- DR. OWEN: I too am a fast talker. I will
- 2 do my best to honor my southern roots and slow down
- 3 a little bit. I too would like to thank you for
- 4 inviting me.
- 5 I am testifying as a prison sociologist who is
- 6 going to ask you to take a broader view. I have
- 7 conducted research at local, state and federal
- 8 prisons and jails for almost 25 years. And in the
- 9 time I have I am going to ask you to think about
- 10 shifting your perspective, think about shifting your
- 11 thinking a little bit. My facts and my concepts are
- 12 entirely congruent with what many of the other
- 13 witnesses have suggested to you, but I am going to
- 14 ask us to take a step back and look at some of these
- 15 facts, some of these concepts from a little
- 16 different vantage point. So allow me to develop
- 17 that.
- 18 As an introduction, allow me to present my
- 19 credentials. I received a Ph.D. in sociology from

- 20 U.C. Berkeley in 1984 where I conducted research on
- 21 correctional officer culture. As a very young
- 22 person, I was hanging around San Quentin talking to
- 23 correctional officers. So that was kind of my
- 24 introduction to this world. I was employed by the
- 25 federal Bureau of Prisons for a number of years,

- 1 working in male institutions and in the central
- 2 office. There I worked on the social climate
- 3 instrument, which you may hear about in other
- 4 venues. In my own thinking I am returning to this
- 5 notion more and more, and I will be describing that
- 6 as I go along.
- 7 Since 1990 I have been professor of sociology
- 8 at Cal State Fresno. Ms. Ellis has worked with my
- 9 chair. I send you his regards.
- MS. ELLIS: Thank you.
- DR. OWEN: In this capacity I have
- 12 continued my work with women's prisons and juvenile
- 13 female offenders. It was just a matter of luck that
- 14 when I moved to Fresno, the State of California was
- 15 setting about building the world's largest prison
- 16 for women 32 miles from my house. And since then
- 17 they have built another one 33 miles from my house.
- 18 I have been very, very fortunate through the kind
- 19 intercession of many people in this room to have

- 20 access to the women's prisons, not only in this
- 21 state, in others. I have also done a lot of work
- 22 for the National Institute of Corrections. I was an
- 23 intern there in 1980 as I am fond to say. I am one
- 24 of the longest running employees or workers with
- 25 NIC. I worked as a trainer and researcher primarily

- 1 in the area of operational practice, agency
- 2 planning, staff sexual misconduct, and I am one of
- 3 the coauthors of NIC's work on gender responsive
- 4 policy.
- 5 I've written you several books, numerous other
- 6 publications, and most recently I am a coauthor with
- 7 a sentencing reform group that our pamphlet will be
- 8 coming out soon with all these discussions about
- 9 sentencing reform on a national level.
- 10 I conducted research on PREA for NIC and The
- 11 Moss Group on staff perspective on sexual violence.
- 12 Mr. Thigpen mentioned our work. I understand you've
- 13 got a copy of our first publication. There will be
- 14 multiple publications if I can get off the road, and
- 15 stay home and write.
- MR. MCFARLAND: This is it?
- DR. OWEN: Yes, sir.
- 18 MR. MCFARLAND: For the record, Staff
- 19 Perspective on Sexual Violence in Adult Prisons and

- 20 Jails, dated June 2006, Volume I.
- 21 DR. OWEN: I'm prepared to give you
- 22 multiple details. Usually my presentation is about
- 23 three hours. Lots of time on that.
- MR. MCFARLAND: Not today.
- DR. OWEN: I am currently under contract

- 1 with CDCR, examining operational practice in women's
- 2 facilities. I have given probably three, four,
- 3 presentations to their executive staff on PREA,
- 4 various issues that you heard today.
- 5 I have just received a grant from the National
- 6 Institute of Justice looking at the context of
- 7 sexual and other forms of violence in women's
- 8 prisons and jails. And many remarks I will --
- 9 examples I will give today go to the issue of gender
- 10 here. I would just like to note that all the other
- 11 panelists have exclusively said "he" in talking
- 12 about the victims or the perpetrators in prisons,
- 13 and I would just like to point out that here in
- 14 California we have almost 12,000 women locked up in
- our state system, and that is bigger than many, many
- 16 other state systems.
- 17 You mentioned Alabama earlier. If you added
- 18 parolees, that is about as big as we are with women.
- 19 So it is not just a he issue. I would like to state

