



Hospital Accompaniment November 2016 Webinar

Tricia Smar



811 Spring Forest Road, Suite 900
Raleigh, NC 27609
919-871-1015



Agenda

- Best Practices in Hospital Accompaniment
- Stories from the Field
- Q&A



Chatbox Question

- Who has provided hospital accompaniment to an incarcerated survivor, either from a prison or jail?



BEST PRACTICES IN HOSPITAL ACCOMPANIMENT



PREA Standard: Hospital Accompaniment

- Evidence protocol and forensic examination (115.21)
- Attempt to make available to the victim a victim advocate from a RCC
- Allow advocate to:
 - Accompany and support the victim through the forensic medical examination process and investigatory interviews
 - Provide emotional support, crisis intervention, information, and referrals



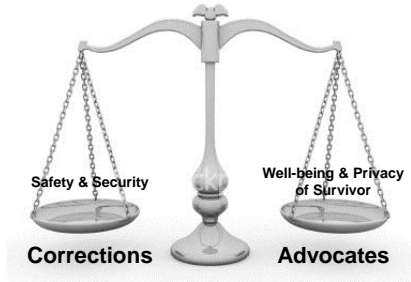
PREA Standards: Medical Services

- Requires facility to seek a hospital with
 - Sexual Assault Forensic Examiners (SAFEs)
 - Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANEs)
- If SAFE/SANE cannot be made available
 - Other qualified medical practitioners
- Forensic exam provided at no cost to victim regardless of report status

Reminder: PREA applies to prisons and jails



Balancing Responsibilities



Just Detention International (2015, April 30). *Beyond the Basics: Troubleshooting Through Scenarios*.



Plan Ahead

- Negotiate meeting space
 - Tour with corrections & SANE
 - What is needed for a secure exam room?
 - Where can advocate meet privately?
 - Where will each person stand during exam?
- Other logistics
 - Phone tree
 - Investigating agency
- Get it in writing
 - Include in your MOU or other agreement
- Training

Just Detention International (2015, April 30). *Beyond the Basics: Troubleshooting Through Scenarios*.



Advocate's Role During Exam

- Provide support, comfort, and information
- Help maintain privacy
- Prepare the survivor to return to the facility

Sources: Just Detention International (2014, May 28). *Hope Behind Bars: Providing Services to Incarcerated Survivors*. & Just Detention International (2012, November 28). *A New Approach: Providing Services to Survivors of Sexual Abuse in Prison*.



During the Exam

- Inform survivors of their rights:
 - Be treated with dignity and respect.
 - Have an advocate to accompany and support them through the forensic medical exam process and investigatory interviews
 - Can decline any part of forensic exam
 - Understand investigation process
 - Access rape crisis services at same quality as community level
 - Get help from trained medical and mental health care professionals at no cost and regardless of whether they file a report

Just Detention International (2015, April 30). *Beyond the Basics: Troubleshooting Through Scenarios*. National PREA Resource Center & JDI (2016). *PREA and Inmate Education: A Resource Guide*.



During the Exam (cont.)

- Help maintain privacy & comfort
 - Meet privately with survivor
 - Limit number of people in room
 - Figure out where people can stand
- Advocate for your advocacy
 - May not get to do best practice advocacy
- Prepare survivor to return to facility

Just Detention International (2015, April 30). *Beyond the Basics: Troubleshooting Through Scenarios*.



CHECKLIST: HOW TO PREPARE A SURVIVOR TO RETURN TO THE FACILITY

- Check in with the survivor about any concerns he or she has about returning to the facility. Brainstorm options to address the concerns and help the survivor develop a plan.
- Give the survivor written information with your agency's contact details and instructions for seeking follow-up services.
- Include in any written agreements with corrections agencies that survivors should be able to keep counselors' contact information with them.
- Make sure any information you provide is accessible to people with cognitive disabilities, sight impairments, and limited English proficiency or literacy. If the survivor cannot understand the written information, make sure to give clear verbal instructions for how to contact your agency.
- Request permission from the survivor to follow up through your contact person at the facility.
- Discuss follow-up instructions for medical and mental health care with the survivor and make sure that corrections officers accompanying the survivor know to pass along follow-up instructions to medical and mental health staff at the facility.
- If the survivor grants permission, follow up with your designated contact person within a few days to request a check-in with the survivor.

Just Detention International (2014, January). *Hope Behind Bars: An Advocate's Guide to Helping Survivors of Sexual Abuse in Detention*.



STORIES FROM THE FIELD



Mecklenburg County

Chasity Markle

- Victim Advocate
- Safe Alliance



New Hanover County



Emmy Gibson

- Victim Advocate/
Prevention Educator
- The Rape Crisis
Center of Coastal
Horizons Center, Inc.



Lessons Learned

What lessons did you learn from this process that you'd like to share with other advocates?



Q & A



Helpful Resource for Advocates

- JDI's *Hope Behind Bars: An Advocate's Guide to Helping Survivors of Sexual Abuse in Detention*
- http://justdetention.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/Advocates_Manual_FINAL.pdf

