National Association of PREA Coordinators

presents

8th annual

# National PREA Coordinators Conference

Charleston Coliseum & Convention Center West Virginia July 21-23, 2026

# Welcome

Welcome to the 8th Annual National PREA Coordinators Conference!

This July, professionals from across the country gather in beautiful Charleston with a shared purpose: to strengthen our work, deepen our connections, and continue building safer systems grounded in dignity, accountability, and humanity. Whether you traveled across the state or across the country, we are grateful you chose to invest your valuable time and energy in this space.

We know the demands of this work are significant. The pace can be relentless and the emotional weight can be heavy. That is exactly why gatherings like this matter.

Over the next few days, we hope this conference becomes more than just a series of sessions and handouts. We hope it becomes a place to learn openly, ask difficult questions, share promising practices, laugh often, and reconnect with the purpose behind the work. We hope you leave with new ideas, renewed motivation, and reminders that you are not doing this work alone.

Thank you for making space to prioritize professional growth, collaboration, and wellness. Your presence here reflects your commitment not only to compliance, but to people.

We are honored to welcome you to the 2026 PREA National Coordinators Conference and look forward to learning alongside you.

8th annual

**National PREA Coordinators Conference**

# Agenda 21 Tuesday July 2026

7:00a – 8:30a
REGISTRATION | Elk River Atrium

8:45a – 9:00a
WELCOME | Ballroom C

9:00a – 10:15a
PREA FATIGUE: A REAL CHALLENGE, OFTEN OVERLOOKED, YET HIGHLY MODIFIABLE | Ballroom C

10:15a – 10:30a
BREAK

10:30a – 11:45a
01. PREA COORDINATOR BOOT CAMP: FROM CRISIS TO COMPETENCE | Ballroom C
02. ENGAGE, EMPOWER, EXCEL: STRATEGIES FOR PREA TEAM SUCCESS | Terrace 210-212
03. AVOIDING IMPLICIT BIAS IN INVESTIGATIONS | Terrace 215-216

11:45a – 1:00p
LUNCH

1:00p – 2:15p
01. CARE IN CUSTODY: MEDICAL FORENSIC EXAMS FOR INCARCERATED INDIVIDUALS | Ballroom C
02. THE SCIENCE OF SAFETY: USING RISK ASSESSMENT RESEARCH TO GUIDE PRACTICE | Terrace 210-212
03. CONTINUUM OF HARM | Terrace 215-216

2:15p – 2:30p
BREAK

2:30p – 3:45p
01. THE PREA MACGYVER: BIG IDEAS, LITTLE MONEY | Ballroom C
02. HAVE A GOOD AUDIT DAY | Terrace 210-212
03. WORDS MATTER | Terrace 215-216

Agenda may be subject to change.

## PREA Fatigue: A Real Challenge, Often Overlooked, Yet Highly Modifiable | Ballroom C

Stephanie Rawlings, Desert Waters

PREA Coordinators occupy one of the most isolated and high-liability roles in corrections — often understaffed, overextended, and operating with limited organizational support, despite the critical importance of their work. This plenary session shines a light on the overlooked emotional toll of managing continual exposure to sexual abuse allegations, including the exhausting churn of unfounded, retaliatory or vindictive reports alongside very real threats and traumatic incidents. Over time, this exposure can lead to cynicism, emotional numbing, and disengagement — conditions that can quietly undermine the PREA Coordinators' effectiveness and sustainability in their role, and even their overall wellbeing and quality of life. Participants will explore the concept of "PREA fatigue," how it develops within systems, and evidence-informed strategies agencies can use to recognize and address it early — before it contributes to burnout, trauma, disengagement, or overwhelm.

## PREA Coordinator Boot Camp: From Crisis to Confidence | Ballroom C

Ryan Nottingham, Illinois Department of Corrections
April Ramert, Missoula County Detention Facility
Kelly Richardson, Illinois Department of Corrections
Jen Sprafke, Vermont Department of Corrections

Were you assigned PREA responsibilities without instruction or onboarding? Trust us, you aren't alone! So many have been in your shoes. This session intends to share the past experiences of experienced PREA Coordinators and the strategies they used to get up to speed. We will also talk about what you can do to build capacity and protocols for your replacement. Afterall, you can't leave behind a legacy if you don't have a plan.

## Engage, Empower, Excel: Strategies for PREA Team Success | Terrace 210-212

Tammy Barbetto, Virginia Department of Corrections
Erin Hickey, North Carolina Department of Public Safety
Blake Pollack, Tennessee Department of Correction
Daniel Sheline, Lake County Sheriff's Office

Join a panel of seasoned PREA leaders as they share proven strategies for building strong, effective teams that drive compliance and foster a culture of accountability. Designed for facility and regional PREA Compliance Managers, this interactive session will provide practical insights on empowering team members with clear roles and responsibilities, engaging staff at all levels to build buy-in and overcome resistance, and creating partnerships between facilities and regions for consistent compliance.

## Avoiding Implicit Bias in Investigations | Terrace 215-216

Chris Nunez, New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision

Implicit bias is a universal truth. Not only does it exist within each of us, but it informs and affects our work. Join us for a lively discussion intended to push perspectives as we acknowledge, understand, and recognize the role of implicit bias in investigations. Participants will discuss the elements of implicit bias; the ways in which implicit bias can interfere in investigations; how to prevent implicit bias from impacting decision-making; and, ultimately, shift this truth into a productive tool.

## Care in Custody: Medical Forensic Exams for Incarcerated Individuals | Ballroom C

Brittany DeCrease, Foundation for Rape Information and Services

Sexual violence in custodial settings presents complex challenges for correctional systems and healthcare providers alike. Understanding the components of the medical forensic examination is crucial to ensuring that victims of sexual violence receive timely, trauma-informed treatment. This session will provide an overview of best-practice approaches to conducting trauma-informed sexual assault medical forensic examinations for individuals in custody. Participants will learn the purpose and scope of the medical forensic exam, including victim-centered strategies for consent, privacy, and dignity. Throughout the presentation, practical considerations for responders to sexual violence in custodial settings will be reviewed, including opportunities to strengthen access to timely, high-quality forensic medical care following cases of sexual assault in correctional facilities.

## The Science of Safety: Using Risk Assessment Research to Guide Practice | Terrace 210-212

Valerie Clark, Minnesota Department of Corrections
Sophie Polonsky, Minnesota Department of Corrections

PREA screening instruments are far more than compliance documents — they are essential safety tools. The information they capture influences housing placements, supervision levels, clinical and educational supports, and broader programming decisions that help prevent harm and promote successful adjustment. Although PREA provides a research-based framework for developing these instruments, few studies have assessed how well agency-developed tools actually predict risk. This session highlights Minnesota's effort to validate and strengthen its PREA screening instrument for adults in state prisons using actuarial methods. Through a close partnership between research staff and PREA compliance practitioners, the state created a gender-specific instrument that demonstrates strong predictive accuracy. The session will describe the development process, key findings, and ongoing implementation efforts.

## Continuum of Harm | Terrace 215-216

Leigha Weber, Wisconsin Department of Corrections

This interactive train-the-trainer session demonstrates the *Continuum of Harm* activity, where participants individually and collaboratively rank varying forms of sexual victimization, misconduct, and boundary violations. Through guided discussion, attendees will explore the impact of harm on individuals, staff, facilities, professional integrity, and organizational culture while weaving sexual abuse dynamics, the PREA standards, and agency policy into each scenario. With no "right" answers, the exercise challenges assumptions, examines normalization of harmful behavior, and highlights the role of the bystander in interrupting cultures of violence, misconduct, and harm. Participants will leave with practical tools to facilitate the activity within their own agencies.

## The PREA MacGyver: Big Ideas, Little Money | Ballroom C

Savitre Bettencourt, Hudson County Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation
Tyeisha Hill, North Carolina Department of Adult Correction
Jennifer Sheahan, The Moss Group
Jen Sprafke, Vermont Department of Corrections

In some shape or form, we've all received the same message. There are no resources, the state has no money, there will be budget cuts, we are eliminating positions…and it begs the question, *how can we achieve and sustain compliance with no money and no people?* This session is designed to share strategies and tips that our peers have used to build a team and programs without designated people and funding. Come prepared to share your struggles and strategies for success!

## Have a Good Audit Day | Terrace 210-212

Cheyenne Evans, Hawaii Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation
Amber Gibbs, Vermont Department of Corrections

A successful PREA audit begins long before the auditor arrives. This interactive session will explore practical strategies for preparing your facility, staff, and documentation for a smooth and productive audit experience. Participants will discuss lessons learned, share effective practices, and exchange ideas for creating a culture of readiness. The session will also cover professional hospitality, communication, and other often-overlooked factors that can help foster a positive and collaborative audit process. Whether you are preparing for your first audit or your tenth, you'll leave with actionable tips to help ensure it's a good audit day.

