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Topic: JRCNWO ANNUAL PREA REPORT

Standard: 115.388

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The Juvenile Residential Center of Northwest Ohio (JRCNWO) has an established, evidence-based program that supports the standards enacted by the Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003 (PREA). The facility embraces these standards and has worked diligently to create a strong Zero-Tolerance culture regarding sexual abuse and sexual harassment. Policies, procedure, and practice have been developed to guide the facility in its efforts to prevent, detect, report and respond to any incident of sexual abuse or sexual harassment. These policies, procedures, and practices have been essential to developing a culture of professionalism and providing residents a safe environment in which they feel comfortable reporting concerns. The facility has been audited twice in regards to the PREA Standards and was deemed to be in compliance.

Any allegation of sexual abuse will be thoroughly investigated by the facility's designated investigators or the local investigative body. All incidents will be reviewed to determine any necessary corrective action that should be taken to avoid future incidents. The facility did receive a report from a resident indicating that he had engaged in sexual conduct while at another facility. This information was reported per the PREA Standards. The facility has not received an allegation of sexual abuse that occurred within the facility or from a third-party reporter.

Training and Education are primary methods that the facility uses to ensure that all staff and residents are knowledgeable of their rights and responsibilities regarding PREA. Residents receive information in a variety of methods, both upon admission and throughout their stay, to educate them about their rights and how to report any incident of sexual abuse. Staff receive yearly training covering topics such as how to avoid inappropriate relationships, victim services, mandatory reporting, and how to communicate effectively with residents, including those who identify as LGBTQI. This training is facilitated by the Quality Assurance Coordinator who received his Train the Trainers certification through the Ohio Department of Youth Services. The facility also utilizes appropriate supervision levels, cameras, individual showers, and single room housing as additional methods to prevent incidents of sexual abuse.

In 2018, the facility PREA Coordinator was selected as a candidate to become certified as a Prison Rape Elimination Act Auditor. He successfully completed this training and was certified as an Auditor for Juvenile Facilities by the Department of Justice.