

# WELCOME

We'll begin shortly.

While you are waiting, please mute your sound.

# CA Advancing PREA Office Hours:

Supporting Incarcerated Survivors  
During Forensic Exams and  
Investigatory Interviews

Tuesday, September 24, 2024  
2:00-3:00pm PST



# Introductions



JENNICA SINOR  
(She/Her/Hers)

Project Coordinator  
VALOR

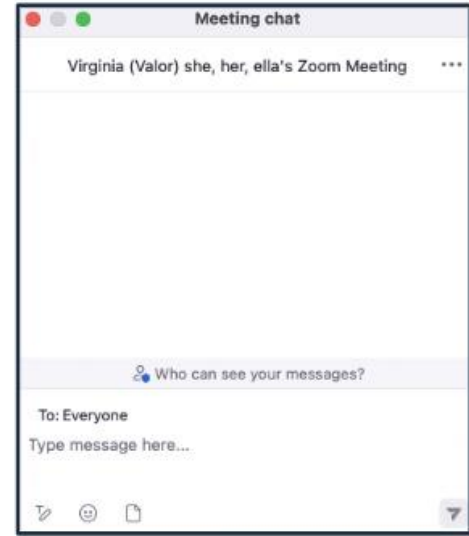


LEYLA DOST  
(They/Them/Theirs)

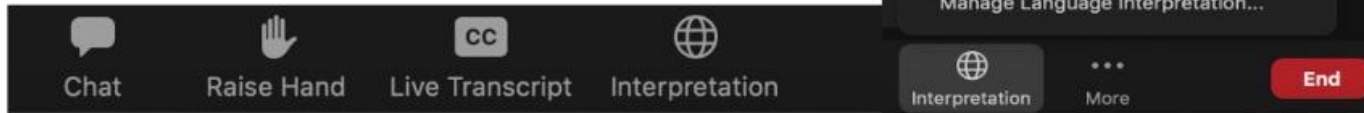
Program Officer  
Just Detention International

# Using Zoom

- Feel free to ask questions in the chat
- Camera on or off
- Must select a language when interpretation starts



## Spanish Interpretation provided by Palabras Translators Plus



# ValorUS' Mission

ValorUS is committed to preventing and ending sexual violence by advancing equity and eradicating oppression.



# CA Advancing PREA Overview

- Build strong relationships between CA state prison/ county jail staff and rape crisis advocates
- Create sustainable agreements and protocols for the provision of victim services to survivors



**Cal OES**  
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE  
OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

# JDI's Mission

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



**JUST DETENTION**  
INTERNATIONAL

RAPE IS NOT PART OF THE PENALTY

# JDI's Core Principle

No matter what crime  
a person may have  
committed, rape is  
not part of the  
penalty.





# Session Objectives



- Review key steps and strategies RCC advocates can implement before, during, and after an investigatory interview or forensic exam to effectively support incarcerated survivors.
- Provide an overview of the investigatory process and examine key differences to consider when supporting incarcerated survivors.
- Discuss common scenarios and brainstorm approaches to ensuring empowering and trauma-informed advocacy for incarcerated survivors.

# Role of an Advocate

- Provide emotional support
- Provide advocacy as needed
- Explain limits of confidentiality
- Offer follow-up care

Photo credit: JDI Survivor Art

# Disclaimer and Challenges

- Detention staff not calling advocates
- Discernment in limits of advocacy
- Addressing biases
- Preparing for challenges



Photo credit: JDI Survivor Art

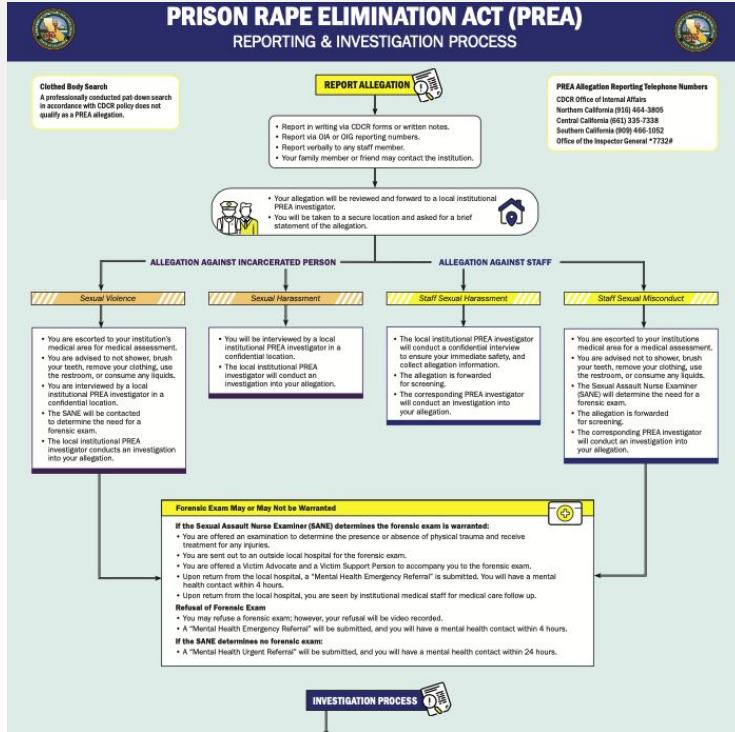
# Why your support matters

- Deal with current or past trauma
- Decrease behavioral responses
- Reduce mental health challenges
- Improve re-entry success