## Words Matter | Terrace 215-216

Monica King, Massachusetts Department of Youth Services
Shannon Massaroco, Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth, and Families

Words aren't just words — they shape decisions, influence actions, and define outcomes. In the world of PREA compliance, language can be the difference between confusion and clarity, reaction and resolution. This workshop seeks to help move beyond the acronym and embrace intentional communication that drives safety and accountability. In youth justice settings, PREA is often used as a catch-all term for concerns that do not actually fall under the standards. When language is unclear, responses can become inconsistent, disproportionate, or driven by fear instead of facts. Participants will revisit key PREA definitions, identify common misuses of terminology, and strengthen first-response approaches that align with both the letter and spirit of the standards.

# Agenda 22 Wednesday July 2026

8:45a – 10:00a

Culture Eats Policy for Breakfast: Turning PREA Compliance into Culture Change | Ballroom C

10:00a – 10:15a

Break

10:15a – 11:30a

01. Seduction's Slippery Slope | Ballroom C

02. Leveraging AI: Practical Guardrails, Real Risks, and Responsible Use | Terrace 210-212

03. Are your PREA Implementation Practices Trauma Informed? | Terrace 215-216

11:30a – 12:45p

Lunch

12:45p – 2:15p

01. Prisons and Jails Forum | Ballroom C

02. Youth Forum | Terrace 210-212

03. Community Confinement Forum | Terrace 215-216

2:15p – 2:30p

Break

2:30p – 2:45p

Argus in Action

2:45p – 3:30p

Resources Reimagined | Ballroom C

3:30p – 4:00p

SSV ABC's | Ballroom C

4:00p – 4:30p

PREA Unscripted | Ballroom C

Agenda may be subject to change.

## Culture Eats Policy for Breakfast: Turning PREA Compliance into Culture Change | Ballroom C

Brian Koehn, Social Purpose Corrections

Most facilities can recite PREA policy. Fewer can honestly say staff and residents trust the system enough to use it. This session reframes PREA as what it has always been at its core: a culture standard. When the culture is healthy, compliance is easier, reporting is more credible, investigations move faster, staff intervene earlier, and audits become confirmation rather than crisis management. Drawing on real-world experience leading culture change in multiple prisons, Brian Koehn outlines a practical operating perspective that turns PREA from a binder into behavior. Attendees will hear how facilities build reporting confidence without creating chaos, how first-line supervisors set the tone every shift, and how risk becomes normalized when culture is not actively managed. Participants will leave with a clear understanding of the culture levers and strategies that shape daily behavior, whether they are facility leaders or operational influencers.

## Seduction's Slippery Slope | Ballroom C

Stephanie Rawlings, Desert Waters

Corrections fatigue doesn't just affect morale — it can elevate risk. This interactive workshop examines how chronic stress, emotional depletion, and blurred boundaries increase vulnerability to sexual misconduct, whether initiated by staff, incarcerated individuals, or both. Participants will unpack the psychological and organizational dynamics that make misconduct more likely in fatigued systems and review agency-level strategies to interrupt these risk pathways early. Special emphasis is placed on the role of PREA Coordinators in supporting staff wellbeing, reinforcing healthy boundaries, and partnering with leadership to reduce misconduct risk. The focus is on proactive, prevention-oriented practices that sustain professionalism — rather than relying solely on outward compliance or reactive responses after misconduct occurs.

## Leveraging AI: Practical Guardrails, Real Risks, and Responsible Use | Terrace 210-212

Caleb Asbridge, The Moss Group
Tyeshia Hill, North Carolina Department of Adult Correction

Artificial intelligence tools are increasingly appearing in correctional environments — sometimes formally, often informally. Many PREA professionals are using AI to help with summaries, training materials, and policy interpretation, while uncertainty around privacy, liability, and agency policy creates both hesitation and risk. This session examines how AI intersects with PREA work today, including common misconceptions about privacy and confidentiality when using external AI systems. Participants will explore potential risks, practical guardrails, and responsible use cases such as investigative documentation support, training development, and policy analysis. This is not a technology pitch, but a practical conversation about using AI thoughtfully and responsibly in PREA-related work.

## Are Your PREA Implementation Practices Trauma Informed? | Terrace 215-216

Tara Graham, Just Detention International

The PREA standards provide the framework for what needs to be done to prevent, detect, and respond to sexual abuse and sexual harassment. The implementation — the how — is left up to us to figure out. Have you looked critically at your agency's "how" and whether or not these approaches are trauma-informed? Take, for example, searches. Nobody likes them — staff or incarcerated people — yet they are important for safety and security. Could they be doing more harm than good? How can searches be done to balance safety and security AND minimize trauma? This session will tease apart a handful of the PREA standards to look at typical implementation and whether or not they are trauma-informed. Breakout groups will work collaboratively to look at current practices and what might cause trauma, and then develop trauma-informed solutions to share with the larger group. Participants will leave the session with an increased understanding of how to evaluate and revise PREA policies and practices through a trauma-informed lens.

## Facility Type Forum Series

Every correctional setting faces unique PREA implementation challenges. These facilitated forum sessions bring together professionals from similar facility types to engage in candid discussion, exchange ideas, and learn from one another's experiences. In an open, participant-driven format, attendees will explore emerging issues, share practical solutions, and discuss strategies that address the realities of their specific environments. Whether seeking advice, offering insight, or simply connecting with peers who understand your challenges, these forums provide a valuable opportunity for collaboration, problem-solving, and professional support.

## Prisons and Jails Forum | Ballroom C

Miciah Ahrnsbrak, Oklahoma Department of Corrections
John Barkley, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department
Blake Pollock, Tennessee Department of Corrections
Daniel Sheline, Lake County Sheriff's Office

## Youth Forum | Terrace 210-212

Darcy Acosta, Idaho Department of Juvenile Corrections
Carla Bennett-Wells, Texas Juvenile Justice Department
Taylor Garza, Colorado Division of Youth Services

## Community Confinement Forum | Terrace 215-216

Lori McGrady, Esq., Oriana House
Dr. Jerry Martinez, Volunteers of America, Puerto Rico, Inc.
Jill Shane, CoreCivic
Joseph Theriot, Dismas Charities, Inc.

## Argus in Action | Ballroom C

Mitch Davis, Argus Corrections Solutions, Inc.

Discover Argus, a case management solution designed to support PREA professionals in tracking, documenting, and managing cases with greater efficiency. This brief technology spotlight will provide an overview of the system's key features and a live demonstration of its capabilities.

## Resources Reimagined | Ballroom C

Caleb Asbridge, The Moss Group
Jennifer Sheahan, The Moss Group

This session will preview two upcoming TMG products designed to support stronger, more consistent PREA implementation across agency and facility settings. Participants will see a new asynchronous orientation course for PREA Coordinators and PREA Compliance Managers, as well as a tightly scoped PREA standards chatbot that provides reliable, citable reference support grounded in federal PREA standards and DOJ interpretive guidance. Together, these tools help staff build role clarity, practical confidence, and access to authoritative PREA guidance when they need it.

## SSV ABC's | Ballroom C

Greta Clark, U.S. Census Bureau
Tracy Loveless, U.S. Census Bureau

We will highlight key challenges encountered in recent cycles of the Survey of Sexual Victimization (SSV) and discuss practical strategies to address them. Our goal is to provide direct support to respondents by clarifying how respondents should best report their data, address common concerns, and share best practices. This will also serve as an open forum for questions and discussion with the analyst who collect, review, and finalize your data. If you are experiencing challenges, it is likely that other agencies are facing similar issues, and we encourage collaborative dialogue to improve the reporting process for everyone.

## PREA Unscripted | Ballroom C

National Association of PREA Coordinators Board

PREA Unscripted is a fast-paced, interactive session designed to tackle the questions that don't always fit neatly into formal presentations. Together, participants will explore emerging issues, implementation challenges, and practical compliance questions facing PREA Coordinators and allied professionals. Discussion will include a concise review of last year's executive order related to the management of transgender individuals in custody and corresponding direction provided to auditors regarding applicable PREA standards. Because time is limited, the session will focus on high-impact discussion, resource sharing, and identifying pathways for continued collaboration. Attendees will leave with connections to additional resources, subject matter experts, and opportunities to continue critical conversations beyond the session.

# Agenda 23 Thursday July 2026

8:45a – 10:00a

01. Investigations 101: Building a Multi-Disciplinary Foundation | Ballroom C

02. Women Who Offend | Terrace 210-212

03. PREA Curve Balls: Addressing Leadership Gaps While Elevating Awareness and Accountability | Terrace 215-216

10:00a – 10:15a

Break

10:15a – 11:30a

01. Investigations: Beyond the Basics | Ballroom C

02. Beyond Policy: Ethical Judgment in PREA Compliance | Terrace 210-212

03. Take Time to Breathe and Celebrate Resilience | Terrace 215-216

11:30a – 12:45p

Lunch

12:45p – 2:00p

01. Compliant Investigations and the PREA Coordinator | Ballroom C

02. Youth Risk Assessments: From Intake to Impact | Terrace 210-212

03. Easy Audits, Hard Truths | Terrace 215-216

2:00p – 2:15p

Break

2:15p – 3:30p

01. What Next? Practical Steps to Enhance PREA Operations | Ballroom C

3:30p – 4:00p

Closing | Ballroom C

Agenda may be subject to change.

