helping us during our deliberations.

Our first panel is a continuation of the panel that we had yesterday dealing with the problem in Indian Country, and the focus of this panel will be on the reporting of sexual violence in Native American facilities and also training efforts in response to the Prison Rape Elimination Act. We have three witnesses who will testify on this panel. I would ask that they please rise and take the oath.

(Witnesses sworn in.)

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

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

CHAIRMAN WALTON: Good morning. Welcome.

DOCTOR JON PEREZ: Thank you, sir.

MS. CHARON ASETOYER: Charon Asetoyer, the Executive Director of the Native American Women's Health Education Resource Center.
CHAIRMAN WALTON: Thank you.

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

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

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

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

IHS and the Department of the Interior's Bureau of Indian Affairs have a history of working collaboratively in regard to American Indian, Alaska Indians in detention. For example, a memorandum of agreement dated August 1994, addresses coordination between the two agencies for the provision of primary care for BIA juvenile detention centers. The Indian Health Service's role in the provision of detention care is addressed as follows:
Juvenile detention centers: The IHS will provide substance abuse resources for social detoxification programs at BIA juvenile detention centers; the IHS will provide emergency medical assessment and additional medical and behavioral health services are to be addressed with the area and local IHS staff to clarify the type and logistics of services to be delivered.

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

In cases where a rape victim is seen by a primary health practitioner soon after the alleged offense, they would be able to recognize the injury related to rape, but presumably the assault that occurred in a prison or jail would have taken place sometime prior to release and, therefore, not readily apparent to the practitioner. Outpatient behavioral health services provided by IHS staff and/or tribal
staff are available to the returning -- to those
returning to their home communities after release from
prison. It is likely that complaints about such
experiences would be expressed in a counseling
session. However, we do not collect statistics on
those who cite sexual abuse or rape in prison.
Rather, the encounter would be coded under a
psychiatric diagnosis, as in depression or sexual
abuse of an adult. Thus, I'm not able to provide you
with specific data that would address the consequences
of the emotional distress that such an assault may
cause.

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

CHAIRMAN WALTON: Thank you.

MS. CHARON ASETOYER: My name is Charon
Asetoyer, and I live, work and raise my family on the
Yankton Sioux Reservation in South Dakota. Currently
on reservations that are checkerboarded like the
Yankton Sioux Reservation, and there are many, the
Bureau of Indian Affairs will contract with the local
county jail to house Native Americans that are
arrested if the tribe does not have its own facility.
Charles Mix County receives a payment
for each Native American that is kept at the county