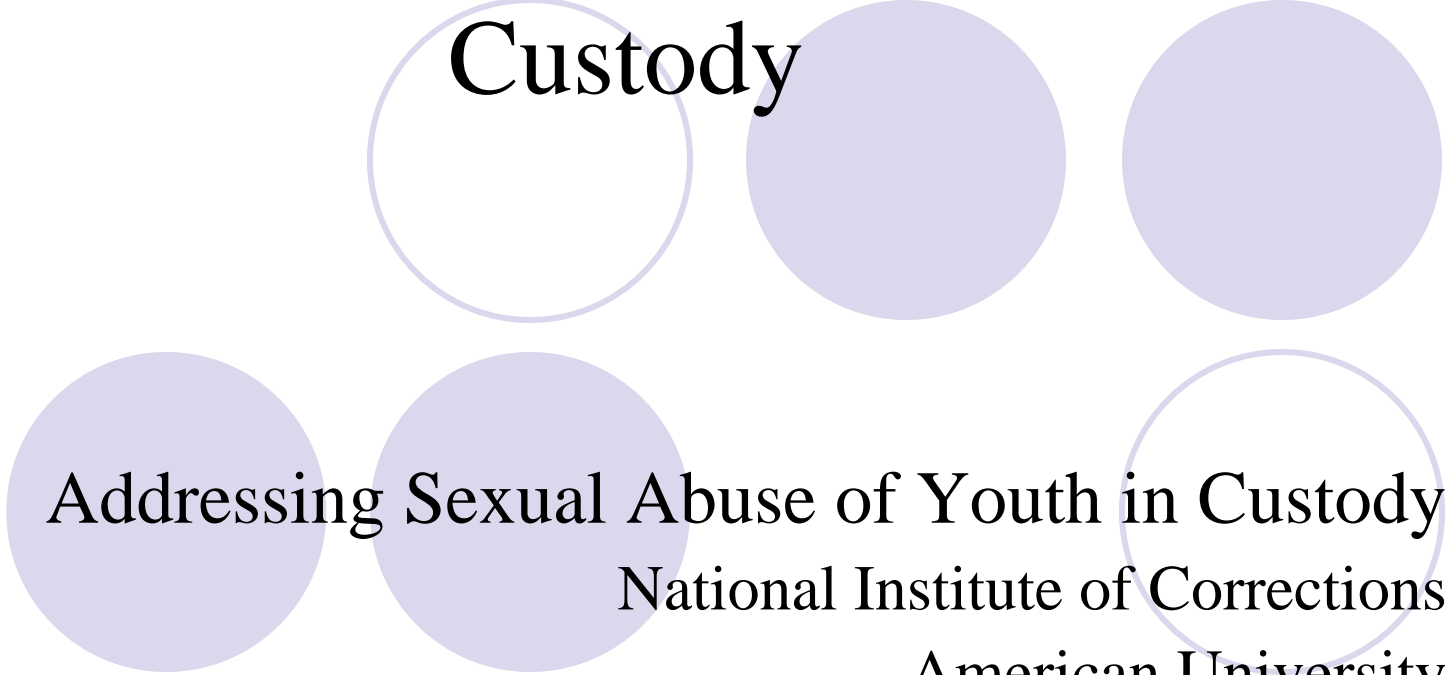


A Comprehensive Model for Addressing Sexual Abuse of Youth in Custody



Addressing Sexual Abuse of Youth in Custody

National Institute of Corrections

American University

Washington College of Law

July 10, 2007



Training Objectives

- Understand what a comprehensive model to addressing sexual abuse of youth in custody includes
- Identify each component of a comprehensive model
- Understand how a comprehensive model to addressing sexual abuse of youth in custody intersects