## Investigations 101: Building a Multi-Disciplinary Foundation | Ballroom C

Caleb Asbridge, The Moss Group
Tami Kelly, New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision
Christian Nunez, New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision

The key to effectively investigating allegations of sexual abuse and sexual harassment is building a solid foundation of understanding. During this presentation, participants will learn the value of a strong multi-disciplinary approach. We will discuss developing investigative guidelines, credibility assessments, the role of the PREA compliance manager, and how to successfully manage the complexities of these important, sensitive investigations.

## Women Who Offend | Terrace 210-212

Jill Shane, CoreCivic

Building on a popular session from last year's conference, this presentation shares the findings of a CoreCivic-led workgroup established to examine the factors associated with substantiated cases of female staff-on-inmate sexual abuse. Participants will explore trends, contributing influences, and key insights identified through the group's research and analysis. The session will also focus on the practical implications of these findings, offering prevention strategies, discussion points, and considerations for agencies seeking to strengthen professional boundaries, reduce risk, and enhance staff accountability. Join the conversation as we examine an often-overlooked topic and its significance for PREA compliance and institutional safety.

## PREA Curve Balls: Addressing Leadership Gaps While Elevating Awareness and Accountability | Terrace 215-216

Juan Quintero, Headquarters Marine Corps Corrections
Matt Taylor, Arizona Department of Corrections
Jerad Timmerman, South Dakota Department of Corrections

Leadership plays a critical role in sustaining PREA compliance, yet many agencies struggle when decision-makers lack awareness or underestimate the importance of PREA requirements. This session focuses on bridging that gap by equipping participants with strategies to engage leadership, clarify responsibilities under federal standards, and reinforce the connection between compliance and organizational success.

## Investigations: Beyond the Basics | Ballroom C

Amanda van Arcken, NW Correctional Audits, LLC

This workshop explores responding to people who repeatedly report allegations that are eventually deemed unsubstantiated or unfounded. Is a full investigation necessary with each allegation? What might an abbreviated investigation look like? We will also discuss other investigative complexities, to include: how investigations may be impacted when the reporting inmate is mentally ill or cognitively limited; how to manage allegations that may be both criminal and administrative in nature (and whether they should occur simultaneously); what happens when an allegation initially reported as sexual harassment or sexual abuse turns out to be neither and how that affects data reporting; and more!

## Beyond Policy: Ethical Judgment in PREA Compliance | Terrace 210-212

Heather Baltz, The PREA Lady

PREA Coordinators operate at the intersection of safety, accountability, and institutional culture — and the ethical challenges they face are often complex and rarely discussed. We will look at how organizational culture, leadership expectations, and internal scrutiny can unintentionally encourage costly shortcuts, suppress reporting, or affect audits — and how these pressures ultimately undermine trust and compliance. The class examines the ethical implications of loyalty norms, conflicts of interest, and compromised investigative practices, as well as the importance of confidentiality in all PREA programs. Participants will gain practical insights into recognizing ethical red flags, how to avoid ethical pitfalls, and strengthening a culture that truly supports PREA's mission.

## Take Time to Breathe and Celebrate Resilience | Terrace 215-216

Tara Graham, Just Detention International

This session is for you. Not for anyone else. Just you. Our days are permeated with chaos — at work, at home, in life, in the world. It is tough to break free. While we try to keep up, it is also important to take time to breathe and settle our minds. For if we are not whole, we cannot help others or keep others safe.

## Compliant Investigations and the PREA Coordinator | Ballroom C

April Ramert, Missoula County Detention Facility
Jennifer Sheahan, The Moss Group
Jen Sprafke, Vermont Department of Corrections

Are you a PREA Coordinator and tired of returning investigative packets for noncompliance? Are you an investigator and frustrated when yours is returned? If so, let's talk! PREA Coordinators play a critical role in ensuring investigations meet both the letter and spirit of the PREA Standards. This session is not a course on investigative techniques, but rather an exploration of the key investigative elements that drive compliance and strengthen outcomes. Topics will include timeliness, thorough documentation, credibility assessments, witness interviews, evidence collection, investigative review, and other indicators of a complete and compliant investigation. Participants will learn how PREA Coordinators can support quality assurance, identify common gaps, and work collaboratively with investigators to promote consistency, accountability, and best practice across their agencies.

## Youth Risk Assessments: From Intake to Impact | Terrace 210-212

Lawanda Long, Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice
Shannon Massaroco, Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth, and Families

Together we'll examine on how risk screening information translates into real-world decisions in youth facilities. This highly interactive session moves beyond theory and engages participants in applying PREA-aligned victimization and abusiveness screening processes to realistic facility scenarios. Through guided exercises, small-group discussion, and problem-solving activities, participants will practice translating screening results into housing, supervision, education placement, and programming decisions that reduce vulnerability and strengthen youth safety.

## Easy Audits, Hard Truths | Terrace 215-216

Sarah Howard, California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation
Julie Sarver-Wall, North Carolina Department of Adult Corrections
Tami Kelly, New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision

PREA audits are designed to protect vulnerable populations and uphold accountability in correctional facilities. But when audits feel "easy" or auditors lean toward leniency, the true purpose of compliance can be lost. In this session, panelists will discuss the risks of audits that appear to treat PREA compliance as a checkbox exercise and the severe consequences facilities face when standards aren't genuinely met. Passing an audit doesn't guarantee safety — so how can organizations build a culture that prioritizes integrity over convenience? Join us to explore practical strategies for moving beyond audit day toward lasting compliance and accountability.

## What Next? Practical Steps to Enhance PREA Operations | Ballroom C

Caleb Asbridge, The Moss Group
Jennifer Sheahan, The Moss Group

The closing session of any conference carries a risk: attendees leave energized but overwhelmed, unsure how to translate three days of learning into meaningful change back home. This session is designed to eliminate that gap.

In this interactive capstone experience, PREA Coordinators will revisit key themes and takeaways from across the conference — and do the hard work of turning insight into action. Using a structured planning process, participants will build a prioritized roadmap for post-conference implementation, with an intentional focus on one of the most challenging dimensions of sustainable PREA operations: leveraging the team around you.

Whether by circumstance, capacity, or culture, PREA Coordinators often feel that they carry the responsibility for implementation alone. This session challenges that model directly — helping participants identify who else needs to be at the table, what roles they play, and how to engage them effectively – even in resource-strapped environments. Attendees will leave with a concrete, personalized action plan and a clearer picture of the agency-wide infrastructure required to make it stick.

**Darcy Acosta** is the Quality Improvement Manager and PREA Coordinator for the Idaho Department of Juvenile Corrections, where she oversees statewide quality improvement efforts, internal audits, policy review, and PREA compliance. She brings more than 18 years of experience in corrections and juvenile justice, including roles with the Idaho Department of Correction and Management & Training Corporation. Her longest position was as Deputy Warden of a prison that provided substance abuse and cognitive programming to adult males. Darcy has extensive expertise in compliance oversight, program management, contract monitoring, and conducting PREA and operational audits across both adult and juvenile facilities. She holds a Master's degree in Criminal Justice from the University of Cincinnati, a Bachelor's degree in Secondary Education from Arizona State University, and is an ACA Certified Correctional Executive.

**Miciah Ahrnsbrak** began in the agricultural and correctional industries for the Oklahoma Department of Corrections in 2019. She moved to PREA as an Administrative Assistant in 2020, promoted to PREA Manager (secondary coordinator) in 2021, and promoted to PREA Coordinator in 2023, where she has remained. While in PREA she has coordinated 41 audits and, last year, beat the agency record by obtaining 24 exceeds standards in a single facility audit.

**Caleb Asbridge** is a Project Director with The Moss Group and brings more than 25 years of experience in criminal justice leadership, compliance, training development, operational improvement, and grant and project management. Since 2005, he has worked extensively in the area of Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) implementation and has provided technical assistance to agencies across the country to strengthen compliance, improve operational practice, and enhance safety in confinement settings.

Before joining The Moss Group, Caleb served with the Kentucky Department of Juvenile Justice as superintendent of multiple juvenile correctional facilities and later as Assistant Director of Program Services. At The Moss Group, he has led and supported projects involving PREA implementation, audit readiness, technical assistance, organizational assessments, curriculum development, leadership training, and compliance and risk management. He was part of the initial development and delivery of PREA auditor training. Caleb holds a Master of Public Administration and a Bachelor of Arts in Government, Economics, and Philosophy from Western Kentucky University.

**Heather Baltz** has extensive and varied experience related to sexual safety compliance and investigation over a 25-year professional career. Heather was a criminal investigator with the Metro Nashville Police Department for 15 years before moving into corrections and becoming a PREA Coordinator for a national company. She managed over 60 facilities nationwide and had over 120 PREA Compliance Managers and Investigators who depended on her as an SME for PREA guidance. She has been a certified PREA auditor since 2023 and has participated in the PREA audit process since 2016. Heather has experience working with jails, prisons, detention centers, and community confinement facilities of all sizes and stages of PREA implementation.

Heather now owns a PREA consulting firm called The PREA Lady and is an active auditor. She conducts training, investigations, and cultural assessments, along with assisting agencies who are implementing the PREA standards and developing policy. She is passionate about sexual safety and making correctional environments safer places to live and work.

