

Annual PREA Review pursuant to PREA Standard 115.288

January 1, 2021 - December 31, 2021

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 **2021**, the S.A.T.F. Staff received two PREA allegations. The first report was an allegation of sexual harassment of a Resident by another Resident. After a thorough investigation including video evidence, the allegation of sexual harassment was substantiated. The Resident who was accused of sexual harassment absconded from the facility during the course of our investigation. The second report was an allegation of sexual harassment of a Resident by another Resident. This too, was thoroughly investigated and allegations were found to be substantiated. Before Staff could interview the Resident accused of Sexual Harassment, they absconded.

The PREA Review Team conducted the thirty (30) day review of both Sexual Harassment complaints. 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 2021 PREA Investigation, the PREA review team considered any/all measures that could be taken to prevent future events of this kind. Aside from increasing staffing levels, there were no indications that increased video monitoring would have assisted in the prevention of these events; however during a facility walk-through we did identify areas where additional convex mirrors would be helpful.

The PREA Coordinator conducted ninety (90) day monitoring of the victims of both incidents 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 and informational reports. This individuals were never deprived of any rights or privileges as a result of reporting the incidents. There was no evidence that the Resident reporting the incident was 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 2020. In **2020**, there were three (3) PREA reports. Two were identified upon intake and were identified through the PREA Screening interview. These two separate incidents occurred in two separate facilities, not Nueces County S.A.T.F. The third PREA report was based on a claim of Resident on Resident sexual harassment. In **2021** there were two (2) PREA reports that were fully investigated and both incidents of Resident on Resident sexual harassment were substantiated. Zero tolerance has become institutionalized at S.A.T.F. Both Residents, Staff, Vendors and Volunteers 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.