Cassia County Sheriff's Office

Mini-Cassia Criminal Justice Center
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Mini-Cassia Criminal Justice Center 2019 Annual PREA Report

Rape and sexual activity seriously reduces the mission of the Mini-Cassia Criminal Justice Center (MCCJC) to provide a safe and secure environment for offenders and staff. In accordance with the Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003, the MCCJC has established a zero-tolerance standard regarding the incidence of rape and sexual activity.

By providing training, education and policy reviews on an annual basis, the MCCJC is confident that it is providing inmates, staff, contractors and volunteers everything they need to be confident and comfortable with their responsibilities concerning PREA. The MCCJC is also confident that the staff, contractors and volunteers have a thorough knowledge and understanding of the PREA requirements and the MCCJC policy and procedures in order to effectively provide sexual abuse and harassment prevention, detection and response to those allegations.

A PREA incident review is conducted on all PREA allegations whether they have been substantiated or unsubstantiated. The results of these reviews are used to access and improve our effectiveness and any corrective actions that may be needed pursuant to PREA mandate 115.88. The review committee considers several factors when determining if any corrective actions should be taken to prevent similar sexual abuse incidents. They consider if the policies and procedures effectively provide prevention, detection and response to the allegation. They consider if the incident was motivated by group dynamics or if the physical plant layout enabled abuse. They consider if there was an appropriate amount of staff on duty and they would review the staffing plan to check for any deviations in the number of staff working at the time of the incident. The review committee determines if any corrective actions need to be taken, and those actions are documented and an action plan is put into place.

In 2019 there were three (3) substantiated incidents. In assessing and reviewing the three (3) minor incidents, the review committee determined that no corrective action was needed. The PREA incident review team felt that our current policy and procedures effectively provided prevention, detection and response to the allegations. The review committee did not find that the incidents were motivated by group dynamic or that the physical plant enable abuse. The perpetrator(s) were given disciplinary sanctions and separated from the victims. The incident review team determined that adequate video monitoring was in place and used during the investigation to substantiate the incidents. The incidents were reviewed by the Burley City Prosecutor's office resulting in no criminal charges.

There were three (3) unfounded allegations made against staff, and one (1) unsubstantiated allegation. Three incidents involved invasion of privacy allegations and one involved an alleged verbal comment. Even though the invasion of privacy allegations were determined to be unfounded by PREA standards, staff was given additional training to help prevent incidents where inmates might feel their privacy is violated. The review committee recommended that shower curtains be installed in 6 housing units and they are in the process of being procured.

In this report the personal identifying information and specific investigatory information has been withheld for privacy and safety of all parties.

The MCCJC realizes that it must continually provide training to our staff members, contractors and volunteers, and the MCCJC must continually provide education to the inmates in order to provide effective detection, prevention, and response to PREA allegations. The MCCJC is dedicated to providing high levels of supervision and monitoring of the inmates to provide them the protection they deserve. The MCCJC is dedicated to providing strong zero-tolerance policies and procedures, and a safe and secure environment for inmates, providing them with a comfort that they can report PREA allegations free from retaliation and in a confidential format.

Dan Renz
Jail Lieutenant