**Tammy Barbetto** began her career with the Virginia Department of Corrections (VADOC) in 1997, serving for two decades at a maximum-security adult male facility. In June 2017, she transitioned to the Department's PREA Unit when she was promoted to PREA/ADA Analyst for the Western Region. Her leadership and expertise led to her promotion in December 2020 to PREA/ADA Supervisor (Agency PREA Coordinator).

In November 2024, Mrs. Barbetto was appointed as Corrections Operations Manager, still supervising the PREA Unit and the ADA Unit, but her oversight expanded to include the Correspondence Unit and the LEP Coordinator. She is a DOJ Certified PREA Auditor, a Subject Matter Specialist, and an ACA Certified Corrections Manager, bringing a wealth of knowledge and a strong commitment to operational excellence and compliance.

**John Barkley** is currently the PREA Coordinator for the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. Prior to this position, John was the PREA Coordinator for the South Carolina Department of Corrections (SCDC) and was hired as the first PREA Coordinator for the department in August 2012. John worked for the South Carolina Department for over 25 years. Before serving as the PREA Coordinator for SCDC, he was an associate warden at a maximum-security prison, and prior to that post, he was the SCDC Public Information Officer. In 2015, John was selected by DOJ as one of 48 auditors to participate in the first Field Training Audit Program where a mock audit was completed, and the auditor's work was critiqued. John has audited and provided technical assistance to state prisons and county jails across the country.

**Carla Bennett–Wells** is the PREA Coordinator for the Texas Juvenile Justice Department (TJJD), a role she has held since 2018. She is responsible for the statewide implementation, management, and oversight of the National PREA Standards across all TJJD secure facilities and halfway houses. Her involvement with PREA began in 2014 as the PREA Compliance Manager for one of TJJD's juvenile facilities. She has spent more than a decade on PREA implementation efforts and a total of 19 years in juvenile corrections for the State of Texas. She is certified by the U.S. Department of Justice as a PREA Auditor for juvenile facilities, holds a Bachelor's degree in Industrial-Organizational Psychology from the University of Phoenix, and recently earned the Praesidium Guardian certification.

**Greta Clark** is a Supervisory Survey Statistician in the Criminal Justice Statistics Branch at the U.S. Census Bureau, where she leads a team of three staff members and three interns. With more than 25 years of experience at the Census Bureau, she has supported major Bureau of Justice Statistics data collections, including the Survey of Sexual Victimization (SSV) and the Deaths in Custody collections. Recognized as the Census Bureau's subject matter expert on the SSV, she has worked on the project since the passage of the Prison Rape Elimination Act in 2003 and oversees the full survey lifecycle. She holds an M.S. in Criminal Justice from Virginia Commonwealth University and both a Master's Citation in Survey Methodology and a B.A. in Criminology and Criminal Justice from the University of Maryland.

**Dr. Valerie A. Clark** is the Research and Evaluation Supervisor at the Minnesota Department of Corrections where she oversees research initiatives on correctional policy, institutional behavior, risk and need assessments, and reentry. Her research focuses on corrections, recidivism, victimization, and the impacts of correctional programming. She has published extensively on these topics in peer-reviewed journals. She holds a Ph.D. in Crime, Law, and Justice from The Pennsylvania State University.

**Brittany DeCrease** is a forensic and emergency nurse and the State Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) Coordinator for West Virginia. Brittany began her nursing career in 2011 and quickly discovered her passion for emergency medicine. It was during her time as a nurse and nurse manager in the emergency department that she recognized the critical need for competent, trauma-informed healthcare professionals for victims of sexual violence. After becoming trained as a SANE in 2020, Brittany began to assist the West Virginia Foundation for Rape Information and Services (WVFRIS) by providing training to nursing professionals in WV.

Since 2024, Brittany has worked as the WV SANE Coordinator. In her position, she trains and provides technical assistance to healthcare professionals seeking to work as medical forensic examiners and hospitals seeking to develop medical forensic programs. In addition to her full-time role, Brittany continues to practice as both an emergency medicine nurse and forensic nurse examiner for pediatric/adolescent and adult/adolescent populations in the northern panhandle of West Virginia. She remains committed to strengthening trauma-informed systems of care and supporting multidisciplinary approaches to improving responses to sexual violence throughout West Virginia.

**Cheyenne Evans** currently serves as the Agency PREA Coordinator and Litigation Specialist for the Hawaii Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. With nearly three decades of dedicated service, she oversees the full lifecycle of PREA implementation, maintenance, and compliance across all state correctional institutions, ensuring rigorous adherence to National PREA Standards.

Her expertise bridges the gap between administrative litigation and "boots-on-the-ground" operations. This unique perspective is rooted in 20 years of uniformed service, including her tenure as a supervisor and Compliance Manager at the Women's Community Correctional Center. Today, she leverages that deep institutional knowledge to supervise

facility Compliance Managers, revise agency-wide policy, and train the next generation of staff through specialized academy and investigations courses.

As a DOJ-certified PREA Auditor and Computer Voice Stress Analysis (CVSA) Examiner, Cheyenne brings a multifaceted approach to agency integrity and complex staff investigations. Her leadership extends to the national stage as a board member of the National PREA Coordinators Working Group. Throughout her 29-year career, she has remained a vital advocate for institutional culture, safety, and accountability within the State of Hawaii's correctional system.

TAYLOR GARZA serves as the Statewide Youth and Staff Safety Coordinator, which includes the role of PREA Coordinator, for the Colorado Division of Youth Services (DYS). She brings 23 years of service with DYS, having held positions as Officer I, II, and III, as well as Assistant Director and Director at multiple facilities.

In her role as Statewide PREA Coordinator, Ms. Garza leads agency-wide efforts to ensure full compliance with the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) and oversees sexual abuse investigations across both state-operated and provider-operated programs. Ms. Garza oversees compliance operations within 12 state-operated detention and treatment facilities and six contracted residential programs. She provides leadership in fostering supportive facility cultures, guiding policy development and revision, and delivering training to new employees through the DYS Training Academy. She also facilitates the agency's Internal PREA Workgroup and collaborates with executive leadership, facility administrators, and external partners to promote a culture of safety, transparency, and accountability.

AMBER GIBBS serves as the Regional PREA Compliance Manager for the Vermont Department of Corrections, bringing nearly two decades of experience across the Vermont mental health system, correctional system, compliance, and workforce development. Her career began on a maximum-security male admissions unit at the Vermont State Psychiatric Hospital and has spanned both sides of the correctional system inside the fence as a caseworker and outside as a probation officer. Across every role, her work has been guided by a single belief: compliance is not a checklist, it is a culture.

Amber is a strategic leader who transforms complex federal mandates into clear, achievable practice. She leads the Department's PREA audit readiness efforts with precision and purpose aligning policy, driving operational consistency, and delivering immersive, scenario-based training that prepares staff to perform when it matters most.Her impact is measurable. Across facilities and at the regional level, Amber has redefined what audit readiness looks like, shifting it from a reactive event to a sustained, system-wide standard. She builds infrastructures that hold, processes that scale, and teams that are not only prepared but confident, capable, and accountable.

As a certified instructor in crisis intervention, traumatic stress management, and resiliency, Amber brings both intensity and intention to her work. She develops high-impact training that strengthens decision-making under pressure, reinforces professional integrity, and supports the long-term resilience of the workforce.

TARA GRAHAM, MPH, is JDI's National Program Director, based in its Washington, D.C. office. She provides training and technical assistance to corrections agencies on preventing and responding to sexual abuse in detention. She has been working on the development and implementation of the Prison Rape Elimination Act standards for more than 15 years, including at the National PREA Resource Center. Her research experience includes interviewing homeless and runaway youth and incarcerated women about issues including drug use, sexual behaviors, and experience with physical and sexual violence. Previously, Tara served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Tanzania working on HIV/AIDS prevention with an emphasis on women and youth.

ERIN HICKEY is the PREA and Juvenile Records Manager for the North Carolina Department of Public Safety – Division of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. She began her career with NCDPS in 2006 as a case manager within the Division of Prisons. She has a diverse background, with work experience in inmate case management, sexually violent offender studies, division-level diagnostic program coordination, and served as the Juvenile Justice PREA Program Coordinator prior to assuming her current role.

She began working with juvenile justice in 2013 and has focused on developing, implementing, and evaluating policies addressing different populations and settings in a variety of subject matters across the juvenile justice system. She was heavily involved in North Carolina's efforts to raise the maximum and minimum ages of juvenile jurisdiction, working with stakeholders across the spectrum to develop training and policy consistent with legislative requirements. Ms. Hickey has a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice/Criminology and a Master of Public Administration from North Carolina State University and focuses her work on systemic improvements to policy and operations that are evidence-based, research-informed, and focused on affirming treatment philosophies

TYESHIA HILL Tyeshia Hill serves as the Correctional Training Coordinator for the (PREA) Office in North Carolina, bringing over 28 years of comprehensive experience in the corrections field. Her professional journey has encompassed various roles, including Sergeant at a Juvenile Detention facility, as well as positions centered on Juvenile Supervision (Intake and Probation), and currently, with the North Carolina Department of Adult Correction. In addition, Mrs. Hill serves as an Advisory Board Member for the North Carolina Juvenile Services Association, having previously held the role of President in 2021. She possesses a North Carolina General Instructor Certification and a Lean Six Sigma Green Belt Certification. Mrs. Hill has been married to her college sweetheart for 25 years and is the proud mother of two children who are both currently serving in the military.