Photo credit: JDI Survivor Art

# Overview of investigatory process



- Disclosure or Report
- Initial Investigatory Interview
- Assessment by Medical
- Forensic Exam by SANE/SART Nurse
- Investigation Occurs
- Determination Made

# Overview of Forensic Exam

- Performed by SANE/SART Examiner
- Forensic Interview
- Determine Collection needed
- Physical Exam
- Examiners report written

## Incarcerated Survivor

## Non-Incarcerated Survivor

- Initial Medical Assessment done by detention medical staff
- Officer in room/near exam room
- Likely in restraints
- Isolated from loved ones
- Barriers to self care
- Barriers to RCC follow up care
- Faces retaliation from staff and other incarcerated folks
- Cannot take materials after exam
- Goes back to detention facility

- Experience a range of emotions
- Right to an advocate
- Exam performed by SANE/SART nurse
- Surrenders clothing
- Lack of information after investigation
- Statistically does not result in trial
- Experiences victim blame

- Not in any restraints
- May have loved ones with them for support
- More access to RCC support, therapy, community after the assault
- Autonomy to engage in self care after the assault
- Often less risk of retaliation from law enforcement
- Can take home materials
- Gets to go home

# Key Steps and Strategies



Credit: AP Photo, Elaine Thompson



# Planning Ahead

- Know the existing facility protocols
- Ensure advocates are prepared
- Necessary clearances
- Aware of allowable materials



Photo credit: Just Detention International

# Before

- Introduce yourself and your role
- Meet with survivor if possible
- Remind survivor of their rights
- Positioning and body language



Photo credit: California Department of Corrections

# During

- Creating a sense of privacy
- Emotional assurance and support
- Advocacy as needed
- Tangible support ie: blanket, snack

Photo credit: iStock

# During

- Maintaining boundaries
- Clarifying terms if needed
- Managing expectations
- Responding to trauma



Photo credit: iStock

# During

Using your discernment:

- Correcting staff language
- Challenging victim blaming attitudes
- Requesting restraints be removed
- Not the time for in-depth education

Photo credit: iStock

# After

- Closing support
- Follow-up services
- Resources
- Thanking and debriefing staff

Photo credit: JDI Survivor Art

# Discuss Common Scenarios



# Scenario #1

When you arrive at the hospital, you introduce yourself to the survivor, the forensic examiner, and the detention staff. The examiner begins to discuss the forensic exam process, and nobody leaves the room. You provide support during the exam and when it's over, the survivor is visibly upset but trying to hold it together. They thank you so much for everything and share that they really want to stay in contact.



# Scenario #2

While you are waiting outside the exam room for the survivor to change, detention staff strikes up a conversation with you about how the survivor has filed multiple reports before, and how they have a history of lying about things. Later on, when you're providing support and discussing follow up care, the staff knocks on the door and abruptly tries to rush you and the survivor along. You remember that during downtime, the staff said they didn't want to be here long, they had stuff to do after work.

# Scenario #3

During the forensic exam, the survivor asks several times what's going to happen next and seems to be anxious. After the exam, they ask for multiple legal resources, ask if you can call their lawyer, and begs you to come visit them for counseling the following day. They also want to know what's going to happen with the perpetrator. You can see the survivor is feeling overwhelmed and scared.

QUESTIONS?



# Additional Resources

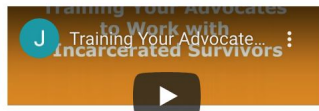
- ValorUS  
[valor.us](https://valor.us)
- Just Detention International  
[justdetention.org](https://justdetention.org)
- PREA Resource Center  
[prearesourcecenter.org](https://prearesourcecenter.org)

# CA Advancing PREA: Resources for California Advocates

## CALIFORNIA ADVANCING PREA: RESOURCES FOR CALIFORNIA ADVOCATES

The below resources were developed by Just Detention International and ValorUS to support California advocates.

### Training Your Advocates to Work with Incarcerated Survivors



September 24, 2019  
CA Advancing PREA Webconference



This webinar introduces a PowerPoint presentation and facilitators guide to RCC staff who will train volunteers and advocates at their agency about how to best serve survivors of sexual abuse and sexual harassment who are incarcerated.