- 20 that strongly. It is also not just an adult issue
- 21 as you are well aware. PREA is more than about just
- 22 prisons and more than just about rape. I will use
- 23 the term "sexual violence" because to me that is the
- 24 preferred term. Again, in keeping with my
- 25 suggestion that we broaden our perspective. We

- 1 broaden our talking about rape, which brings up male
- 2 images, talks about male-on-male violence. I think
- 3 if we look at sexual violence as our term, I think
- 4 we, again, expand our perspective.
- 5 In my testimony I am going to share my views
- 6 on the factors that shape sexual assaults and sexual
- 7 violence. Again, following instructions, talking
- 8 broadly about the ways in which correctional systems
- 9 can deter such violence. I feel very strongly that
- 10 we need to run on several tracks. We have -- we,
- 11 and I do feel like I am part of the PREA community.
- 12 I am on the advisory board of BJS work. I'm on
- 13 several NIJ studies. I've gotten around with The
- 14 Moss Group with a lot of PREA issues. I think the
- 15 focus has been prematurely narrowed to such concrete
- 16 operational issues as investigation, proving,
- 17 punishing, identifying predators, identifying
- 18 victims, counting, as you heard my speech on that
- 19 briefly.

- I want to suggest to you that this approach is
- 21 short-sighted. If we focus only on after-the-fact
- 22 issues, we miss golden opportunities. Again, as
- 23 your direction suggests that let's talk about
- 24 deterrence. So, again, it is a multiple track to
- 25 run on.

- 1 My written testimony provides significant
- 2 details on the research literature on sexual
- 3 violence in women's institutions. I provided that
- 4 to you. I am happy to answer questions about that.
- 5 But in my role today I will want to look at the
- 6 context of violence and safety specifically. This
- 7 is not to say that individual victimization is in no
- 8 way serious. The harm that occurs to human beings,
- 9 as Mr. Dumond and other witnesses have suggested to
- 10 you, is extremely serious and has far-reaching
- 11 implications on operational practices in
- 12 institutions as well as community safety post
- 13 incarceration. But, again, in asking your
- 14 indulgence to take a step back and look at the
- 15 broader context of violence in correctional settings
- 16 as a way of looking at sexual assault. Finally, I
- 17 am going to offer some concrete suggestions about
- 18 training and education for both staff and inmates.
- 19 Don Specter also mentioned this earlier, why

- 20 we need to look at the broader context and not
- 21 narrow our focus. In sociology we talk about macro
- 22 factors and micro factors, and I want to elaborate
- 23 to you some of these macro factors. Mr. Dumond
- 24 ended his remarks with talking about the opportunity
- 25 we have, and I think we need to take a step back

- 1 from what we can do and look at what we should do.
- 2 It is very easy to focus on DNA analysis and cameras
- 3 and the kind of concrete things at this micro level.
- 4 Again, in the multiple approach analysis this makes
- 5 enormous sense, but I just want to push your
- 6 thinking toward this broader view.
- 7 This particular approach sees that
- 8 organizational, environmental and individual factors
- 9 contribute to all forms of violence in facilities.
- 10 Mr. Dumond and Dr. Kupers mentioned corrections'
- 11 role in the cycle of victimization. I think if we
- 12 are going to interrupt this cycle, we need to look
- 13 at it in all these fronts. Many of the witnesses
- 14 have talked about inmate and staff culture, and that
- 15 means the values and behaviors related to safety and
- 16 violence among inmates, and I will expand on this
- 17 idea as we go.
- 18 Again, while sexual violence among and against
- 19 inmates, the key focus of the PREA initiative, I

- 20 suggest that this broader approach view, examining
- 21 the correlate of violence and safety in all
- 22 facilities across multiple dimensions should be the
- 23 focus of our deterrence efforts. Again, the
- 24 attention afforded by PREA, it is more than prison,
- 25 it is more than rape, should be focused in multiple

- 1 aspects. If we just look at prison rape, I think we
- 2 are missing the opportunity to look at these larger
- 3 forms of victimization and the context that supports
- 4 this victimization.
- 5 Mr. McFarland, earlier you asked if PREA was a
- 6 waste of time. I think if we continue to narrow the
- 7 focus, that it could be seen that way. And so,
- 8 again, I am pushing back a little and say let's take
- 9 a broader view here.
- 10 I feel very deeply that PREA gives us an
- 11 opportunity to introduce another dimension of
- 12 humanity in correctional environments and a place
- 13 that sorely lacks it. To my view deterring sexual
- 14 assault should be one of our primary foci in this
- 15 overall safety strategy. And that is the word I'm
- 16 going to elaborate on in the time I have left.
- We need to look at safety and all its aspects
- 18 and defining safety, both in terms of individual
- 19 institutions as well as in terms of larger systems.