SARAH HOWARD has been with the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) since 2012 and has served as Correctional Lieutenant with the CDCR PREA Compliance Office since 2022. In her role, Sarah assists in the oversight of statewide PREA Compliance, which includes conducting pre-audits, and providing onsite support to the facilities during formal Department of Justice (DOJ) PREA Audits. Previously, Sarah was a Correctional Lieutenant in a Medical Correctional Facility and a Correctional Sergeant in a Male General Population Correctional Institution.

Sarah was certified as a DOJ PREA Auditor in 2024 and currently conducts audits as part of the State Auditing Consortium, serving as both the lead auditor and support staff.

KEN HYLE is the Director of Correctional Services for The Moss Group (TMG), a criminal justice consulting firm. Prior to joining TMG, Mr. Hyle had a thirty-year career with the Department of Justice, retiring in January of 2022 as the General Counsel of the Federal Bureau of Prisons. Over the course of his career, he has worked extensively on criminal and correctional issues and employment law matters. Among his many accomplishments, he assisted in the drafting and implementation of the national Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) regulations. As General Counsel, he had oversight of legal training and of a broad range of practice areas to include correctional law, litigation, policy development and review, real estate and environmental law, government contracting, the Freedom of Information Act, and government ethics. Mr. Hyle served in the Senior Executive Service, has been recognized with two distinguished service awards from the United States Attorney General. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from Boston University and attended law school at the National Law Center of the George Washington University.

TAMI KELLY, with nearly 20 years of experience with the New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision, began her career in January 2007 as a Correction Counselor in a reception facility reviewing rap sheets, creating a historic snapshot of the Incarcerated Individuals criminal history, and identifying any security characteristics that would cause concern. In August 2014, she took a position with the Office of Classification and Movement assigning Security levels, facility placement, specializing in the mental health caseload, the vulnerable population, and the adolescent individuals. In October 2019, Tami was promoted to Assistant Deputy Superintendent/PREA Compliance Manager in 3 facilities. Tami successfully completed 6 PREA Audits with a focus on minimizing risk and Incarcerated Individual and staff safety. She also played a support role in 2 Consortium Audits in Oregon. Her training in Forensic Experiential Trauma Interviewing, evidence collection, and investigations has augmented her ability to work with a multidisciplinary team to build a culture of communication and safety.

MONICA KING serves as the Statewide PREA Coordinator and Director of Overnight Arrest Services for the Massachusetts Department of Youth Services (DYS), bringing more than 25 years of public service to the Commonwealth. In her role as Statewide PREA Coordinator, she leads agency-wide efforts to ensure full compliance with the Prison Rape Elimination

Act (PREA) and alignment with the Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDPA) across both state-operated and provider-operated programs.

Ms. King oversees compliance operations within 24 residential detention and treatment facilities and serves on the Program Monitoring Team, conducting internal assessments and strengthening corrective action processes to uphold federal standards. She chairs the agency's Internal PREA Workgroup and collaborates with executive leadership, facility administrators, and external partners to promote a culture of safety, transparency, and accountability.

In addition, Ms. King serves as co-chair of the Massachusetts Statewide Girls Services Committee and is a certified DYS trainer, providing staff development and technical assistance related to PREA standards, investigative protocols, and policy implementation. Her leadership has been recognized with the Equity in Governance Award and the Carballo Award.

Ms. King remains deeply committed to advancing trauma-informed practices, safeguarding the rights of youth, and strengthening systems that protect the dignity and well-being of young people in the juvenile justice system.

**Brian Koehn** is one of the most experienced operations-focused correctional leaders in the United States, with more than three decades of leadership across prison and detention operations. He has served as Warden and Complex Warden of five facilities nationwide and as Director of Security for 65 prisons and jails, leading organizations through complex challenges with measurable, sustained results.

Brian is widely recognized for stabilizing troubled institutions and strengthening supervision through culture change rather than policy alone. As the founder of Social Purpose Corrections, the first outcomes based nonprofit corrections model in the United States, he leads an innovative dynamic security approach that aligns staff engagement, proactive supervision, and operational discipline to change culture and outcomes. He served in the U.S. Marine Corps and later as a commissioned officer in the U.S. Army, bringing disciplined, steady leadership focused on prevention, professionalism, and early intervention before harm occurs.

**LaWanda Long** has been employed with the Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice as the Agency PREA Coordinator since 2018. Working to ensure that juveniles are safe from sexual abuse and sexual harassment. Prior to joining DJJ, she served as the Eastern Region PREA/ADA Analyst with VADOC for six years. She has been responsible for the development and implementation of the PREA Program for both the Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice and the Virginia Department of Corrections. She provides leadership in maintaining supportive facility cultures, policy modification, development, and delivery of training for the prevention, detection, and reduction of prison rape, she has been successful in her past and current role. In December of 2024, the leadership of DJJ placed another federal compliance unit under her supervision (ADA Unit) making her the Agency PREA/ADA Manager. She has over 20 years of correctional experience serving in various administrative/supervisory roles.

LaWanda received her Master's Degree in Administration from Central Michigan University. She became a DOJ certified PREA auditor on February 13, 2014, for adult facilities. LaWanda recently had the honor of being elected to the Delegate Assembly of the American Correctional Association for the 2023-2025 term, serving in the Juvenile Institutions category. LaWanda believes her integrity is everything and attributes this to her success.

**Tracy Loveless** is a Survey Statistician in the Criminal Justice Statistics Branch at the U.S. Census Bureau, where she has worked for 36 years. She plays a key role across the full survey lifecycle for the Survey of Sexual Victimization (SSV), supporting its design, implementation, and data quality efforts.

**Dr. Jerry Martinez** has 36 years of law enforcement experience, specifically in the correctional environment. He is a retired Warden from the Federal Bureau of Prisons and currently President of MCJ Corrections Consulting, Inc. For the past ten years he has provided services to Volunteers of America, Residential Reentry Center (RRC) in Puerto Rico as the ACA and PREA Coordinator. Currently, he is the PREA Coordinator and is responsible for the three-time re-accreditation of the RRC. He has provided PREA training to other RRC's under Volunteers of America and the federal prison in Puerto Rico.

SHANNON MASSAROCO, MS, PMP, is a purpose-driven public servant and youth equity advocate serving as Chief of Program Development and statewide Youth PREA Coordinator at the Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth & Families, Division of Youth Development. With over 20 years of experience in government operations and systems reform, she leads cross-system and grant-funded initiatives that strengthen supports and improve outcomes for Rhode Island's most vulnerable youth.

Grounded in lived experience, Shannon is committed to dismantling systemic barriers and advancing sustainable, youth-centered solutions rooted in justice and accountability. She leads multi-agency efforts including the Collaborating for Youth and Public Safety Initiative and the OJJDP Building Local Continuums of Care to Support Youth Success project—advancing equitable, community-based strategies that reduce justice involvement and address racial and ethnic disparities.

LORI MCGRADY is a licensed attorney with extensive experience in legal compliance and regulatory oversight for correctional and rehabilitation facilities. In her role as PREA and Legal Compliance Manager at Oriana House, she oversees compliance with the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA), addresses complex legal and regulatory issues, and serves as the Client Rights Officer.

As a Department of Justice–certified PREA Auditor, Lori conducts audits nationwide to ensure facilities meet rigorous standards related to sexual safety and sexual abuse prevention in correctional settings. Her professional expertise includes legal research, federal regulatory analysis, and aligning multiple compliance frameworks to strengthen accountability, streamline policies, and promote operational excellence.

In addition to her professional work, Lori serves on the Board of Hope and Healing Inc., where she is committed to supporting survivors of sexual assault, domestic violence, and human trafficking.

RYAN NOTTINGHAM currently serves as the Agency Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) Coordinator for the Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC); a position he has held for the last eight years. In this role, he ensures compliance with the PREA Standards for all 31 of the Department's correctional facilities and work release centers across the State. In addition to his role as Agency PREA Coordinator, Ryan also oversees the operation of the Department's PREA Compliance Unit – a staff of two PREA Compliance Confidential Assistants and three regional External Investigators. Ryan has over 25 years of State service with vast knowledge and experience of PREA; victim services; policy creation, implementation, and evaluation; and critical incident response.

Ryan holds a Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice with a minor in Psychology, and a Master's Degree in Public Administration with a Criminal Justice concentration; both earned at the University of Illinois at Springfield.

CHRISTIAN NUNEZ currently serves as the Director of Operations at the NYS Department of Corrections and Community Supervision Office of Special Investigations (OSI). He is responsible for oversight of investigations and coordination of major cases across all investigative divisions.