Comprehensive Model

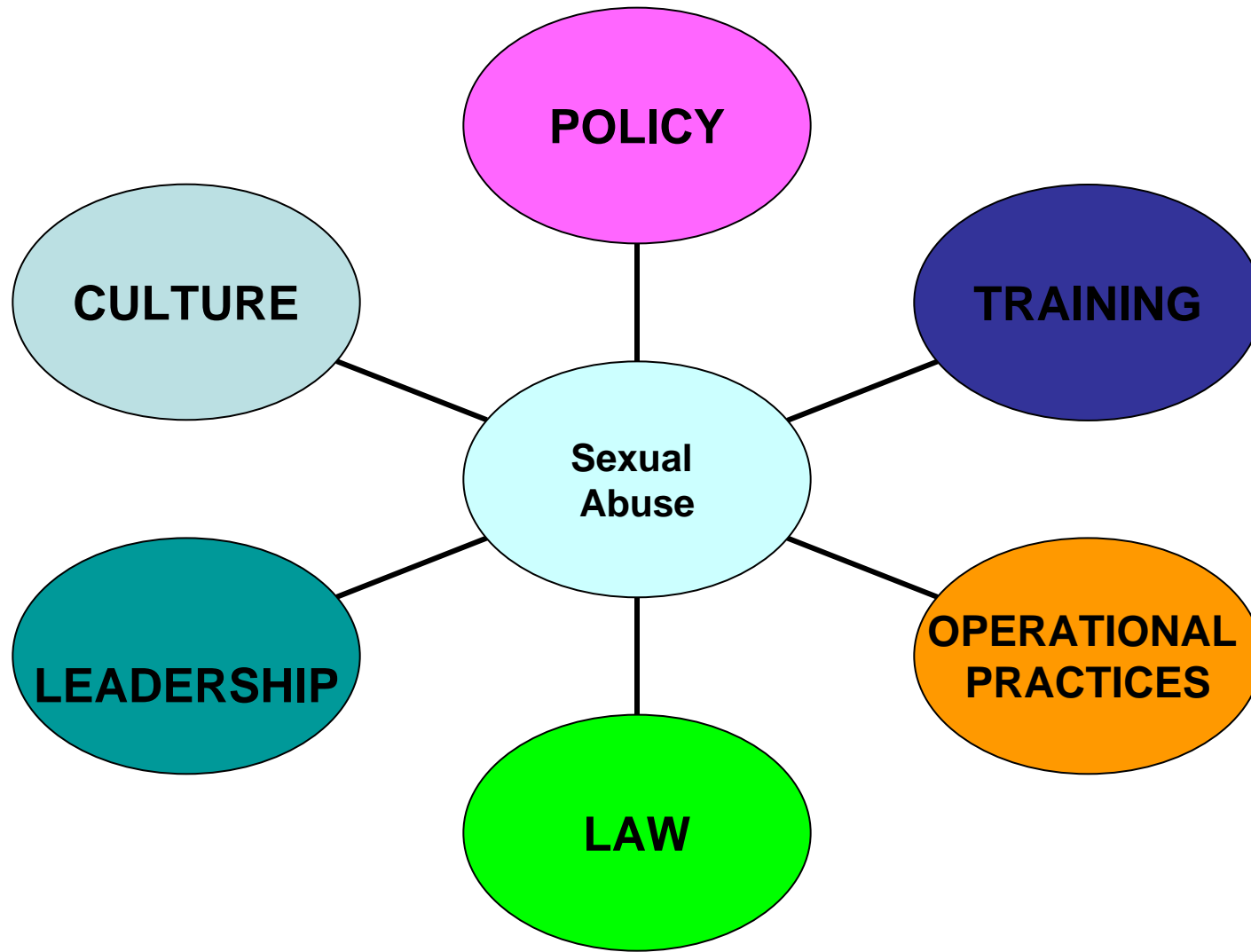
- Creates a model of correctional management for effective practice versus ad hoc response to crisis
- Holds all components of the correctional system responsible
- Creates multi-faceted approaches to the issue with many units working together

