

PRISON RAPE ELIMINATION ACT

Annual Report 2023

Introduction

The Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) was signed into Federal law in 2003 by President George W. Bush and was created to address the problem of sexual misconduct in all confinement facilities. In 2012, the U.S. Department of Justice released national PREA standards to prevent, detect and respond to sexual abuse and sexual harassment in confinement facilities. The Act requires all federal, state, and local corrections agencies to have a zero-tolerance policy regarding sexual assault/ sexual abuse in prisons, jails, police lock-ups, and community confinement facilities.

Community Resources for Justice, Inc. (CRJ) has a zero-tolerance policy relative to sexual misconduct. All its community-based residential reentry programs comply with federal and respective state laws as they pertain to PREA, sexual violence and sexual misconduct.

Heriberto Crespo, Assistant Director of Quality and Compliance (Q&C), as the Corporate PREA Coordinator works in tandem with Senior Management staff to develop, implement, and oversee company efforts to comply with PREA standards in all CRJ's community-based residential reentry programs. The Program Directors are designated to serve as their facility's PREA Liaison to coordinate each individual facility's efforts in its compliance with the PREA standards.

In compliance with PREA requirements, Community Resources for Justice, Inc. (CRJ) submits this 2023 Annual Report.

PREA Compliance Activities

During 2023 CRJ's Quality and Compliance Department monitored PREA activities at all ten community-based residential reentry programs throughout the year.

Q&C, under the guidance of the PREA Coordinator, is responsible for:

1. Conducting audits of case files for completion of:
 - a. PREA Intake Orientation Checklists upon admission;
 - b. PREA Screening and Scoring forms within 72 hours of admission; and
 - c. PREA safe discussions between residents and case managers at the first case management meeting and every meeting thereafter.
2. Observing PREA postings in all programs during facility walk-throughs
3. Establishing a paperless documentation process for future PREA audits
4. Tracking PREA training throughout the year

5. Maintaining the PREA Incident Tracking Chart
6. Maintaining all documentation of allegations of sexual abuse or sexual harassment and the resulting investigation reports

In 2023, two programs underwent their PREA Certification: New Bedford Reentry Center (January 5 & 6, 2023) and McGrath House (October 9 & 10, 2023). The two Re-entry programs were audited by an independent, Department of Justice certified, PREA auditor, Jack Fitzgerald (the same auditor used to audit CRJ's programs in 2015, 2016, 2018, 2021, and 2022.)

The final PREA Audit reports for New Bedford Reentry Center and McGrath House were posted on the CRJ webpage, along with previous audit reports for 2015, 2016, 2018, 2019, 2021, and 2022. The PREA Audit report results for both programs reflect compliance in all areas of the regulations.

In 2024, four programs are scheduled to undergo their PREA Certification: Horizon House (March 11 & 12, 2024); Lighthouse (May 6 & 7, 2024); Houston House (July 15 & 16, 2024); and Brooke House (November 18 & 19, 2024).

Table 1 below shows the number of PREA allegations by location and allegation type in 2023.

Table 1: Allegations of sexual abuse and sexual harassment, 2023 (N=7)

Total number of residents admitted in 2023: N = 990

2023 N =7	Allegations of RESIDENT on RESIDENT Sexual Abuse	Allegations of RESIDENT on RESIDENT Sexual Harassment	Allegations of RESIDENT on STAFF Sexual Abuse	Allegations of STAFF on RESIDENT Sexual Abuse	Allegations of STAFF on RESIDENT Sexual Harassment
Brooke	0	1	0	0	0
McGrath	0	0	0	0	0
NBRC	0	0	0	0	1
WMRC	0	0	0	0	0
Coolidge*	0	0	0	0	3
Hampshire*	0	0	0	0	0
Horizon*	0	1	0	1	0
Houston*	0	0	0	0	0
LightHouse*	0	0	0	0	0
FRE - Dana House	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	0	2	0	1	4

* = BOP contracted programs

Table 2 shows a summary of findings by allegation type in the CRJ programs overall.

Table 2: Summary of Findings 2023 (N=7)

2023 Findings	ALLEGATIONS	SUBSTANTIATED	UNSUBSTANTIATED	UNFOUNDED	ONGOING INVESTIGATION
Resident on Resident Sexual Abuse	0	0	0	0	0
Resident on Resident Sexual Harassment	2	1	1	0	0
RESIDENT on STAFF Sexual Abuse	0	0	0	0	0
Staff on Resident Sexual Abuse	1	1	0	0	0
Staff on Resident Sexual Harassment	4	0	0	4	0
TOTALS	7	2	1	4	0

PREA Allegations reported and investigated

During the 2023 reporting period, there were a total of seven PREA allegations and investigations. Please refer to Table 1 for details on the number and type of allegations by location. Table 2 shows the allegation type and finding.

