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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.

### **Comparison Data:**

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. Between April 2022 and April 2023 one report of sexual abuse was received: it was reported that clients had to provide sexual favors to a staff member to be released early from the program. This claim was unsubstantiated.

### **Section 2- Analysis of Data/Action Taken**

When the anonymous complaint about clients having to provide sexual favors to a staff member for preferential treatment was received, it was reported to DCJ / OCC. They responded to the facility the next day and an anonymous survey was developed for all clients within the facility. A survey form was made available to all clients and drop boxes were utilized to enable anonymity to the respondents. All responses received discounted the original complaint. The case was unsubstantiated.

### **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 very few 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**

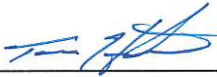
The information presented in this report indicate that Garfield County Community Corrections has not received many reports of sexual abuse or harassment. Continued education for staff and the clients will be a point of emphasis. By creating an environment that is free from and will not tolerate sexual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



Mary Gillis, PREA Coordinator

5/11/23

Date



Travis Horton, Director

5/11/23

Date