**2018 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 State Halfway House is a community confinement facility operated under contract with the Missouri Department of Corrections, and is governed by the national PREA standards. MERS/Goodwill has a zero tolerance for any incident 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 HARRASSMENT** includes-

1. Repeated and unwelcomed sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, or verbal comments, gestures, or actions of a derogatory or offensive nature by one resident directed at 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:

**SUBSTANIATED** - allegation was investigated and determined that the 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 the incident was determined not to have occurred.

**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** |

***Calendar 2018 Incident reports and Findings***

***State Halfway House***

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Offender-on-Offender** | **Staff-on-Offender** |

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Sexual Abuse Reports** | **Sexual Harassment Reports** | **Sexual Abuse Reports** | **Sexual Harassment Reports** |
| **Substantiated** | **0** | **1** | **0** | **0** |
| **Unsubstantiated** | **0** | **0** | **0** | **0** |
| **Unfounded** | **0** | **0** | **0** | **0** |

**CORRECTIVE ACTION TAKEN:**

There was one report in calendar year 2018. The report involved a claim of offender-on-offender sexual harassment within the State Halfway House. Upon further investigation, the allegation was found to be substantiated and the perpetrator was removed from the facility. In compliance with PREA standards, in 2018, 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