extension, the PRC completed an analysis of the incoming queries and requests for assistance to identify implementation challenges and the most critical resource needs. We also requested input from our Training and Technical Assistance Task Group, composed primarily of our partner providers; and our Communications Advisory Group, composed of stakeholder representatives. We identified the following areas for the focus of our next round of partner resource development:

- External reporting and support services
- Inmate education
- Cross-gender supervision
- Youthful inmates
- Disabilities
- Reducing use of protective custody

Our partners and consultants will also provide ongoing assistance on:

- The operation of our adult and juvenile PREA coordinator listservs
- Outreach to law enforcement
- Survivor support

To secure these ongoing partnerships, the PRC released a competitive solicitation in the fall of 2013. After a peer review process, and with concurrence from BJA, the PRC selected a total of six organizations to subcontract with for core training and technical assistance as well as special project work. Our collaborating organizations for TTA as of January 1, 2014 include the American Jail Association; American University Washington College of Law, Project on Addressing Prison Rape; The Moss Group, Inc. (with Just Detention International); and the Vera Institute of Justice. Our special projects providers will include the International Association of Chiefs of Police and the National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors.

Moving forward, the PRC will maintain close communication with BJA to identify and meet additional TTA needs from the field, as well as provide any needed support for the audit infrastructure.

In conclusion, I would like to offer that while the PRC has seen tremendous progress and movement toward PREA implementation, the demand for assistance remains high. Agencies and facilities are at various stages of addressing sexual abuse in confinement and in implementing the standards, but nearly all can benefit from ongoing assistance. The PREA Resource Center has the benefit of an incredible and dedicated team of staff and partners; poised to do all we can to assist the field.

I look forward to answering any questions you may have about the PRC. Thank you.