Central Counties Youth Center

2023 Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) Report

In April 2023, the Central Counties Youth Center had the annual review of Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) complaints received from the reporting year. Staff and Administration also discussed any new strategies to be implemented to ensure compliance with PREA regulations, as well as a review of current Center policies.

Some of the innovations the Centre County Youth Center has undertaken to address sexual violence within its facility include:

* Reviewing all agency policies to ensure compliance with standards and related expectations.
* Updating and expanding training to all staff, contractors, volunteers, and vendors who have contact with juveniles, with specialized training for investigators, and health service professionals.
* Developing risk assessment tools for juveniles to ensure they are housed and assigned to programming in accordance with their risk as a potential victim or perpetrator of PREA.
* Deploying communication strategies for staff, juveniles, volunteers and the community regarding reporting venues and juvenile rights to be free from victimization.
* Partnering with various local resources for the provision of support services to juvenile sexual assault survivors.

Our mission at the Central Counties Youth Center is a structured environment providing secure, safe surroundings for both the youth and the community while the youth await court proceedings.

Although safety and security are the foundation of our environment, we afford youth the opportunity to gain control of their lives by taking responsibility for their actions. This is accomplished through the structure, redirection, and education systems of the center and the role modeling, interaction, and experience of educated professionals.

The Central Counties Youth Center utilizes the definition of "sexual abuse" as provided by 28 C.F.R. §115.6 in the National Standards to Prevent, Detect, and Respond to Prison Rape (under the Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003). For purposes of tracking, sexual abuse is disaggregated on three categories of inmate-on-inmate sexual victimization. These categories are:

INMATE NONCONSENSUAL SEXUAL ACTS

INMATE ABUSIVE SEXUAL CONTACTS

INMATE SEXUAL HARASSMENT

Staff Sexual Misconduct and Staff Sexual Harassment are also covered under PREA Standards and included in the reporting requirements.

In the reporting year of 2022 (January 1st -December 31'') There were a total of zero (0) PREA related incidents reported to Detention Center staff. The results of those investigations were as follows:

Unfounded -O

Unsubstantiated -0

Substantiated -0

Outcomes are defined as follows:

* UNFOUNDED: The allegation is false or not factual
* UNSUBSTANTIATED: There is sufficient factual evidence either to prove or disprove the allegations.
* SUBSTANTIATED: The allegation is supported by sufficient factual evidence.
* REFERRED: §115.63 Reporting to other confinement facilities

Upon receiving an allegation that an inmate was sexually abused while conrinec.J dl

another facility the head of the facility that received the allegation shall notify the head of the facility or appropriate office of the agency where the alleged abuse occurred.

Such notification shall be provided as soon as possible, but no later than 72 hours after receiving the allegation.

The agency shall document that it has provided such notification.

The facility head or agency office that receives such notification shall ensure that the allegation is investigated in accordance with these standard