MS. STILL: Thank you very much.

Hello. My name is Wendy Still. I would like to thank the Panel for the opportunity to provide testimony on the very important issue of in-custody inmate safety and the systemic changes that the CDCR has made to eradicate in-prison sexual violence.

In my current --

MR. MCFARLAND: Excuse me. Can you all hear back there?

MS. STILL: In my current assignment I am the Associate Director for the Female Offender Programs and Services providing oversight and overall program management for the 11,800 adult women felons housed in four prisons, three conservation camps and one community correctional facility and five mother and children community correctional programs.
I have also had the responsibility of being executive project sponsor for the Prison Rape Elimination Program for the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. This responsibility included developing CDCR's strategy for complying with the 2003 Prison Rape Elimination Act and
working with the California Legislature by providing input through our legislative office related to the development of AB 550, Sexual Abuse in Detention Elimination Act, sponsored, and actually authored by Assemblywomen Jackie Goldberg, and developing and implementing the compliance plan with this new law.

As a first step, the Department created the Prison Rape Elimination Committee which held its first meeting in March 2005. This committee was designed to include internal stakeholders from the field and headquarters as well as external stakeholders, which included Stop Prison Rape, Kathy Hall-Martinez, and several individuals from Stop Prison Rape, Dr. Val Jenness, University of California at Irvine, lead researcher, and Dr. Barbara Owen, PREA expert, Fresno State University, warden, legal staff, institutional staff and investigative policy reps from various areas and trainee staff.
During the initial meeting, tasks for the committee were discussed. Some of the items included: preparing a zero tolerance policy statement from our agency secretary for Department wide dissemination to all employees, collecting and reviewing all current policies regarding sexual
misconduct and utilize those to develop a statewide standard, determining whether the classification systems needs to be modified to consider risk factors and detection of predators and victims, ensure inmate accessibility to the hot line for reporting of in-custody sexual assault/rapes, housing and programmatic needs, appeals process, medical and mental health treatment concerns, confidentiality and reporting process, training and orientation for both staff and inmates, inmate peer education, intervention and rehabilitation, and prosecution and accountability for violations of policy.

The initial meeting of CDCR Prison Rape Elimination Committee began the process of promoting collaboration among individuals, organizations and agencies within the prison system and the community. Also during this initial committee meeting a project manager was assigned.
I think it is worth taking a moment here to stop and talk about this committee. We have formed two committees at the time. One was on PREA and one was a gender response strategies commission; and this was a really big step for the Department because it had been pretty much a closed Department.
We hadn't reached out to experts beyond our walls, so to speak, and ask them historically to come partner with us, and as such you can imagine the problems that we realized. We didn't have the experts that we needed to really fully form our programs.

So at the time we reached out and we got those experts, and it made a huge difference. It opened our world. We thought of issues that we wouldn't have necessarily thought of and brought expertise to the table that really helped form our program.

As we moved through the initial phase of developing the project, we were in contact and received very positive support from the National Institute of Corrections, specifically Director Morris Thigpen and Dee Halley.

The Department submitted several requests for technical assistance to the National Institute of Corrections which were all generously approved. The
Moss Group and specifically Andie Moss' assistance was invaluable. The Moss Group provided assistance related to the review of the Department's Prison Rape Elimination Program, including the policy and protocols. They also put together an expert team to conduct the review and provide written feedback.
which was incorporated to policies and procedures.

We were also very fortunate that Dr. Barbara Owen, who is a PREA expert and also an expert on our gender responsive program, female gender reform initiative, was available for ongoing consultation.

Additionally, in early 2004, the CDCR applied for and was awarded a federal grant under the 2004 Protecting Inmates and Safeguarding Communities discretionary grant program. These grant funds were used for two projects. The first one to complete a research project assessing violence in prisons with a specific emphasis on sexual assault and rape. The project was initially designed to assess the adult male population. Very early in the project, as a matter of fact, it was after the federal hearing in San Francisco where it became really clear to me that we needed to include the transgender population in our study, a modification to the contract was made to include surveying of the transgender
population as part of the research population. The project is close to completion. All data collection and validation has been completed. The data analysis phase has begun. It is expected that Dr. Val Jenness, U.C. Irvine, a main researcher on the project, will have a written report completed in
The second was to provide a partial funding for the development of a standardized curriculum which will include a sexual assault prevention component of inmate peer education program. In January 2006, we assessed our progress on improving offender safety and eliminating in-custody sexual violence. There was an important element that was missing, and it was really the detention components. NIC and the Moss Group hosted a western conference meeting in Arizona where all the states, western states, came together, including jails and corrections, and it was very helpful. They provided information to us relative to what the other states were doing. And from that we identified that we wanted to add a component to our program that we would study the impact of putting cameras into our institutions. We subsequently were awarded, in February 2006, we applied for and were awarded a
federal grants under the 2006 Protecting Inmates and
Safeguarding Communities discretionary grant program.

These grant funds have been earmarked to develop a pilot program at three institutions, adult male institution and adult female institution and a
female juvenile facility. The pilot program will place cameras and recording equipment in one facility in each of the three institutions and require comparison with the remaining facilities at each respective institution. The cameras perform dual roles: one to detecting and reporting information that will assist in prosecution of cases, and two to prevent inappropriate sexual misconduct from occurring within an area because of the camera recording equipment.

In response to question No. 2, I think I will hold that for a moment, and our Director has joined us, and so perhaps we would have the Director provide his testimony and he will also be responding to question No. 1.

MR. MCFARLAND: Good morning, Mr. Dovey.

MR. DOVEY: Good morning. My apologies for my entrance.

MR. MCFARLAND: I realize this is not the