

CENTRAL COUNTIES YOUTH CENTER

2023 Prison Rape Elimination Act

(PREA) Report

In April 2022, the Central Counties Youth Center assigned the Director to the position of PREA Coordinator in accordance with PREA standard §115.11(b). Under this standard the agency shall employ or designate an upper-level, agency-wide PREA coordinator with sufficient time and authority to develop, implement, and overs agency efforts to comply with the PREA standards.

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 2023 (January 1st – December 31st) There were a total of 0 (zero) PREA related incidents reported to Detention Center staff. The results of those investigations were as follows:

Unfounded – 0

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
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- (a) Upon receiving an allegation that an inmate was sexually abused while confined at 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.
 - (b) Such notification shall be provided as soon as possible, but no later than 72 hours after receiving the allegation.
 - (c) The agency shall document that it has provided such notification.
 - (d) The facility head or agency office that receives such notification shall ensure that the allegation is investigated in accordance with these standards.

PREA: Prison Rape Elimination Act

The Central Counties Youth Center is committed to the safety and security of its inmate population and staff. The Central Counties Youth Center has a zero tolerance policy against sexual misconduct, consensual sexual contact, sexual abuse, sexual, and rape by inmates against another inmate.

Central Counties Youth Center
2022 Prison Rape Elimination Act
(PREA) Report

In April 2021, the Central Counties Youth Center named the Assistant Administrator as the temporary PREA Coordinator in accordance with PREA standard 115.11(b). Under this standard the agency shall employ or designate an upper-level, agency-wide PREA coordinator with sufficient time and authority to develop, implement, and oversee agency efforts to comply with the PREA standards. The Assistant Administrator was named temporarily with the intention of making the incoming Administrator the PREA Coordinator once they have been hired and onboarded into the position.

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.
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Central Counties Youth Center
2021 Prison Rape Elimination Act
(PREA) Report

Central Counties Youth Center staff and Administration discussed new strategies to be implemented to ensure compliance with PREA regulations, as well as a review of current Center policies.

There were some minor updates to current policies, but nothing to change the nature of the policies (i.e. minor word changes for clarity.) Other innovations 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.
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