Cassia County Sheriff's Office

Mini-Cassia Criminal Justice Center

1415 Albion Ave – Burley, Idaho 83318 Ph. 208-878-1000 Fax 208-878-1100★George Warrell III, Sheriff

Mini-Cassia Criminal Justice Center 2020 Annual PREA Report

OVERVIEW

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.

DEFINITIONS

- **Substantiated**: An allegation was investigated and determined to have occurred
- **Unsubstantiated**: An allegation was investigated and produced insufficient evidence to determine whether or not the event occurred.
- **Unfounded**. The allegation was investigated and determined to not have occurred.

INCIDENTS: January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020

In 2020 there were four (4) substantiated incidents of inmate to inmate sexual harassment (non-physical, includes verbal and gestures). In assessing and reviewing the four (4) incidents, the review committee determined that no corrective action was needed to facility policy or operations. 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 physical plant enabled the 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 Cassia County and Burley City Prosecutor's offices resulting in no criminal charges.

There were four (4) unsubstantiated allegations made against staff, and three (3) unfounded allegations. Two of the unsubstantiated allegations involved contract workers. The PREA Review Team recommended restricting inmate workers from certain areas to prevent the possibility of these allegations in the future. These recommendations were implemented. The two other unsubstantiated allegations involved inappropriate communication between staff and inmates. Disciplinary action was initiated for both staff members and neither currently work at the facility.

2020 PREA Statistics

Type of Incident Reported	Substantiated	Unsubstantiated	Unfounded	Pending	Total
Inmate to Inmate Sexual Abuse (physical contact)			3		3
Inmate to Inmate Sexual Harassment (verbal/gestures)	4				4
Staff to Inmate Sexual Abuse		4	3		
Staff to inmate Sexual Harassment			3		
Incident determined not to be PREA	*Alleged behavior did not meet the definitions of sexual abuse or harassment under PREA*				
Incident did not occur at the Mini-Cassia Criminal Justice Center	*MCCJC Staff recorded the incident details and transferred PREA report to facility of origin.*				

CLOSING STATEMENT

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.

REPORTING OFFICIAL

Dan Renz
Jail Lieutenant