- 20 Again, the narrow focus on sexual assault misses the
- 21 broader question of general safety in jails and
- 22 prisons.
- 23 Prisons and jails that are sexually unsafe are
- 24 also physically unsafe. The work that I've been
- 25 looking at with my assistants and colleagues around

- 1 the country shows that sexual violence occurs within
- 2 the nexus of physical violence and material
- 3 violence. And we know this from our work on
- 4 victimization in the streets, that sexual violence
- 5 in domestic relationship is tied into intimately,
- 6 and I use that word advisedly, to physical violence
- 7 and material violence. So again, this broader view
- 8 shifts our attention to, I think, some of these
- 9 causal and contextual factors. This very narrow
- 10 focus on sexual violence, particularly after the
- 11 fact, obscures some of the environmental culture
- 12 factors that contribute to all forms of violence.
- 13 Texas, for example, for reasons Dr. Kupers
- 14 indicated to you, framing their approach to prison
- 15 sexual assault through their Safer Prisons Program,
- 16 and I think it's a very productive way to talk about
- 17 this. They have an agencywide strategy and the
- 18 institutional positions dedicated to improve safety,
- 19 specifically sexual safety, in all their facilities.

- 20 So let me talk about some of the factors that create
- 21 and maintain safety and violence in correctional
- 22 institutions.
- 23 First let me say that CDCR is not alone in
- 24 this, but in every system I've been in in the last
- 25 15 years we see an increase in numbers. And I want

- 1 to suggest to you that systems are being crushed by
- 2 these numbers, and I mean that word very advisedly.
- 3 The number of inmates that are in California prisons
- 4 is well over twice the capacity that these prisons
- 5 were built for.
- 6 Think about your house, last time you had
- 7 family visiting for the holidays. The holidays are
- 8 coming up. You are going to have people sleeping on
- 9 the couches. You are going to be running through
- 10 towels and toilet paper, and you're all going to be
- 11 happy when all those people leave. The California
- 12 system has been running with double and some places
- 13 triple capacity. This has very, very serious
- 14 implications on everything from the physical plant
- 15 to staff fatigue, to our issue at hand, and, of
- 16 course, that's looking at sexual violence.
- 17 CDCR is not alone, but under the current
- 18 crowding conditions and raising prison and jail
- 19 population, these numbers really obviate the issue

- 20 of safety and violence. Housing inmates in
- 21 facilities that were designed for many fewer human
- 22 beings, operating facilities with inadequate number
- 23 of staff who often work overtime and reducing
- 24 programming and treatment opportunities, each
- 25 contribute to the context of potential violence I'm

- 1 developing for you here.
- 2 I am entirely sympathetic to the correctional
- 3 officer position. Many of these staff, as
- 4 Mr. Dumond and Dr. Kupers pointed out, did not come
- 5 to this work to work with mental health inmates.
- 6 They are not trained to work with individuals with
- 7 serious mental illnesses, and many of the problems
- 8 we are talking about today go to that issue. The
- 9 fact is that the Department of Corrections and many
- 10 systems are the largest provider of mental health
- 11 care without the adequate staffing, certainly
- 12 without adequate resources.
- Dr. Kupers said they didn't come to be a
- 14 mental health worker. I think we need to understand
- 15 that as well. While there is much to say about the
- 16 crowded prisons and jail crowding, I will combine my
- 17 comments to safety issues. But I just want to begin
- 18 with the central fact that as long as prisons and
- 19 jails continue to be crowded, safety will continue

- 20 to be compromised. Humane living conditions,
- 21 adequate numbers of trained staff, effective
- 22 programs and treatment service will contribute to
- 23 violence in these settings. And again, I know it is
- 24 very easy to say this is not in purview. But until
- 25 we look at the causes and until we look at the

