



Criminal Justice Services Department
Community Corrections
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Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) Annual Report

Background:

In 2003, Congress enacted the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) mandating that correctional facilities nation-wide implement measures to prevent, detect, and respond to sexual abuse and sexual misconduct in America's prisons, jails, and community confinement facilities. The Act directed the Attorney General to create national standards applicable to all correctional facilities, public and private, in the United States. In 2013, specific standards required by this legislation were disseminated nationally by the Department of Justice, and a timetable for compliance and subsequent federal compliance audits were set.

This legislation, along with the national standards and audit requirements, stem from a fundamental belief that American prisons and jails should be as safe as possible, and that no matter the crime committed being sexually abused or harassed is never part of the sentence.

In late 2013, Garfield County Community Corrections, operated by Garfield County, began the task of forming policies, procedures, best practices, and community partnerships necessary to meet PREA requirements. In August 2016, Garfield County Community Corrections completed a PREA audit as required by PREA Standards. In August 2019 Garfield County Community Corrections completed another PREA audit to determine if ongoing standards compliance was maintained for that 3 year period. The Final Report of the PREA audit has been posted on the Garfield County Criminal Justice Service's website.

PREA standards require that an annual report be published detailing statistics regarding sexual harassment, abuse and assault of offenders in our custody. The annual report is required to collect the data from PREA-qualifying incidents, provide an explanation of what measures were taken in investigating and responding to the data collected, and indicate what additional measures, if any, are needed and/or being taken to address the safety of offenders from incidents of sexual violence while in custody.

Additionally, the annual report should present the data from this year in contrast to previous years.

Finally, the annual report is to be published on the agency's website, for public review and comment by interested parties.

The data presented in this annual report was obtained from victim and perpetrator statements and interviews, police reports, witness statements and interviews, video surveillance review, and confidential source statements. All personal identifying information has been redacted from the annual report, as it has information which, if disseminated, could pose a threat or danger to the safety and security of offenders in custody and/or the staff responsible for supervising them.

Section 1- Reporting Statistics

Number of Reports

Between April 2021 and April 2022, one test report created by staff to test the on-line reporting process located on our website. No other reports of sexual misconduct were received by any other parties.

No reports were received that alleged sexual abuse while at another facility. If reports are received in the future, Garfield County Community Corrections will contact the Director, Administrator, or Warden of the facility where the alleged misconduct took place.

Nature of Reports

PREA Reports are broken down in a manner designed to identify who the alleged abuser is, identify what type of sexual misconduct occurred, and indicate whether the report was substantiated. For the purpose of this report, the alleged abuser will be identified as either staff or client. The type of abuse will be identified as either harassment or abuse. Additionally, each report will be determined to be either substantiated (a preponderance of the evidence exists to show that the incident occurred), unsubstantiated (no determination could be made to determine whether the incident occurred based on available evidence, or as unfounded (preponderance of the evidence indicated that the incident never took place). Lastly, each report concludes with a review of the incident by a team of experts to determine if changes can be made to policy, procedure, or best practices to prevent a similar event from occurring in the future.

Substantiated Reports

Between April 2021 and April 2022, no report was made (except the test report) and none were deemed to be substantiated.

Unsubstantiated Reports

Between April 2021 and April 2022, no report was made that was deemed unsubstantiated.

Unfounded Reports

Between April 2021 and April 2022 no report was made that was deemed unfounded.

Comparison Data:

The annual report from April 2019 to April 2020 was not completed nor posted as the agency experienced the loss of the PREA Coordinator and did not get the position rehired until May of 2020. Between April 2020 and April 2021, there was one unsubstantiated allegation of sexual misconduct. A Client stated they were afraid (of being raped) if they moved into another client's room. Between April 2021 and April 2022 there were no reports received that alleged any violations of the PREA standards.

Section 2- Analysis of Data/Action Taken

Number of Reports

Analysis: With the increased awareness efforts, staff and offender education, and intake materials that specifically address sexual misconduct and the offender's rights to be free from any kind of sexual abuse or harassment, the number of reports remained extremely low. There were no reports received from any reporting sources.

Action Taken: Client and staff education of the importance of reporting any incidents of sexual abuse or harassment need to continue to ensure that all clients and staff feel that they can report any instances of sexual abuse or misconduct. Staff are trained upon hire, and at least annually thereafter. Clients review video and written material upon intake and are assessed upon intake, 30 days later and at least annually there after depending upon their individual situation.

Offender Education

Analysis: Every client that enters the Community Correction program is given an orientation to PREA. Every client is assessed for potential victimization or abusive behavior and assigned a room based off this assessment. Clients are also given a brochure which advise them of the program's zero tolerance policy towards sexual abuse and sexual harassment, as well as different reporting options if they are a victim, or have knowledge of a victim of sexual abuse or harassment.

Action Taken: Greater emphasis has been placed of developing rapport with the clients during orientation. A video, assessment, and brochure do not completely convey the messages of the program's commitment to an environment that is free from sexual abuse and harassment.

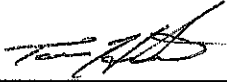
Staff Education

Analysis: All staff attends mandatory training on PREA protocols on an annual basis. All new employees are given training on PREA protocols. Education remains the single most important characteristic of our successful culture in preventing, detecting, and responding to sexual abuse and harassment.

Action Taken: Continued training specific to PREA will remain ongoing. First responder duties have been posted in the policy and procedure manual in the control room. This information is also available electronically to all staff members. Annual training will continue to be held to further educate the staff of the importance of detection and preventing sexual abuse and harassment.

Conclusion

The information presented in this report indicate that Garfield County Community Corrections has not received many reports of sexual abuse or harassment. Continued education for staff and the clients will be a point of emphasis. By creating an environment that is free from and will not tolerate sexual abuse or harassment, the clients in our custody can progress more confidently and safely towards their goals and ultimate release from the program.



Travis Horton, PREA Coordinator

6/8/22

Date



Rodney Hollandsworth, Director

6/8/22

Date