

Prison Rape Elimination Act

2015

This report has been prepared in accordance with §115.87 in order to assess and improve the effectiveness of its sexual abuse prevention, detection, and response policies, practices, and training. In the subsequent years information collected for this report will be used to identify problem areas and take corrective action on an ongoing basis.

The Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) is a federal law that prohibits sexual misconduct in correctional settings such as prisons, jails, lockups, juvenile facilities, and Immigration Services / ICE detention facilities. Sexual misconduct under this law includes:

- Offender-on-offender sexual assault and abuse
- Staff-on-offender sexual misconduct (sexual / inappropriate relationships with offenders)
- Offender-on-offender and staff-on-offender sexual harassment

The Albemarle-Charlottesville Regional Jail is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for staff and offenders. ACRJ has zero tolerance for sexual misconduct of any kind and will impose discipline for such misconduct, up to and including dismissal for staff and serious infractions for inmates who victimize other inmates. All allegations of sexual misconduct, sexual harassment and abuse will be investigated. Inmates will be and offenders will be prosecuted when applicable. ACRJ policies regarding sexual misconduct apply to all inmates, employees, contractors and volunteers.

This report summarizes the extensive effort by the Albemarle-Charlottesville Regional to achieve compliance with The Prison Rape Elimination Act.

Upgrades and Changes

In 2015, ACRJ continued to improve ways to comply with the requirements of the PREA standards. The Accreditation Manager was tasked with taking the role of PREA Coordinator. In conjunction with the PREA Coordinator, Administrators, the Jail Board Authority, Staff, Inmates and Volunteers, ideas of how to meet these standards began to develop. Ideas to revamp areas of the facility such as Intake, Medical, Shift Supervisors, classrooms and other areas of the facility will provide modern workable area. PREA was considered during the planning and designing process. ACRJ is a linear facility along with direct supervision pods. The facility was inspected to determine blind spots and how these issues could be improved in the upcoming budget.

Again in 2015 existing video technology was reviewed. ACRJ considered the need and opportunity for additional video and camera observation not to replace but to assist staff in preventing, responding and detecting all forms of sexual abuse, harassment and misconduct as well as general safety and security concerns.

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ACRJ has developed Memorandums of Understandings with the following:

- Sexual Assault Resource Agency (SARA) (Rape Crisis Intervention Center / Victim Advocate)
- Offender Aid and Restoration Jefferson Area Community Corrections (OAR) (Third Party Reporting)
- University of Virginia Medical Center SANE Nurse Division (Forensic Evaluations)
- Albemarle Police Department (all criminal investigations)
- Language Line Services (implemented to speak with inmates with limited English proficiency)

ACRJ's Jail Board Authority approved the purchase of additional cameras to assist in observations. In addition, ACRJ is in the process of improving its antiquated 800MHz radio system in order to help increase clear communication in all access points throughout the facility. The approval for funding will allow all staff members to have access to a radio. In addition, in conjunction with Albemarle County Police & Sheriff's Office, the City of Charlottesville Police & Sheriff's Office, UVA Police, Albemarle and Charlottesville Fire and Rescue as well as Offender Aid and Restoration- Jefferson Area Community Corrections (OAR-JACC) have been working together to strategize on ways to collaborate and share information as it relate to the public, inmates and staff to minimize recidivism as well as prevent, detect and respond to public safety concerns.

ACRJ's Management System (JMS) is currently being updated to digitize information concerning inmates and allow that information to be used to improve processes and services related to the inmate and staff population as well as how that impacts the community.

The facility also installed IC Solutions a new Inmate Telephone System that allows inmates to anonymously report sexual misconduct. In addition, inmates have free phone access to attorneys, bondsmen as well as the opportunity for family and friends to leave them voicemail.

ACRJ is looking to eventually offer Inmate Video Visitation.