- 1 factors that support and maintain violence in our
- 2 facilities, we aren't looking at the issue of
- deterrence as you suggested we do.
- 4 Other witnesses have described the contribution
- 5 that context made by staff culture, administrative
- 6 leadership attitudes towards inmates and other
- 7 agency factors. Mr. Specter in his testimony this
- 8 morning talked about the insensitivity to inmates.
- 9 I want to again suggest a broader view and look at
- 10 ways in which inmates have been, to use a term that
- 11 they use in Australia, otherized. The inmates have
- 12 been made the other. And again, it is due to these
- 13 crushing numbers. It is hard to relate to
- 14 individual human beings when you have two to three
- 15 times the number of inmates in your housing unit
- 16 that it was designed for.
- 17 There was a lot of discussion of vocabulary.
- 18 And even though it sounds like a small thing, it is
- 19 commonplace in many systems in this country, and I

- 20 am going to use some of the polite words, to call
- 21 inmates thugs, crooks, et cetera. In women's
- 22 prisons some of the epithets are even more damaging.
- 23 And Bob pointed out the issue of racial epithets
- 24 have been more or less controlled, at least in
- 25 formal environments. And I want to suggest we start

- 1 talking about the language we use to refer to
- 2 inmates because vocabulary is important.
- 3 Mr. Dumond provided significant detail on the
- 4 current research on violent victimization. I want
- 5 to draw your attention to his specific description
- 6 of the dynamics of assault because this is indeed a
- 7 process. He talked about means, opportunity and
- 8 vulnerability; and I think understanding it as a
- 9 process rather than an event leads into a broader
- 10 understanding here. I would suggest the panel
- 11 investigate how these dynamics contribute to a
- 12 context that either promotes or undermines safety.
- 13 Other witnesses have described the critical
- 14 importance of a systemic and policy based approach.
- 15 I concur with their views. Specifically, Mr.
- 16 Thigpen described NIC's experience with systemwide
- 17 policy based approaches, and, again this is very
- 18 consistent with the approach I am outlining for you
- 19 here. I would emphasize that improving reporting

- 20 mechanisms, developing and providing staff training
- 21 and inmate education are key aspects of these
- 22 approaches. Expanding mechanisms that support
- 23 inmate reporting in safe and confidential
- 24 environments is a critical first step, but, again, I
- 25 want to suggest to you that reporting after the fact

- 1 is only one track to run on.
- 2 Research on sexual violence suggests that the
- 3 majority of assaults occurring as part of a process,
- 4 whether it is protective pairing, whether it's
- 5 manipulating someone into a seemingly appearing
- 6 consensual relationship, and here I'm also talking
- 7 staff sexual misconduct as well as inmate sexual
- 8 violence, this is not an isolated incident. There
- 9 is a process.
- 10 MR. MCFARLAND: Is the research you are
- 11 referring to in the context of prisons or sexual
- 12 violence generally?
- DR. OWEN: In both places. And Bob's done
- 14 a workman-like job outlining all the literature for
- 15 you. I suggest you look at that closely. But we do
- 16 know it starts in a variety of ways. We do know
- 17 from some of the work that we have done in NIC,
- 18 focus group interviews, for example, that a lot of
- 19 sexual violence indeed is domestic violence. You

- 20 may think that it only applies to the relationship
- 21 in women's prisons, but this concept first emerged
- 22 in our work in male prisons, that much of the sexual
- 23 violence we see is the result of a relationship gone
- 24 bad. So, again, a process, a context approach that
- 25 allows us not to see only as isolated event that is

- 1 to be investigated and prosecuted, but instead to
- 2 step back and think about ways in which we can get
- 3 more in the front end of the cycle.
- 4 In many systems inmates are given very few
- 5 opportunities to report their concerns prior to
- 6 assault. Instead they are told they must name names
- 7 and preserve evidence to support a formal
- 8 investigation. As you know from the BJS work, the
- 9 substantiated and unsubstantiated figures are
- 10 dramatically different, and I want to suggest to you
- 11 that substantiated claims is an unreachable standard
- 12 in terms of deterrence, that we need to think of
- 13 ways in which inmates can report their concerns
- 14 before assault rather than after an assault.
- MR. MCFARLAND: Dr. Owen, how would you
- 16 suggest that CDCR or other DOCs expand the number of
- 17 ways prisoners can report their concerns on sexual
- 18 assault?
- DR. OWEN: Let me develop that in my

