3.5—The Review Panel on Prison Rape

In accordance with PREA, the Attorney General, in consultation with the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services, appoints the members of the Review Panel on Prison Rape (Review Panel).

The Review Panel is responsible for conducting annual hearings to collect evidence to assist the Bureau of Justice Statistics in identifying common characteristics, not only of victims and perpetrators of rape in confinement, but also common characteristics of facilities and correctional systems with high and low incidences of inmate rape. Public hearings are held with the institutions in each of the categories specified under PREA, including: state Departments of Correction; municipal and county jails; juvenile corrections facilities; former inmates; victim advocates; and researchers and experts in the field. Criteria for selection of an institution to go before the review panel are based on the data collected by the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS), which identifies institutions with the highest and lowest prevalence of sexual abuse. This analysis aids in the development of recommendations to improve agencies' response to these incidents, and identifying sound policy and practice.

At the conclusion of hearings, the Review Panel publishes a report of findings and recommendations. These can be found on the Review Panel website at http://ojp.usdoj.gov/reviewpanel/reviewpanel.htm.

SAMPLE AGENDA - APRIL 2011

Review Panel on Prison Rape Hearings on
Sexual Victimization in Adult Prison Facilities
US Department of Justice
Office of Justice Programs
April 26-27, 2011

Tuesday, April 26

8:30 – 8:45: Panel Members Opening Remarks

Convene hearings on facilities with a high incidence of sexual assault

8:45 – 9:45: Dr. Allen Beck, Bureau of Justice Statistics

Dr. Barbara Owen, Professor of Criminology, California State University - Fresno

Former inmate, Fluvanna Correctional Center for Women

Helen Trainer, former Director, Virginia Institutionalized Persons Project, Legal Aid Justice Center, Charlottesville, VA;

10:45 – 10:50: Break

10:50 – 1:00 pm: Fluvanna Correctional Center for Women

Recess hearings on high incidence facilities

Convene hearings on facilities with a low incidence of sexual assault