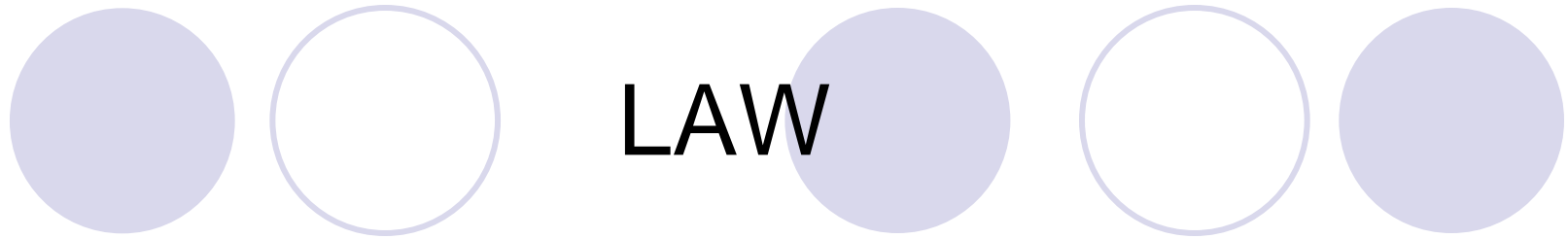


Comprehensive Model

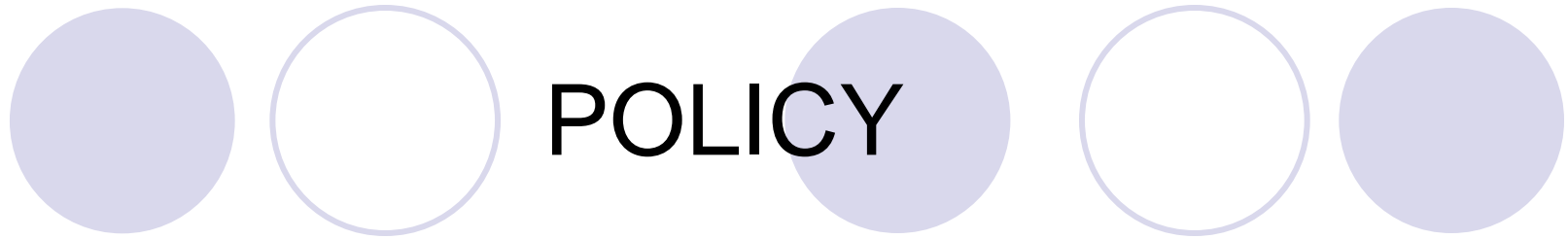
- Addresses more than the “sex” by acknowledging the role of culture in a given agency
- Youth on youth and staff on youth sexual abuse must be understood in the context of an organization’s culture

COMPONENTS OF A COMPREHENSIVE MODEL





- State Criminal Law and Prosecution
- State Tort law
- Federal Law



POLICY

- Classification
- Sexuality
- Sexual Assault
- Medical and Mental Health
- Sexual Assault Response Teams (SART)
- Grievance
- Reporting
- Investigations
- Staff Sexual Misconduct