- 20 comments on staff selection and training. I hope to
- 21 answer that for you.
- MR. MCFARLAND: We don't have much time.
- DR. OWEN: I understand that.
- MR. SEXTON: If you're going to report a
- 25 concern, how does a practitioner -- again, how do we

- 1 handle a disciplinary action? How do we move the
- 2 other inmate based on a concern versus fact when
- 3 they, in fact, turn around and file a grievance or
- 4 lawsuit?
- DR. OWEN: That is exactly what I am not
- 6 saying. I am saying let's focus on identifying the
- 7 predator is misplaced, focus in terms of deterrence.
- 8 If an inmate feels unsafe, he or she should be able
- 9 to report it to a variety of staff who are trained
- 10 to talk to the inmate about ways in which he or she
- 11 can keep themselves safe.
- MR. SEXTON: Part of that is keeping the
- 13 inmate safe, as I understand it. Everybody is
- 14 advocating moving the individual with a problem.
- 15 How do we do that on a concern versus without any
- 16 fact?
- DR. OWEN: Again, the feeling of unsafety
- 18 is the fact, and I am not suggesting that moving is
- 19 the only solution. There are ways to train inmates.

- 20 There are ways to train women about protecting
- 21 ourself from unwanted sexual advances. There are
- 22 ways to teach women, and, again, as a woman I can
- 23 give my experience. When you grow up as a woman in
- 24 society you are taught what to look out for. You
- 25 are taught how to identify folks who aren't good for

- 1 you. I think we need to look at educating inmates
- 2 how to protect themselves rather than moving towards
- 3 constantly isolating everyone. We can't isolate our
- 4 way out of the problem.
- 5 MR. SEXTON: On a parallel of a series of
- 6 events, domestic violence, we still have to deal
- 7 with facts. We deal with concerns, but we get the
- 8 facts. Really dealing with the problem.
- 9 DR. OWEN: But, sir, only if you're
- 10 talking about prosecution. If you are talking about
- 11 prevention, you have a broader view.
- MR. DUMOND: I would submit to you that
- 13 most staff who work a unit or cell block or a place
- 14 where -- a substantial place, they know the
- 15 prisoners under their supervision. They know who is
- 16 a predator and they know who is vulnerable.
- 17 MR. SEXTON: That was the question.
- 18 MR. DUMOND: I really submit we need to
- 19 empower staff. Again, it is a two-end approach, not

- 20 just the onus of the victim to come forward. Staff
- 21 need to use, and I like your comment, due diligence
- 22 and being at work. Staff has a responsibility
- 23 there. I think we need to make and empower and
- 24 support them to be able to do that.
- DR. OWEN: Again, my point is thinking

- 1 about ways in which we can give inmates a variety of
- 2 strategies, other than locking up and other than
- 3 transferring, to protect themselves at the beginning
- 4 of this process rather than at the end of the
- 5 process. So much of what we do is focused after the
- 6 fact. I am suggesting there is ways to think about
- 7 before these things happen. Again, I am conscious
- 8 of the time.
- 9 I want to talk just very, very briefly about
- 10 staff training. Staff training is more than
- 11 classroom work. It has to do with staff selection
- 12 as well. We need to think about the ways in which
- 13 our staff are not only trained, but selected. The
- 14 importance of providing information and skills to
- 15 all staff, not just custody and medical, about the
- 16 context of sexual assault and their role to creating
- 17 and maintaining safer correctional environments.
- 18 A similar recommendation comes to inmate
- 19 education. Inmates should be educated at

- 20 orientation and throughout their sentences about the
- 21 ways they can protect themselves. They should be
- 22 educated about the system's commitment to safety in
- 23 all forms. In addition to educational opportunities
- 24 provided to staff, inmate per education has been
- 25 shown in good effect in multiple places.

