

MERS/Goodwill Residential Reentry Center and State Halfway House

2017 PREA Annual Report

The Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) was passed by Congress and signed into law by President George W. Bush in 2003 to prevent, detect and respond to sexual abuse that occurs in confinement settings. The National Prison Rape Elimination Commission developed national standards for reducing prison rape, which became final on June 20, 2012, when they were published by the Department of Justice (DOJ) in the Federal Register. PREA applies to adult prisons and jails, juvenile confinement facilities, lockups and community confinement facilities. The MERS/Goodwill Residential Reentry Center and State Halfway House is a community confinement facility operated under contract with the Federal Bureau of Prisons and Missouri Department of Corrections, and is governed by the national PREA standards. MERS/Goodwill has zero tolerance for any incidence of rape, sexual assault or sexual misconduct; and makes every effort to comply with applicable components of the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) of 2003.

DEFINITIONS

SEXUAL ABUSE includes—

1. Sexual abuse of a resident by another resident; and
2. Sexual abuse of a resident by a staff member, contractor, or volunteer.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT includes-

1. Repeated and unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, or verbal comments, gestures, or actions of a derogatory or offensive sexual nature by one resident directed toward another; and
2. Repeated verbal comments or gestures of a sexual nature to a resident by a staff member, contractor, or volunteer, including demeaning references to gender, sexually suggestive or derogatory comments about body or clothing, or obscene language or gestures.

Once a report of sexual abuse, sexual harassment, or voyeurism has been reported and investigated, the incident will be classified using one of the following findings:

SUBSTANTIATED - allegation was investigated and determined that incident occurred.

UNSUBSTANTIATED - allegation was investigated and there was insufficient evidence to make a final determination as to whether the incident occurred.

UNFOUNDED - allegation was investigated and incident was determined not to have occurred.

INVESTIGATIONS:

The program Director will ensure that an administrative or criminal investigation is completed for all allegations of sexual abuse and sexual harassment. The agency has trained investigators that will conduct all administrative investigations. All allegations of sexual abuse or misconduct that involve potentially criminal behavior will be referred to the St. Louis City Police immediately upon learning of said allegations; the Director will work with local law enforcement to every extent possible and will remain informed about the progress of all criminal investigations.

Calendar 2016 Incident Reports and Findings:

Residential Reentry Center

	Offender-on-Offender		Staff-on-Offender	
	Sexual Abuse Reports	Sexual Harassment Reports	Sexual Abuse Reports	Sexual Harassment Reports
Substantiated	0	0	0	0
Unsubstantiated	0	0	0	0
Unfounded	0	0	0	0

State Halfway House

	Offender-on-Offender		Staff-on-Offender	
	Sexual Abuse Reports	Sexual Harassment Reports	Sexual Abuse Reports	Sexual Harassment Reports
Substantiated	0	0	0	0
Unsubstantiated	0	1	0	0
Unfounded	0	0	0	0

Calendar 2017 Incident Reports and Findings:

Residential Reentry Center

	Offender-on-Offender		Staff-on-Offender	
	Sexual Abuse Reports	Sexual Harassment Reports	Sexual Abuse Reports	Sexual Harassment Reports
Substantiated	0	0	0	0
Unsubstantiated	0	0	0	0
Unfounded	0	0	0	0

State Halfway House

	Offender-on-Offender		Staff-on-Offender	
	Sexual Abuse Reports	Sexual Harassment Reports	Sexual Abuse Reports	Sexual Harassment Reports
Substantiated	0	0	0	1
Unsubstantiated	0	0	0	0
Unfounded	0	0	0	0

CORRECTIVE ACTION TAKEN:

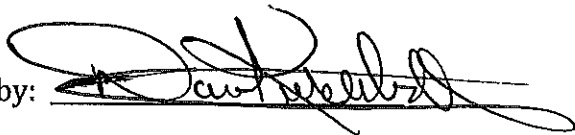
There was one report in calendar year 2017. The report involved a claim of staff-on-offender sexual harassment within the State Halfway House. Upon further investigation the allegation was determined to be substantiated and the staff member's employment was terminated. In complying with the PREA standards, in 2017 MERS/Goodwill assessed its staffing plan and monitoring systems and will continue using PREA risk assessments to inform housing placement.

AGENCY PROGRESS IN PREVENTING SEXUAL ABUSE:

MERS Goodwill has taken multiple steps to improve its processes and procedures to prevent sexual abuse. The agency is committed to providing on-going training to staff, volunteers and residents. In 2017 all residential staff attended training on preventing sexual abuse; the training focused on the following:

- The Prison Rape Elimination Act
- Inmates' Rights to be Free From Sexual Abuse and Sexual Harassment
- Inmates' Rights to be Free from Retaliation for Reporting
- Prevention and Detection of Sexual Abuse and Sexual Harassment
- Response and Reporting of Sexual Abuse and Sexual Harassment
- Professional Boundaries
- Effective and Professional Communication with Inmates

Approved by: _____



Dave Kutchback, CEO