OPERATIONAL PRACTICES/ STRATEGIES

- Classification
- Housing
- Supervision
- Programs
- Work Assignments
- SART



- Who

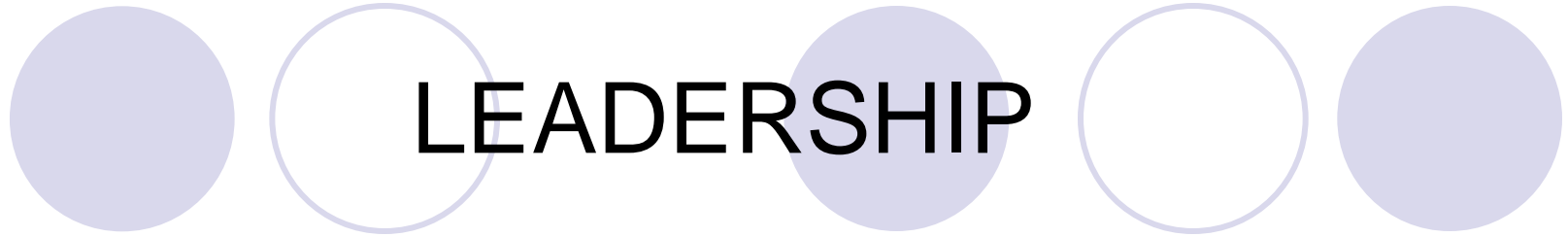
- Staff

- Youth

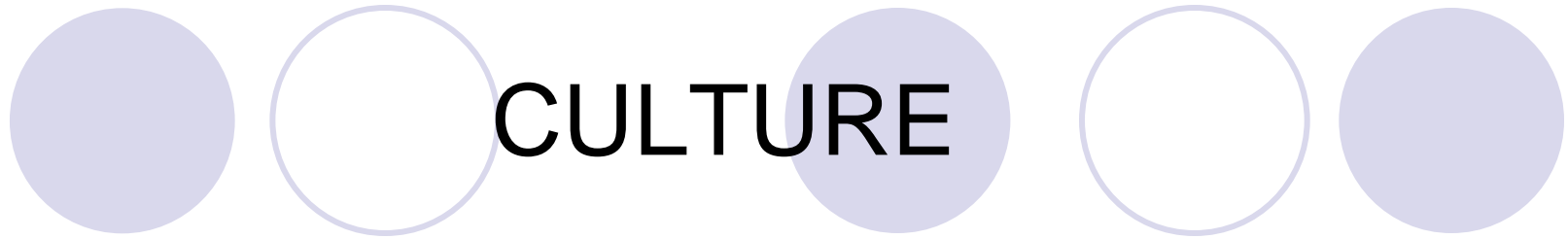
- Volunteers

- Contractors

- Comprehensive Curriculum



- Leadership style
- Priorities
- Communication
- Reward



- Assessment
 - Strengths
 - Challenges
- Who wants change
- How to make change
- Casualties in the process

Why a Comprehensive Model is Important in Juvenile Settings

- Climate and safety
- Staff / Youth sexual activity
- Youth on Youth sexual activity
- Mandatory reporting
- More vulnerable population
- Care Networks
 - Parents
 - The committing juvenile judge
 - Child advocacy groups



Getting Started

- Appointed PREA coordinator
- Director released first memo to staff outlining ‘Blueprint’ for reform
 - Zero tolerance for sexual activity
 - Personal belief in PREA
- Incorporate lessons learned



Getting Started

- Think big picture / Think comprehensively
 - Include and involve all facets of the agency, not just security and programming
- Go ‘Back to Basics’
 - Grant amnesty for staff
 - Ask staff to explain what they spend their day doing



- Leadership - Leadership – Leadership
 - Leadership buy-in and education
 - Need to name the issue and understand it
 - Convey how to fix it
- Expect the number of cases to go up in the short term
 - These include allegations & incidents that can be substantiated



Getting Started: Data Collection

- Consistency and quality in reporting
- Sanctity of data
- Record keeping
- Trend analysis

Getting Started: Community Outreach

- Hospitals

- Institutional staff should educate hospital administrators on PREA
- Ensure local hospital has rape kits

- Law enforcement

- Meet with each county prosecutor and law enforcement agency
- Establish role definition for investigation of sexual abuse



Getting Started: Staff Training

- All staff should be trained on PREA and the policy regarding sexual misconduct
 - Clear definition of sexual misconduct / abuse
 - Clear definition of how it is reported
- Special training for investigative staff on evidence collection
- Special training for Vulnerability Assessment team



Getting Started: Youth Training

- Orientation
 - PREA
 - How to report a rape
 - Sexual assault and abuse
- Victim Services
- Continual Awareness
 - Handbooks
 - Posters