Based on previous incidents and with the hopes to prevent future incidents ACRJ has done the following:

1. corrected shower and restroom areas that did not allow for inmates to be free from observation while in the showers.
2. video cameras were adjusted and corrected as well as mirrors were also installed in areas throughout the facility to assist with visual impairment impacting safety.
3. The booking area is being redesigned to allow for more private response to personal questions.
4. A medical area will be included in the redesigned process in order assist medical and mental health staff in providing more patient private evaluations and PREA screenings.
5. Construction is expected to be completed in the fall of 2016.
6. The common seating area will audio and video equipment that will play inmate orientation videos which includes PREA content so that family and friends as well as the general public are aware of ACRJ's efforts to prevent, detect and respond to sexual safety and other concerns.

Additionally, in working with the PREA Coordinator under the authority of the superintendent the facility staff works to ensure:

- that all staff, contractors and volunteers received training required training related to their function in the facility concerning inmates.

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- all sexual misconduct, harassment and abuse are investigated in a timely, thorough and accurate manner.
- Staff and security teams actively assist in immediate response to allegations and issues regarding safety.
- There is opportunity for open communication from all staff, volunteers and contractors recommendations help better prevent, respond and detect abuse
- Individualized housing assignments are made to ensure the individual safety of inmates.
- Access to Programs and Education are considered on an individualized bases met using educational and Evidence Based Practices (EBP) approved assessment instruments
- Medical, Mental Health and Therapeutic Program Services develops and maintains their partnerships with Region Ten and UVA hospital to ensure that appropriate active communication and an opportunity to process concerns about sexual safety in the facility.
- that issues resulting in disciplinary or hearings are addressed to minimize inmates misuse of items which can lead to sexual misconduct.
- those hired do not have issues in their past that would jeopardize the safety of inmates and staff.
- that funds allocated are used appropriately for the benefit of the inmate and the safety and security of the facility
- concerns regarding inmates' individual fund accounts are accurate
- that Inmate records accurately reflect the inmates' stay or transfer to the facility.
- that Inmates have an opportunity to give back to the community through their service while paying back court costs and fines.
- that those who are responsible for supervising the inmates off-site are aware of their responsibilities regarding the PREA standards.
- that qualified staff assist in the transport of inmates to and from appointments as required.
- staff and inmates have access to technology including the Law Library for Inmates access.
- inmates have access to items required by law to meet the nutritional needs as well as items they can order from the canteen.
- ensures that the needs of the inmates, staff and public as well as local, state and federal laws are considered and communicated to Command Staff so that a timely response can take place to address any issues affecting the safety and security of the facility.

Training

- All facility staff, employees, contractors and volunteers are required to undergo PREA training prior to contacts with inmates.
- Inmates receive training on their rights to be free from sexual abuse, harassment or misconduct while incarcerated at ACRJ.

Finally

Under the direction and leadership of the Superintendent and the Deputy Superintendent staff at all levels are encouraged to give open input on the best way to serve inmates, the community and each other in a manner that provides for safety and security regarding the PREA standards. Through promotions and transfers staff are able to creatively think outside the box to promote a safe and secure environment not only for inmates but staff and visitors as well.

Statistics

Allegation of Inmate-on-Inmate Non-Consensual Sexual Acts		
	2014	2015
Substantiated	0	2
Unsubstantiated	0	1
Unfounded	0	0
Investigation Ongoing	1	0
TOTAL	1	3

Allegation of Inmate-on-Inmate Sexual Harassment		
	2014	2015
Substantiated	2	5
Unsubstantiated	2	8
Unfounded	2	3
Investigation Ongoing	0	0
TOTAL	6	16

Allegation of Inmate-on-Inmate Abusive Sexual Contacts		
	2014	2015
Substantiated	0	1
Unsubstantiated	0	0
Unfounded	0	0
Investigation Ongoing	1	0
TOTAL	1	1

Allegation of Staff Sexual Misconduct		
	2014	2015
Substantiated	0	0
Unsubstantiated	0	3
Unfounded	0	0
Investigation Ongoing	0	0
TOTAL	0	3

Allegation of Staff Sexual Harassment		
	2014	2015
Substantiated	0	0
Unsubstantiated	0	1
Unfounded	1	4
Investigation Ongoing	0	0
TOTAL	1	5