

Sheriff Dennis M. Lemma



To: Sheriff Dennis M. Lemma 

Via: Chain of Command

From: Sergeant Anthony Pastor

Date: February 26, 2018

SUBJECT: PREA 2017 Agency Annual Report

This memorandum serves as the PREA Agency Annual Report covering calendar year January 1 through December 31, 2017. The Sheriff's Office has identified three divisions within our agency required to be PREA compliant: The John E. Polk Correctional Facility, the Juvenile Detention Center and the Juvenile Assessment Center. The Seminole County Sheriff's Office, John E. Polk Correctional Facility, identified or responded to thirty-one alleged PREA incidents during this time period. The Juvenile Detention Center identified or responded to zero PREA incidents during the aforementioned period.

John E. Polk Correctional Facility

There were eleven allegations of staff on inmate PREA incidents. One staff allegation was unsubstantiated. It was determined that the deputy made a statement which could have been interpreted as sexual harassment. This occurred one time, therefore it did not meet the threshold for a PREA violation. The deputy was informed that future statements would not be tolerated and could result in discipline up to and including termination. Ten incidents were unfounded. It was determined that the reporting inmates provided information that had no basis for an investigation.

There were twenty inmate on inmate alleged incidents. Fourteen were unfounded and four were unsubstantiated. It was determined when an inmate was the alleged victim that supporting witness statements and inmate interviews indicated the alleged perpetrator did not violate PREA standards or State Statute. They did however face discipline for violation of facility rules.

Two inmate on inmate PREA cases were substantiated after investigations were completed. One sexual harassment incident occurred when a female tried to lure other females to engage in sexual activity with a handmade sexual device. One sexual abuse case occurred when a female inmate touched another female inmate's buttocks.

Of the thirty-one incidents, females reported sixteen and males reported fifteen. The age range for the alleged victims ranged from 19 to 59 with the mean being 32.

PREA 2017 Disposition	Male Inmate	Female Inmate
Unfounded	12	12
Unsubstantiated	3	2
Substantiated	0	2
Consensual	0	0
Referred to Other agency	0	0
Received from other agency	0	0
Community Based	0	0
Total	15	16

Review, Corrective Actions and Recommendations

Every case was reviewed by the PREA Incident Review team to determine if staff actions, physical plant, or other mitigating circumstances contributed to the alleged violation. The review team consists of upper level management, medical staff, classifications, line staff and, when available, the reporting staff member.

In 2016, the agency had twenty-eight total PREA incidents with two cases substantiated in 2016, the incidents were sexual harassment, with the perpetrator making contact with another inmate and an inmate exposing his genitals to another inmate. In 2017, one of the cases was sexual harassment where an inmate had tried to entice another inmate to perform sex acts with a glove stuffed with toilet tissue. The other substantiated case was a Sexual Abuse case, defined by the PREA Resource Center, where a female inmate was observed on video, touching another female inmate without permission inappropriately on her buttocks.

Our facility continues to enhance video monitoring capabilities for the protection of both staff and inmates. Areas identified for video enhancements include Control 2 areas and the warehouse. The agency will continue to focus and support prevention, detection, reporting, and investigation of sexual assault and harassment.

The correctional staff continue to work with our Victim Advocate division for the rape crisis line afforded to inmates within the facility. The State Attorney's outside reporting line is in service to allow for third party reporting. Our external website posts PREA information and a third party anonymous online reporting capability. Reporting remains our focus as we continue with CAFÉ reporting for PREA Investigations. The agency continues to use kiosks throughout the facility for inmate education on PREA and an electronic way to report incidents to staff immediately.

Throughout 2017, several training sessions were completed for staff, supervisors, and courthouse personnel. We will continue to train staff yearly focusing on checklists for all personnel to review for any or all allegations of PREA related incidents. The JDC Facility continues to recognize the importance of PREA standards with the goal of safety of their juvenile inmates when they are detained at the Seminole County Juvenile Detention Center. The agency continues to take a proactive approach at our youth facility.

During 2017, surveillance will continue to improve with recommendations to add 7 security cameras at JDC to cover areas without video footage. These areas are the female pod hallway, outside confinement cell ISO1 and ISO2, the interview room, the Medical hallway, the hallway by Master Control, and the release office.

