

Annual PREA Review pursuant to PREA Standard 115.288

January 1, 2019 - December 31, 2019

The Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) of 2012 mandates that correctional facilities and prisons provide a copy of their annual review (PREA Standard 115.288) 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.

In 2019, the S.A.T.F. Staff received one PREA claim. Based on review of the single incident that occurred during this 12 month period, Staff response was swift and aligned with policy directives. The report was fully investigated and findings were made within the appropriate time frames. The report of sexual abuse was determined to be unsubstantiated. Due to the nature of the incident, local law enforcement was contacted and a full report was provided to them.

The PREA Review Team conducted the thirty (30) day review of this single report of Sexual Abuse. The review included; examining factors that motivated this incident 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.

Following the 2019 PREA investigation, the PREA review team considered any/all measures could be taken to prevent future events of this kind. Aside from increased staffing levels, there were no indications that increased video monitoring or other tools or training would have assisted in the prevention of this event. The evidence shows that the employee willfully violated at least three separate policies related to the Prison Rape Elimination Act in spite of exhaustive training on this issue.

The PREA Team conducted ninety (90) day reviews of this 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, educational opportunities, disciplinary records, evaluations, informational reports and transfer records. These individuals were never deprived of any rights or privileges as a result of reporting incidents of sexual harassment or sexual abuse or cooperating in the investigation. There were no findings that residents or third-party reporters were subject to retaliation as a result of their reporting or cooperation.

The PREA Team members conducted a comparative analysis of this 12 month period with the preceding 12 month period of 2018. In **2018**, there were a total of three (3) PREA complaints of sexual harassment; two (2) of these claims were unfounded and one was substantiated. There were no reports of sexual abuse. In **2019**, one PREA sexual abuse complaint was filed; the investigation led to a finding of "unsubstantiated". The decline in the number of PREA reports could be related to ongoing training of Residents and Staff. Zero Tolerance has become institutionalized at S.A.T.F. Both Residents and Staff are keenly aware of our policies and the consequences of policy violations.

We strive to maintain a safe and secure environment for everyone at our facility including Residents, Staff, Vendors and Volunteers. Sexual abuse and sexual harassment is a crime and will not be tolerated at Nueces County Substance Abuse Treatment Facility.