- 1 MR. MCFARLAND: Where?
- DR. OWEN: Texas has a system. I think
- 3 California is developing one. Inmates learn how to
- 4 do their time from other inmates. I suggest they
- 5 learn how to protect themselves. That is one of the
- 6 components of my NIJ study. I did define the ways
- 7 women keep themselves safe.
- 8 MR. MCFARLAND: The one that is upcoming?
- 9 DR. OWEN: Come back in two years.
- 10 Again, I want to call the panel's attention to
- 11 specific issues in the juvenile justice system,
- 12 about which much less is known.
- To conclude, everybody's favorite sentence,
- 14 the best deterrence is an emphasis on safety for all
- 15 inmates and staff. While no system defines inmates
- 16 as unworthy of protection, I suggest that renewed
- 17 emphasis on safety for inmates and for staff should
- 18 be promoted on all fronts. And my discussion here
- 19 should revolve around safety for human beings from

- 20 systemwide policy to individual post orders, the
- 21 emphasis on safety goes beyond this narrow
- 22 definition of security and investigation after the
- 23 fact. A safer environment not only protects inmates
- 24 and staff from violence, it is more conducive to
- 25 rehabilitation and treatment.

- 1 I would urge the panel to investigate
- 2 strategies that measure and move toward improving
- 3 safety rather than counting individual incidents as
- 4 a primary way to deter sexual violence. The focus
- 5 can be shared to look at deterrence and prevention
- 6 as well as investigation and sanctioning. Prison
- 7 gives us some tools. NIC and the federal partners
- 8 have given many tools. I suggest they be promoted.
- 9 And finally, I want to agree with Mr. Dumond,
- 10 we expect the prison to solve problems created
- 11 elsewhere. The mission of the prison, in my view,
- 12 should be twofold, safety and rehabilitation. If we
- 13 use the spotlight afforded by PREA to bring out
- 14 safety issues, I feel it will go a long way.
- 15 Thank you very much.
- MR. MCFARLAND: Thank you, Prof. Owen.
- 17 What strategies can you offer or commend to us for
- 18 measuring or moving towards improving safety?
- DR. OWEN: As I said in my opening

- 20 remarks, I'm becoming more and more interested in
- 21 the notion of assessing correctional environments.
- 22 Again, these are not mutually exclusive strategies.
- 23 The ideas advanced about classification, identifying
- 24 individuals who are vulnerable, identifying
- 25 individuals who are at high risk, all that makes

- 1 sense. But I think we also need to look at
- 2 identifying environmental and culture and
- 3 organizational factors.
- 4 MR. MCFARLAND: Example.
- 5 DR. OWEN: For example, I would suggest to
- 6 you that overtime probably has an enormous
- 7 correlation with how alert, to use the word, staff
- 8 can be. Again, staff are being crushed by the
- 9 numbers. So we need to think about the ways in
- 10 which that both staff overtime, lines of sight,
- 11 numbers of inmates, all those things come together
- 12 to create this context. This is a multiple variant
- 13 problem and we need to keep our eyes on all of the
- 14 variations. So one of the strategies would be to --
- 15 and the Bureau of Prisons has instruments to do
- 16 this. We are developing assessments for sexual and
- 17 physical and material safety for women prisoners as
- 18 part of our NIJ work. I don't know the answer to
- 19 that. That is why NIJ is giving me money to do this

- 20 work. I think we can assess safety.
- MR. MCFARLAND: Any other strategies for
- 22 assessing safety?
- DR. OWEN: I just want to repeat the
- 24 notion of making it clear to staff and inmates that
- 25 it is our job to be safe. It is the staff's job to

- 1 keep us safe, that is very different than security.
- 2 Safety has a broader meaning. And that inmates who
- 3 don't feel safe need to think about ways in which
- 4 they can improve their own safety.
- 5 MR. SEXTON: Can you please go back. I am
- 6 still not with you on the options before the fact.
- 7 What are examples there?
- 8 DR. OWEN: I think putting resources into
- 9 developing prevention strategies as opposed to only
- 10 investigating things that have already happened.
- MR. SEXTON: Can you give me some examples
- 12 of what you think could be done in regards to
- 13 prevention?
- MR. MCFARLAND: I have dibs on your answer
- 15 that I asked for a few minutes ago about how should
- 16 a prison system expand the number of ways prisoners
- 17 can safely report their concerns before the fact?
- DR. OWEN: One strategy that could be
- 19 maximized, many systems have 800 numbers to call to

- 20 report staff misconduct. And I think that there
- 21 should be other ways to report, whether it is
- 22 through a third party phone. In England they have
- 23 what is called Samaritan, and inmates can call
- 24 outside organizations and report feelings of
- 25 unsafety. In England they call bullying when

