

1 helping us during our deliberations.

2 Our first panel is a continuation of
3 the panel that we had yesterday dealing with the
4 problem in Indian Country, and the focus of this panel
5 will be on the reporting of sexual violence in
6 Native American facilities and also training efforts
7 in response to the Prison Rape Elimination Act.

8 We have three witnesses who will
9 testify on this panel. I would ask that they please
10 rise and take the oath.

11 (Witnesses sworn in.)

12 CHAIRMAN WALTON: Thank you. If we
13 could start on my left and have the three of you just
14 first identify who you are and then we'll have you
15 proceed with your testimony after that.

16 DOCTOR JON PEREZ: Jon Perez, the
17 National Behavioral Health Consultant for the Indian
18 Health Service, Department for Health and Human
19 Services.

20 CHAIRMAN WALTON: Good morning.
21 Welcome.

22 DOCTOR JON PEREZ: Thank you, sir.

23 MS. CHARON ASETOYER: Charon Asetoyer,
24 the Executive Director of the Native American Women's
25 Health Education Resource Center.

1 CHAIRMAN WALTON: Thank you.

2 MR. MARK DECOTEAU: Mark Decoteau,
3 Deputy Chief of Training, Indian Police Academy in
4 Artesia, New Mexico.

5 CHAIRMAN WALTON: Thank you for your
6 presence. We'll proceed with Doctor Perez.

7 DOCTOR JON PEREZ: Mr. Chairman, I did
8 a fair hatchet job on this, so I'll get right to the
9 meat of it here with the written portion to be
10 submitted for the record.

11 Good morning. I'm Doctor Jon Perez
12 and, as I stated, I'm the National Behavioral Health
13 Consultant with the Division of Behavioral Health for
14 the Indian Health Service. And I'll be providing
15 testimony and answer questions, anything you may have,
16 on behalf of the agency.

17 IHS and the Department of the
18 Interior's Bureau of Indian Affairs have a history of
19 working collaboratively in regard to American Indian,
20 Alaska Indians in detention. For example, a
21 memorandum of agreement dated August 1994, addresses
22 coordination between the two agencies for the
23 provision of primary care for BIA juvenile detention
24 centers. The Indian Health Service's role in the
25 provision of detention care is addressed as follows:

1 Juvenile detention centers: The IHS will provide
2 substance abuse resources for social detoxification
3 programs at BIA juvenile detention centers; the IHS
4 will provide emergency medical assessment and
5 additional medical and behavioral health services are
6 to be addressed with the area and local IHS staff to
7 clarify the type and logistics of services to be
8 delivered.

9 The IHS does not provide primary
10 healthcare or behavioral health services in prisons.
11 In some localities, IHS and tribal behavioral health
12 staff are invited to provide direct counseling in
13 local and tribal jails. However, IHS staff and/or
14 tribal staff would be in a position to address issues
15 related to rape and sexual assault when the former
16 inmate returned to his or her home community after
17 release from prison.

18 In cases where a rape victim is seen by
19 a primary health practitioner soon after the alleged
20 offense, they would be able to recognize the injury
21 related to rape, but presumably the assault that
22 occurred in a prison or jail would have taken place
23 sometime prior to release and, therefore, not readily
24 apparent to the practitioner. Outpatient behavioral
25 health services provided by IHS staff and/or tribal

1 staff are available to the returning -- to those
2 returning to their home communities after release from
3 prison. It is likely that complaints about such
4 experiences would be expressed in a counseling
5 session. However, we do not collect statistics on
6 those who cite sexual abuse or rape in prison.
7 Rather, the encounter would be coded under a
8 psychiatric diagnosis, as in depression or sexual
9 abuse of an adult. Thus, I'm not able to provide you
10 with specific data that would address the consequences
11 of the emotional distress that such an assault may
12 cause.

13 And this concludes my prepared remarks
14 and I'll answer any questions you may have.

15 CHAIRMAN WALTON: Thank you.

16 MS. CHARON ASETOYER: My name is Charon
17 Asetoyer, and I live, work and raise my family on the
18 Yankton Sioux Reservation in South Dakota. Currently
19 on reservations that are checkerboarded like the
20 Yankton Sioux Reservation, and there are many, the
21 Bureau of Indian Affairs will contract with the local
22 county jail to house Native Americans that are
23 arrested if the tribe does not have its own facility.

24 Charles Mix County receives a payment
25 for each Native American that is kept at the county