Addressing Sexual Abuse of Youth in Custody

Module 6:
A Comprehensive Model for Addressing Sexual Abuse of Youth in Custody

Developed by the NIC/WCL Project under NIC CA #06S20GJJ1
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 components of a comprehensive model to addressing sexual abuse of youth in custody intersect

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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

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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

- POLICY
- CULTURE
- TRAINING
- LEADERSHIP
- LAW

Sexual Abuse

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State Criminal Law and Prosecution

State Tort Law

Federal Law

Other State Laws

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Classification
Sexuality
Sexual Assault
Medical and Mental Health
Sexual Assault Response Teams (SART)
Grievance
Reporting
Investigations
Staff Sexual Misconduct
Data Collection
OPERATIONAL PRACTICES/STRATEGIES

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

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Who
- Staff
- Youth
- Volunteers
- Contractors

Comprehensive Curriculum
LEADERSHIP

- Leadership style
- Priorities
- Communication
- Reward

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CULTURE

- 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

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Getting Started

- Appoint a PREA coordinator

- Outline a ‘Blueprint’ for reform
  - Zero tolerance for sexual activity
  - Personal belief in PREA

- Incorporate lessons learned

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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
Getting Started

- 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

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Getting Started: Data Collection

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

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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

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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

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Getting Started: Youth Training

- Orientation
  - PREA
  - How to report a rape
  - Sexual assault and abuse

- Victim Services

- Continual Awareness
  - Handbooks
  - Posters

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