Prior to his appointment as Director, Christian served as the Deputy Chief for the Sex Crimes Division (SCD). In that role, he was responsible for all operations of the division and supervised 40 investigative staff that are charged with the prevention, detection and investigation of sexual misconduct and unauthorized relationships involving both staff and incarcerated individuals. Additionally, he was the point person for ensuring that the SCD successfully integrated into its' practices the federal mandates of the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA), New York State laws and DOCCS policies. Christian also served in the OSI Narcotics Division, as an Investigator, later promoting to Senior Investigator and ultimately Assistant Deputy Chief. He has served as a task force officer for both the United States Marshals Service and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Before his career in investigations, he was a Correction Officer for six years. He has a Degree in Community & Human Services with a concentration in Criminal Justice. He is a certified police crime scene and evidence specialist and received a certification as an Inspectors General Investigator from the National Association of Inspectors General.

He serves as the 2nd Vice President of the NY/NJ Chapter of the National Association of Inspectors General. Throughout his career, he has completed extensive course work in criminal investigations specializing in fugitive, narcotics and sexual misconduct offenses, tactical operations, evidence and latent fingerprint collection, intelligence analysis and interview & interrogation. Lastly, he has completed extensive coursework in organizational leadership and management.

BLAKE POLLOCK, Deputy Inspector General, has 20 years of experience with the Tennessee Department of Corrections. He began his career in 2005 as a Correctional Officer at Riverbend Maximum Security Institution, where he was promoted through the ranks and was part of the facility-based tactical team. In 2015 he was promoted to central office and has been an integral team member within the Office of Inspector General (OIG) since 2018. During his time with OIG, he has assisted with institutional, community supervision, fiscal, PREA, and ACA audits. He most recently served as the Statewide PREA Coordinator. He holds a bachelor's degree in criminology and is also a Certified ACA Auditor.

SOPHIE POLONSKY is a State Program Administrator, with the Minnesota Department of Corrections, where she leads regional PREA compliance and reviews more than 300 investigations annually. She specializes in improving the quality, consistency, and defensibility of PREA investigations by ensuring standards are applied in practice—not just policy.

With over 20 years in law enforcement and corrections, she has served as a police officer, parole and probation deputy, investigator, and Hostage Negotiations Team Leader. She was also appointed to the Oregon Sexual Assault Task Force by the Attorney General, contributing to statewide policy and response efforts.

Sophie has collaborated on policy revisions to strengthen Sexual Abuse/Harassment Prevention, Reporting, and Response practices and, in partnership with DOC Research and Development, applied weighted scoring to screening factors—work that is informing more effective, data-driven approaches to identifying risk of victimization and abusiveness.

JUAN QUINTERO serves as the Corrections Support Chief and PREA Coordinator for Headquarters Marine Corps Corrections, where he leads agency-level compliance efforts, supports policy implementation, and strengthens operational standards across Marine Corps correctional programs. Born in El Paso, Texas on March 26, 1986, he enlisted out of El Paso on April 2, 2007, beginning a career dedicated to safety, accountability, and the protection of those in custody.

In his current role, Juan oversees budget execution, procurement processes, and regulatory compliance, ensuring that correctional operations align with federal requirements and organizational priorities. He works closely with internal stakeholders and external partners to support PREA-related initiatives, training, and program development.

Juan previously served as the Staff Noncommissioned Officer in Charge of the Marine Corps Absentee Collection Center, where he supervised high-risk deserter/prisoner transport operations and enforced strict custody and safety protocols. His background also includes managing logistics and physical security for a high-tempo emergency services battalion, maintaining accountability for millions in equipment, and supporting more than 70 annual training events.

Earlier assignments include serving as a corrections specialist and as a faculty advisor and instructor at Marine Corps University, where he developed training resources and facilitated professional development programs. Trained extensively in risk assessment, emergency response, conflict resolution, and adult learning, Juan brings a mission-focused, solutions-driven approach to PREA compliance and correctional leadership.

APRIL RAMERT is a versatile leader and multifaceted educator with over 20 years of experience in organizational leadership, instructional design, and complex program management. Currently serving as the PREA Coordinator for the Missoula County Sheriff's Office in Missoula, Montana, April oversees critical compliance standards, facility audits, and the strategic management of sensitive data. In this role, she acts as a vital bridge between institutional policy and community safety, managing inmate risk assessments, staff training, and federal data reporting with a keen eye for detail and continuous improvement.

Prior to her work in law enforcement administration, April spent over two decades shaping the academic landscape. As an Academic Advisor II and University Supervisor at the University of Montana, she guided students through complex degree requirements and professional development while serving on the University's advising council and as a staff ambassador. Her foundational expertise was built during a distinguished 17-year tenure as an Elementary Educator and Union Representative in the Lake Washington School District. There, she spearheaded instructional programs, led high-stakes contract negotiations for 12 years, and mentored emerging educators through periods of significant institutional change.

April's professional signature is her ability to combine emotional intelligence with rigorous analytical problem-solving. Whether she is facilitating federal data collection or navigating interpersonal conflict, she remains focused on building resilient relationships and making data-driven decisions. She holds a BA in Sociology from the University of Montana and a BS in Elementary Education from the University of Providence, providing her with a unique perspective on the intersection of human behavior and organizational excellence.

STEPHANIE RAWLINGS, M.Sc., brings more than 15 years of correctional experience with deep expertise in developing, implementing, and overseeing staff wellness programming within large correctional systems. Her work includes building and deploying comprehensive wellness and trauma-response initiatives for several public safety and state agencies. She previously served as the Staff Wellness Program Administrator for the Illinois Department of Corrections and has trained and presented extensively at the national level on system-wide approaches to correctional staff wellness, resilience, and organizational culture. Stephanie has been engaged with Desert Waters since 2017 in a variety of capacities, until it became clear that her full-time calling was to support this work alongside the organization. In her role with Desert Waters, she consults and trains with agencies seeking to increase retention efforts and improve the staff experience in high-stress, high-risk work environments. She holds a Master of Science degree in Criminal Justice Sciences from Illinois State University.

KELLY RICHARDSON currently serves as the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) Monitor for the Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC). She began this position with the department in August 2025. In this position, she oversees and conducts compliance activities, focusing on the Prison Rape Elimination Act. Key responsibilities include collaborating with Central Office staff and facility personnel to ensure compliance, assisting with internal and external audits, developing corrective action plans, and providing written and verbal reports. Additionally, she is responsible for training facility compliance managers, analyzing compliance trends and providing recommendations for policy changes. Mrs. Richardson has worked in IDOC for 25 years and held the following positions; Correctional Officer, Training Officer, Facility Review Compliance Officer, and Confidential Assistant to the Warden of Lawrence Correctional Center, a maximum security facility. Mrs. Richardson holds a bachelor's degree from Eastern Illinois University.

JULIE SARVER–WALL is a highly accomplished Program Analyst with the PREA office. With almost 20 years of service and experience encompassing both NCDAC and NCDHHS. She holds a bachelor's degree from Indiana University of Pennsylvania and is Lean Six Sigma Greenbelt certified. In her current role as a Program Analyst with the PREA office, she ensures the NCDAC adult correctional facilities maintain compliance with the Federal PREA Standards issued by the Department of Justice. She is involved with many aspects of the PREA program from training, investigation review, site visits, mock audits, Federal PREA Audits, Staffing Plan Analysis, policy review and technical assistance.

She has held positions such as Sexual Assault and Other Violent Crimes Counselor (Victim Services, Inc. in PA), Case Manager at Johnston Correctional, Probation/Parole Office for Johnston and Wilson counties, Juvenile Court Counselor and Jail Inspector for NCDHHS. This diverse background of positions enables her to adapt and understand complex practices to establish compliance with state and federal laws.

JILL SHANE is an accomplished corrections professional with over 21 years of experience, serving in many leadership roles over her career. She was the Inspector General and PREA Coordinator for the State of New Mexico and the founder of the National PREA Coordinator's Working Group. She is currently the Senior Director of PREA Compliance at CoreCivic. She has held consulting positions with the National PREA Resource Center and has conducted investigations with the Department of Justice into Civil Rights Violations. As a PREA Auditor, she has conducted over 65 PREA Audits in various states.

**Jennifer Sheahan** is a Project Manager and PREA Subject Matter Expert with The Moss Group and brings nearly 30 years of experience in corrections, compliance, operational improvement, and federally funded project support. She is widely recognized for her expertise in Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) implementation, audit readiness, and sexual safety in confinement settings, and has supported agencies across the country in strengthening PREA practice, compliance, and culture.

Before joining The Moss Group, Jennifer served in contract compliance leadership with The GEO Group, where she oversaw ACA and PREA compliance efforts across as many as 50 facilities nationwide. She also served as PREA Coordinator for a private corrections company in New Jersey and previously supervised residential community release programs for justice-involved individuals. At The Moss Group, she has led and supported projects involving PREA implementation, compliance audit readiness, facility sexual safety assessments, technical assistance, training development, and support for agencies operating under Department of Justice settlement agreements. She has served on the faculty of the PREA Resource Center's PREA 101 course and has been a Department of Justice-certified PREA auditor since 2016. Jennifer holds a Master of Human Services from Lincoln University and a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from Duquesne University.