- 1 inmates are being picked on, and they talk to an
- 2 outside person who says, "Well, let's talk about
- 3 what are the kind of places, for example, where this
- 4 stuff occurs?" And then they talk about what can
- 5 you do differently next time.
- 6 MR. SEXTON: I have 600 inmates. They
- 7 call the 800 number, and they call me back to say
- 8 you have a problem. How do I identify who that
- 9 individual is? How do I forward that help? How do
- 10 I know who I am helping?
- DR. OWEN: Again, sir, I am trying to
- 12 suggest that we need to look at rather than an
- 13 individual focus who is getting hurt to think what
- 14 is in the environment that contributes to this.
- MR. SEXTON: I am missing something here.
- 16 We are trying to give the inmates an option before
- 17 something happens.
- DR. OWEN: To teach them to protect
- 19 themselves.

- 20 MR. SEXTON: They call an 800 number to
- 21 report something. How do I help diffuse that
- 22 situation of, say, assaulted inmate? How do I
- 23 diffuse it? How do I know? You've got 3,000
- 24 inmates in these facilities here. How does whoever
- 25 receives the information, how do we get that help

- 1 that this inmate is asking for? How do we get it to
- 2 them?
- 3 DR. OWEN: I am suggesting less of an
- 4 individual focus and more of an environmental
- 5 focus.
- 6 MR. SEXTON: Somebody is in trouble.
- 7 MR. DUMOND: Let me also --
- 8 MR. MCFARLAND: This panel is going to end
- 9 in five minutes. Five real minutes.
- 10 MR. DUMOND: You can look at grievances
- 11 that prisoners argue, and you can track what some of
- 12 the issues that they are looking at. If you do it
- 13 systematically, you are going to come up with some
- 14 of the themes that Barbara is talking about. Get
- 15 individuals to bring issues to the table. They do
- 16 it in a formal way and they do it in informal ways.
- 17 The other thing you need to do is have
- 18 opportunities for families, other people external to
- 19 come in and also some real response by authorities.

- 20 I've been an expert witness in cases where families
- 21 have called up and say, "My son is going to be
- 22 raped." And the warden has said, "Well, he should
- 23 buck up and take it like a man."
- 24 That is a real case. It went to the U.S.
- 25 District Court, and it has become the correctional

- 1 authority, and feel that that was the appropriate
- 2 response.
- 3 MR. MCFARLAND: Is there any role for
- 4 faith based organizations and other community
- 5 organizations in this kind of prevention?
- DR. OWEN: Absolutely.
- 7 MR. DUMOND: Mental health and faith based
- 8 people have -- they are the oasis in the storm.
- 9 There are places where you can go and people feel
- 10 comfortable because they are not going to judge you
- 11 and treat you with human dignity. I think they're
- 12 inordinately responsible and helpful and should be
- 13 part of this.
- DR. OWEN: One thing we found out at NIC
- 15 focus groups is that staff face it, inmates need
- 16 more places to talk; to faith based people and
- 17 community people are just some examples. Sometimes
- 18 talking about their concerns about your safety with
- 19 someone who you know won't judge you and won't say,

- 20 "Well, until you bring me DNA evidence I can't do
- 21 anything about it." We were told time and time
- 22 again one response to inmates is, "I think this is
- 23 going to happen. Come back after it happens."
- 24 Again, I think that defeats our purpose.
- MR. MCFARLAND: I have one stenographic

- 1 question on page --
- DR. OWEN: I don't know how to type.
- 3 MR. MCFARLAND: -- Page 3, second
- 4 paragraph, your brief review of research.
- 5 DR. OWEN: Yes.
- 6 MR. MCFARLAND: Second line, second
- 7 paragraph. Should it read the few studies mentioned
- 8 indicate prevalence of sexual victimization, and
- 9 insert the words "of women"?
- DR. OWEN: Yes.
- MR. MCFARLAND: Appears to have been
- 12 lower.
- DR. OWEN: Yes.
- MR. MCFARLAND: Thank you very much.
- We can talk with you for days, and I wish we
- 16 could. But we are going to now ask for a
- 17 representative -- rather than taking a break, we are
- 18 going to ask either Warden Malfi or Mr. Dovey, both.
- 19 We understand they would like an opportunity to