

Annual PREA Review for Corrective Action pursuant to PREA Standard 115.88

January 1, 2017 – December 31, 2017

The Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) of 2012 mandates that correctional facilities and prisons provide a copy of their annual review (PREA Standard 115.88) of all related PREA investigations inclusive of any potential problem areas and any and all corrective actions taken by the respective facility. The annual review considers the investigative reports, review team assessments and any other related information.

Based on the review of reported incidents we have been making changes to our policies to better prevent, detect, or respond to sexual abuse and to be in compliance with PREA standards. When residents, third parties and anonymous reports were made the appropriate steps were immediately taken to secure all residents involved and provide them with the appropriate services, and when necessary re-classification. The matters were each investigated fully and findings were made within the appropriate time frames.

The PREA Review Team conducted thirty (30) day reviews of all substantiated and unsubstantiated matters. Factors that motivated the various incidents including age, issues of power and control, sexual identity or perceived sexual identity, youthful appearance, atmosphere of the unit, conflicting personalities, and the desire to influence housing. In each case risk assessments of the inmates were conducted as well as mental health referrals when appropriate and residents were re-classified to ensure their safety in the facility. None of the victims were deprived of any rights or privileges as a result of reporting incidents of sexual harassment or sexual abuse.

At this point we do not have any comparative analysis of PREA incidents for the year 2016 since we have just started working on being in compliance with PREA standards. In the past if we had an incident it would be considered a violation of facility policies and procedures. In the year 2017 there were a total of 5 PREA incidents: There were 4 incidents of resident-on-resident sexual harassment, 3 of these were unsubstantiated and the other unfounded. There was 1 staff-on-resident sexual abuse (voyeurism) and this was found to be substantiated.

Most of the reported incidents took place in housing units. The first responding staff responded to each incident and intervened pursuant to policy when they observed PREA related behavior and/or followed the required reporting system when they became aware of a PREA related incident. If medical/mental health attention was necessary the protocols were likewise adhered to.

In each case an assessment was made regarding whether any changes to staffing levels or video monitoring was necessary to avoid prohibitive conduct. The Review Team recommended the addition of video monitoring be placed in the male dorms. This recommendation was approved and installation is pending. There were no findings that any physical barriers in the area enabled the abuse in any of the incidents reviewed. However, a recommendation was made to place windows in office doors where staff would be with a resident. This recommendation was approved and all office doors have been replaced with windows in them.

The PREA Manager conducted ninety (90) day reviews of each incident to ensure that no residents or third party reporting sexual harassment or sexual abuse experienced any adverse treatment as a result. These reviews included interviews, examinations of housing assignments, work assignments, education opportunities, disciplinary records, evaluations, informational reports and transfer records. There were no findings made that any inmate or third party that reported a PREA related incident were subject to retaliation as a result.