**Daniel Sheline** began his career working for the Lake County Sheriff's Office (IL) Adult Correctional Facility in August 1997 serving as a Correctional Officer. He has served as a field Training Officer and was an original team member of the newly formed Correctional Response Team (CRT) in January 2004. In October of 2004 he was promoted to Corrections Sergeant and was selected to be the American Correctional Association Accreditation Manger in 2005. In 2012 he was tasked with obtaining the initial PREA certification for the facility and was designated the facility wide PREA Coordinator in 2013. Daniel also serves as his facility's Maintenance Supervisor in charge of procurement of all the supplies for the corrections division. Currently, Daniel is a member of the Illinois Correctional Association and has held the position of President since 2017 and is a Trustee for Illinois FOP Lodge 66.

**Jennifer Sprafke** graduated from the University of Vermont in 1999 with a bachelor's degree in social work. It was while at UVM that she learned about Corrections, working as a youth parole officer at Burlington Probation and Parole. Immediately after graduating, she was hired permanently as a Correctional Officer by Vermont's first women's facility, Dale Correctional Facility. Jennifer was quickly being promoted to Corrections Services Specialist where she learned about gender-responsive and trauma-informed practices firsthand through case management.

Jennifer moved to Central Office as a Training Coordinator training staff at facilities, field sites, and the Academy. It was in this position that she was able to work closely with the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) Office co-training on staff sexual misconduct and boundaries.

From 2006 through 2013, Jennifer worked as the Training Coordinator and PREA Director, responsible for overseeing, tracking, and reporting all allegations of sexual abuse; training sexual misconduct, PREA, boundaries, first responders, and inmate orientation; and working with staff to ensure that we are striving towards excellence in prevention, detection, reduction, and accountability.

In 2013, she was an Assistant Superintendent at the women's facility, calling on her passion for working in a facility with women where she remained for five years. During her tenure at Chittenden Regional Correctional Facility, she was the PREA Compliance Manager, and oversaw programming, the kitchen, grievances, case management, volunteer, and recreational services. In 2018, Jennifer returned to Central Office as the PREA Director responsible for all sexual abuse and misconduct for the Department and oversite of local PREA Compliance Managers. She has been a member of the National PREA Coordinators Workgroup since 2022. Since 2018, Jennifer has built the position into a unit and supervises two Regional PREA Compliance Managers and the Constituent Services Administrator.

**Matt Taylor** is a seasoned corrections professional with more than 27 years of experience and currently serves as the Agency PREA Coordinator for the Arizona Department of Corrections, Rehabilitation and Reentry. He began his career as a frontline Correctional Officer and has advanced through a wide range of roles in community corrections, investigations, auditing, and agency leadership. That path gives him a unique perspective on PREA, grounded in both day-to-day operational realities and the broader administrative responsibilities required to build safe, accountable correctional environments.

Since 2019, Matthew has led agency-wide PREA compliance efforts across 18 facilities, supervising a six-person PREA unit and working closely with staff, leadership, and external partners to strengthen practice, improve accountability, and support institutional safety. He is also a Department of Justice-certified PREA Auditor and has conducted PREA audits at prisons, jails, and community confinement facilities nationwide. Originally from the East Coast, Matthew moved to Arizona in 1998 and still proudly holds onto his Philadelphia sports roots.

JOSEPH THERIOT is the National PREA Coordinator and Senior Investigator for Dismas Charities, Inc. of Louisville, KY, a Private Non-Profit. Through his office, he manages 38 Community Corrections facilities' PREA implementation, and compliance with National standards. He prepares all DOJ audits for each facility assisted by the PREA Compliance Manager. Joseph is also the Senior Investigator leading a team of 28 certified investigators across the nation. He reviews all allegations before assigning and assisting an investigator. He is responsible for researching, maintaining current on and updating changes to policies, procedures and forms as needed. Joseph started his correctional career in 1996 after retiring from a 21-year military career. He started his 30-year Community Corrections career as a Facility assistant director, working up to Regional Vice-President, before assuming the role as PREA Coordinator in 2012.

JERAD TIMMERMAN Began working in corrections in 2013 as a Correctional Officer with the South Dakota Department of Corrections. During his career he has held positions which include Field Training Officer, Unit Coordinator, Admissions Case Manager, Agency PREA Coordinator, and recently added duties as ADA Coordinator. Jerad's current role with PREA began in early 2024 and he quickly discovered it's a constant learning process. Within this role, Jerad has promoted a "team approach" for all audits and agency wide compliance. This keeps all PREA Facility Compliance Managers familiar with the audit process and ensures agency-wide adjustments are made when needed. The expectation is that all facilities are audit ready at any given time and staff maintain a positive view regarding the Prison Rape Elimination Act.

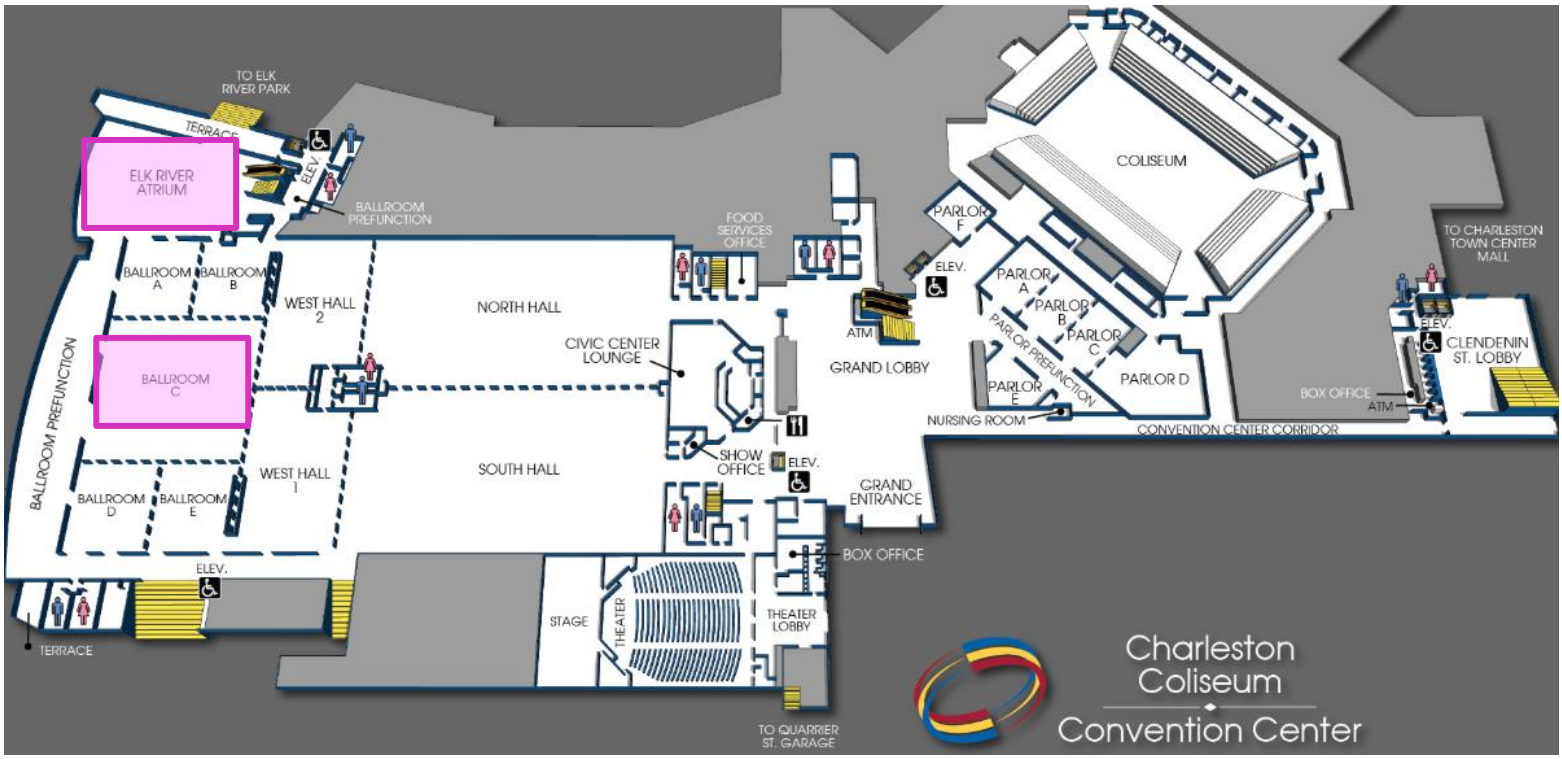
AMANDA VAN ARCKEN began her corrections career 25 years ago as a temporary-hire officer at a minimum-security facility. After graduating at the top of her academy class in December 2001, she progressed through a series of increasingly complex leadership roles, including assignments as Acting Institution Security Manager and Interim Superintendent. She served at six institutions and agency headquarters, culminating in her position as PREA Compliance Captain in the Office of the Inspector General. Amanda retired from the Oregon Department of Corrections in March 2026.

Amanda has focused on Prison Rape Elimination Act implementation since 2013 and is dedicated to protecting vulnerable populations and ensuring correctional facilities are places of sexual safety for all incarcerated persons. Certified by the U.S. Department of Justice as a PREA Auditor for Adult Prisons & Jails since 2016, she conducts private audits as the founder and sole proprietor of NW Correctional Audits, LLC. In August 2025, she began working for CoreCivic, continuing her work in PREA implementation and compliance for the private prison system.

Amanda is a 2009 graduate of the Harvard Trade Union Program and previously held labor leadership roles with the American Federation of State, County & Municipal Employees prior to her promotion into management services in 2012. She is active in her community, serving on the Board of Directors for Middleton Pioneer Cemetery and as a member of the Sherwood Police Advisory Board.

LEIGHA WEBER has been with the Wisconsin Department of Corrections' PREA Office since 2014 and has served as the agency's PREA Director since 2018. In the same year, she was certified as a USDOJ PREA Auditor and currently conducts audits of adult facilities as part of a state auditing consortium. Prior to joining WI DOC, she oversaw all major service delivery functions as the Director of Social Services for The Salvation Army of Dane County. She came to Madison from San Diego where she was the Community Health Program Manager for the Transitional Case Management Program, a joint re-entry initiative of the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation and the University of California-San Diego. Leigha has experience managing caseloads of mentally ill/dual diagnosed inmates, providing therapy to court-mandated youth and their families, and facilitating grief and loss therapy. She has a Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice and a Master's degree in Marriage and Family Therapy. She has been the Chair of the National PREA Coordinators Working Group since 2022 and is excited to transition this group to the National Association of PREA Coordinators.

## Floor 1

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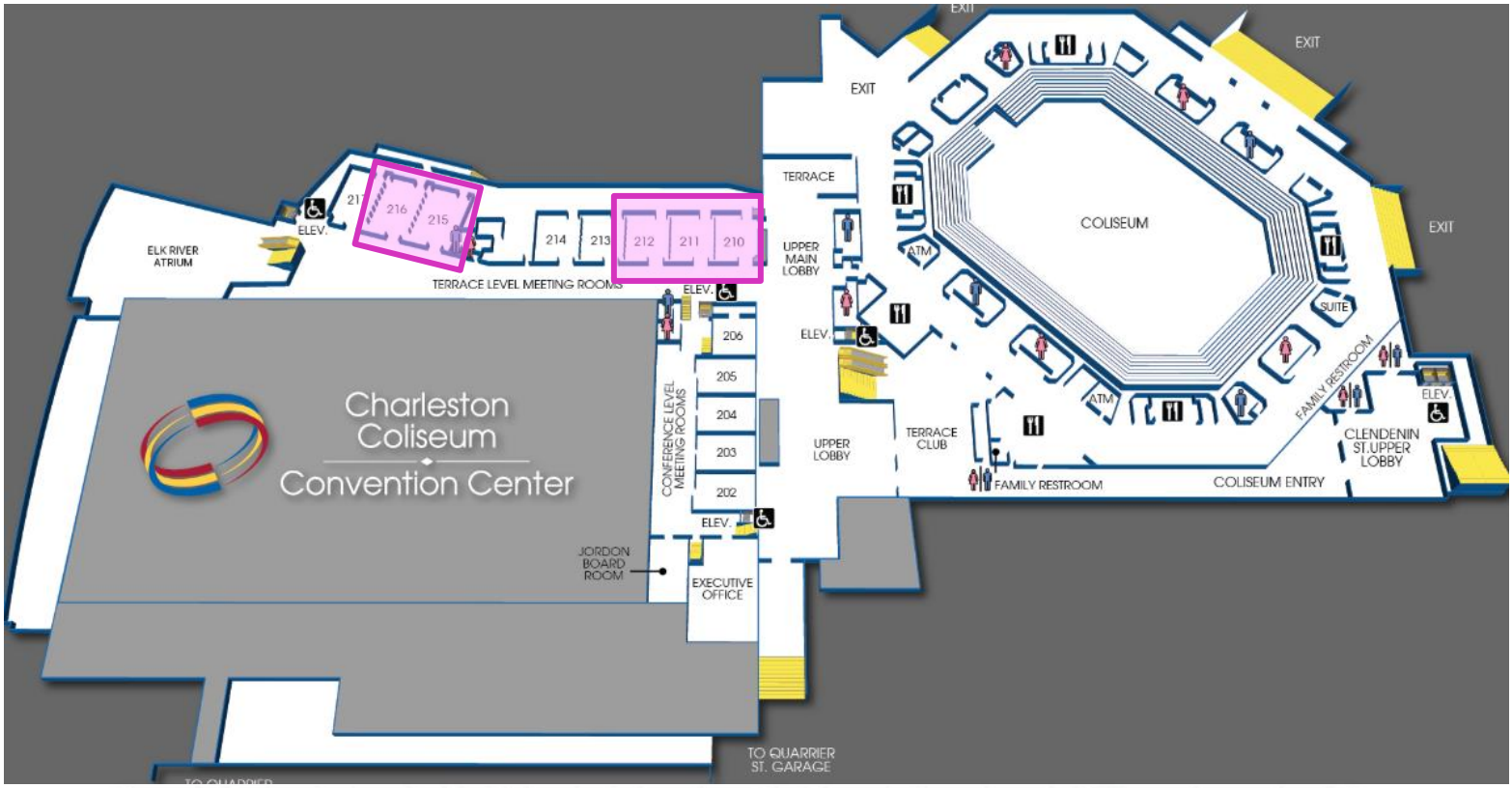

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# In Thanks

As the 2026 National PREA Coordinators Conference comes to a close, we extend our sincere gratitude to each of you for the energy, honesty, and heart you brought to this gathering in Charleston.

Thank you for sharing your wisdom, your contact information, your frustrations, your solutions, and your hope. Thank you for the hallway conversations, the difficult questions, the practical ideas scribbled into notebooks, and the moments of laughter that reminded us to keep going. Conferences like this are meaningful not because of agendas or PowerPoints, but because of the people willing to show up authentically and learn from one another.

This work is not easy. It requires persistence, courage, creativity, and compassion. Yet throughout this conference, you demonstrated the strength of a professional community committed to safer environments, human dignity, and lasting culture change.

As you return home, we hope you carry with you not only new tools and resources, but also renewed connection and encouragement. The relationships built here matter. The conversations started here matter. And the work you continue every day matters deeply.

Travel safely, stay connected, and thank you for being part of this growing community of PREA professionals. We look forward to continuing the conversation — and seeing you again next year.

Be Well,

## Your Planning Committee

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The National Association of PREA Coordinators unites professionals across the county to champion safety through sexual abuse and sexual harassment prevention and a steadfast commitment to dignity in confinement settings. Through collaboration, connection, and continuous learning, we strengthen practice, elevate standards, and advance best practices that improve outcomes for every person in custody. As a collective practitioner voice, we inform national implementation and partner with stakeholders to build systems grounded in respect and accountability.

Argus Corrections Solutions, Inc. was founded in 2012 with one mission: to help agencies cut through data overload and transform data into intelligence that makes a difference. Through the core values of Innovation, Collaboration, and Excellence, Argus has developed proprietary, innovative technology that meets and exceeds the demands of its client base. Their revolutionary patented solutions are recognized as best-in-class and are the de facto standard for users across the country.

Working together with local, state, and federal agencies, Argus customizes solutions to streamline workflows, unify communications, improve decision making processes, reduce risk and facilitate action that helps ensure the safety and security of agency staff and the people they serve.

Argus' technology is delivered in conjunction with the investigative expertise of in-house personnel, resulting in the perfect blending of technology and experience, working together to transform data into intelligence that makes a difference: the Argus difference.

For more information, contact:
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The Moss Group, LLC (TMG) is a public safety and criminal justice consulting firm with over 20 years of experience partnering with federal, state, and local agencies to advance cultures of safety in confinement settings. Since 2003, TMG has specialized in providing solutions to specifically address sexual safety and implement the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA). TMG provides coaching, professional development, technical assistance, specialized training (e.g., investigations), policy review, and targeted sexual safety assessments to help facilities and agencies further enhance their commitment to zero-tolerance, prepare for PREA audits, and build sustainable strategies for lasting culture change.

Our model of support is built on the idea of "practitioners helping practitioners," which means for every project we use subject matter and correctional experts who have been in your shoes doing the work. We believe this level of field experience leads to practical solutions relevant to your unique setting. TMG has been a partner with the National Institute of Corrections and then a founding partner with the PREA Resource Center to provide training and technical assistance across the country since 2004. We have worked in every state in the country and several international systems.

For more information, contact JSheahan@mossgroup.us or visit our website at www.mossgroup.us.

PREATrac™ is a purpose-built PREA compliance and investigation management platform designed to eliminate last-minute audit chaos and reduce institutional risk. It provides guided, step-by-step workflows aligned with DOJ and PREA Resource Center standards.

PREATrac™ transforms PREA from a reactive obligation into a continuous, defensible compliance operation. https://www.tetruscorp.com/products/preatrac

Please reach out to andrew.merrill@tetruscorp.com for more information.

Special thanks to the West Virginia Division of Corrections and Rehabilitation for graciously welcoming our conference attendees to Charleston. We are deeply appreciative of your partnership, support, and generosity in helping make this gathering possible. Thank you for sharing your time, resources, and hospitality with PREA professionals from across the country.

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