There were six sexual harassments allegations reported in 2023:

- Two allegations were Resident on Resident:

- One allegation of sexual harassment by a resident on resident was reported by Horizon House. The Program Director conducted the investigation. It was determined to be substantiated. The resident was returned to higher custody.
- One allegation of sexual harassment by a resident on resident was reported by Brooke House. The Contract Oversight Manager and Director conducted the investigation. It was determined to be unsubstantiated.
- Four allegations were Staff on Resident:
 - Coolidge House reported three allegations of sexual harassment by a staff on residents. The Program Director conducted the investigations. All were determined to be unfounded.
 - New Bedford Reentry Center reported one allegation of sexual harassment by a staff on resident. The Program Director conducted the investigation. It was determined to be unfounded.

There was one sexual abuse allegation reported in 2023:

- Horizon House reported one allegation of sexual abuse by staff on resident. The Program Director conducted the investigation. It was determined to be substantiated. The administrative investigation determined that staff had indeed entered into an inappropriate relationship with a resident. The staff person was terminated, and the resident was returned to higher custody.

In addition to the Q&C audits and reviews, the Federal Bureau of Prisons (FBOP) conducted quarterly monitoring visits (external audits) at the five CRJ/BOP programs. Brooke House, McGrath House, Western MA Reentry Center, and New Bedford Reentry Center received no external audits from its funders. There were no accreditation (external) audits conducted by the American Correctional Association (ACA) of any CRJ program in 2023. Dana's House is funded under CT DOC. They did not conduct any external audit in 2023.

Tables 3 and 4 below illustrate the same data for the period of 2015 - 2023. Over that period there were 71 allegations made. Table 3 shows the type of allegation by location and Table 4 shows the findings by allegation type.

Table 3: Combined PREA data for the years 2015-2023

Total number of residents admitted in 2015-2023: N = 8,249

2015- 2023 N=73	Allegations of RESIDENT on RESIDENT Sexual Abuse	Allegations of RESIDENT on RESIDENT Sexual Harassment	Allegations of RESIDENT on STAFF Sexual Abuse	Allegations of STAFF on RESIDENT Sexual Abuse	Allegations of STAFF on RESIDENT Sexual Harassment
Brooke	0	1	0	2	1
McGrath	0	3	0	2	0
WMRC	0	0	0	1	1
NBRC	0	0	1	0	1
Coolidge*	1	1	0	4	10
Hampshire*	1	2	2	8	5
Horizon*	0	1	0	2	6
Houston*	0	4	0	1	4
LightHouse*	0	2	0	1	5
FRE - Dana House	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	2	14	3	21	33

* = BOP contracted programs

Table 4: Summary of Findings 2015-2023

Total number of residents admitted in 2015-2023: N = 8,249

2015-2023 N=73	TOTAL ALLEGATIONS	SUBSTANTIATED	UNSUBSTANTIATED	UNFOUNDED	ONGOING INVESTIGATION
Resident on Resident Nonconsensual Sexual Acts	1	0	1	0	0
Resident on Resident Sexual Harassment	14	7	5	2	0
Resident on Staff Sexual Abuse	2	0	1	1	0
Staff on Resident Sexual Abuse	23	2	3	18	0

Staff on Resident Sexual Harassment	33	3	7	23	0
TOTALS	73	12	17	44	0

CRJ continues its PREA training for all staff and residents in the community-based residential reentry programs to prevent sexual misconduct and to fully investigate and prosecute those involved in such conduct.

The system of collecting data on incidents of a sexual nature at each of CRJ's community-based residential reentry programs continues to provide PREA data. Each program collects accurate, uniform data for every allegation of sexual abuse or sexual harassment under its direct control using a standardized instrument and the Corporate PREA Coordinator aggregates incident-based data as needed. The data collection is all electronic and located on a confidential, shared drive. The Program Director or designee enters the data monthly and the PREA Coordinator checks the database periodically to ensure the data is entered.

Since 2015, the aggregation of sexual abuse and sexual harassment data is required by CRJ Corporate policy.

Each community-based residential reentry program that CRJ operates continues to make great efforts to improve the prevention, detection, and response to incidents of sexual abuse or sexual harassment.

Report prepared by Quality & Compliance Department

Heriberto Crespo

Report Reviewed and approved by:

Signature:

Deborah M. O'Brien

Jan 16, 2024

Deborah M. O'Brien, CEO and President of CRJ Date: