

Brazos Valley Council on Alcohol and Substance Abuse
405 West 28th Street, Bryan, Texas 77803
Tel 979.823.5300
Fax 979.775.2005
www.bvcasa.org

PREA ANNUAL REPORT

2019

This report was conducted in accordance with PREA Rape Elimination Act (PREA) Standard 115.288 Data review for corrective action.

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PREA Standard §115.388

The Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) was established to address sexual abuse and sexual harassment of persons confined to correctional facilities. Standard §115.388, Data Review for Correction Action of PREA, requires that all public and private institutions that house adult or juvenile offenders review data collected and aggregated on an annual basis in order to assess and enhance the effectiveness of its sexual abuse prevention, detection, and response policies, practices, and training, including identifying problem areas; taking corrective action on an ongoing basis; and preparing an annual report of its findings and corrective actions for each facility, as well as the agency as a whole.

Facility Information

The Brazos Valley Council on Alcohol and Substance Abuse (BVCASA) is a TDCJ-funded Transitional Treatment Center (TTC). In 2015, BVCASA's funded capacity was 130 beds (either men or women, separated by floor). On May 18, 2016, BVCASA's funded capacity increased to 25 men and 158 women, with the men in a different building on the same campus. On July 31, 2018, BVCASA closed the McCaffrey House facility and moved male clients to the 3rd floor of the Horizon building, making the Horizon a mixed gender facility again. This was necessary due to a significant drop in client census from TDCJ. Effective April 1, 2019, BVCASA modified its contract with TDCJ to add 16 male and 16 female intensive residential relapse beds. On April 9, 2019, BVCASA received its first residential relapse clients. On September 6, 2019, BVCASA re-opened the McCaffrey House for female supportive residential clients.

Key Terms and Definitions

NONCONSENSUAL SEXUAL ACTS – Unwanted contact with another inmate or any contact with staff that involve contact with the penis and the vagina or anus; contact between the mouth and the penis, vagina, or anus; penetration of the anal or vaginal opening of another person by a hand, finger, or other object; and rubbing of another person's penis or vagina by a hand.

ABUSIVE SEXUAL CONTACT – Unwanted contact with another inmate or any contact with staff that involved touching of the inmate's buttocks, thighs, penis, breasts, or vagina in a sexual way.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT – Repeated and unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, or verbal comments, gestures, or actions of a derogatory or offensive sexual nature by one inmate directed toward another.

STAFF SEXUAL MISCONDUCT – All incidents of willing and unwilling sexual contact with facility staff, and all incidents of sexual activity that involved oral, anal or vaginal penetration.

STAFF SEXUAL HARASSMENT – Repeated verbal comments or gestures of a sexual nature to an inmate, detainee, or 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.

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2015-2019 Comparison of PREA Allegations

This report includes a comparison of calendar years 2015, 2016, 2017, and 2018 data on sexual abuse and sexual harassment allegations and provides an assessment of BVCASA's progress in preventing sexual abuse and sexual harassment of its residents. This review included a review of data from all available incident reports, grievances, investigation files, and sexual abuse incident reviews.

REPORTING CRITERIA	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Number of <i>males</i> confined on December 31 st	29	21	28	18	43
Number of <i>males</i> admitted during the target year	172	125	136	160	291
Number of <i>females</i> confined on December 31 st	113	154	145	96	143
Number of <i>females</i> admitted during the target year	479	633	800	679	752
Number of <i>alleged</i> resident-on-resident NONCONSENSUAL SEXUAL ACTS	0	0	0	0	0
Number of <i>substantiated</i> resident-on-resident NONCONSENSUAL SEXUAL ACTS	0	0	0	0	0
Number of <i>alleged</i> resident-on-resident ABUSIVE SEXUAL CONTACT	0	0	0	0	0
Number of <i>substantiated</i> resident-on-resident ABUSIVE SEXUAL CONTACT	0	0	0	0	0
Number of <i>alleged</i> resident-on-resident SEXUAL HARASSMENT	0	0	0	0	0
Number of <i>substantiated</i> resident-on-resident SEXUAL HARASSMENT	0	0	0	0	0
Number of <i>alleged</i> staff-on-resident STAFF SEXUAL MISCONDUCT	0	0	1	0	0
Number of <i>substantiated</i> staff-on-resident STAFF SEXUAL MISCONDUCT	0	0	1	0	0
Number of <i>alleged</i> staff-on-resident STAFF SEXUAL HARASSMENT	0	0	1	0	0
Number of <i>substantiated</i> staff-on-resident STAFF SEXUAL HARASSMENT	0	0	0	0	0

Comparative Analysis

BVCASA saw a decrease in two of the categories of reported PREA allegations from 2017 to 2018. BVCASA will continue its efforts in ensuring that residents, staff, volunteers, and contractors are educated in the agency's Zero Tolerance policy, as well as the several methods of reporting allegations. BVCASA is committed to ensuring continued compliance with PREA Standards as well

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as the health and safety of the residents in our care. A comparative analysis of 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, and 2019 data indicates the following:

- There was **no change** in the number of reported allegations of non-consensual resident-on-resident sexual acts. There were zero reported allegations in all four years.
- There was **no change** in the number of reported allegations of resident-on-resident abusive sexual contact. There were zero reported allegations in all four years.
- There was **no change** in the number of reported allegations of resident-on-resident sexual harassment. There were zero reported allegations in all four years.
- There was **no change** in the number of reported allegations of staff-on-resident sexual misconduct from 2018 to 2019. There was one reported allegation that was substantiated in 2017.
- There was **no change** in the number of reported allegations of staff-on-resident sexual harassment from 2018 to 2019. There was one reported allegation that was substantiated in 2017.

2019 Corrective Actions

- BVCASA added two new video cameras: one inside the Count Room, one in the 2nd floor day room, and one in the 3rd floor day room.
- The following staff trainings were conducted in 2019:
 - 4/18 - Dept. Inservice: Relapse Program/Contraband
 - 7/1-7/30 - Videos: Safe Prisons/PREA in Texas
 - 8/1 - Dept. Inservice: Responding to emergencies
 - 8/20-8/22, 8/26, 8/28-8/29 - Dept Inservice: Policies/Procedures on fire & other emergencies, Evacuation, Fire Drill, First Responder duties, Disaster plan/manual
 - 8/20-8/22, 8/26, 8/28-8/29 - Dept. Inservice: Security Procedures
 - 8/20-8/22, 8/26, 8/28-8/29 - Dept. Inservice: Offender Behavior Management
 - 9/12, 9/19, 9/20 - Dept Inservice: Pat Search Training
 - 10/24 - Annual Inservice: Report Writing/Submissions Procedures
 - 11/12-11/13, 11/20-11/21, 11/25-11/26 - Abuse, Neglect, Exploitation, and Client Rights
 - 11/18-11/20, 12/6 - Crisis Intervention
 - 12/5, 12/12, 12/19 - Security/Safety/Key Control/Emergency Fire/EEO

2018 Corrective Actions

- BVCASA added 6 new video cameras to the stairwells to ensure there were no blind spots.
- Migrated the McCaffrey House camera system to the Horizon system, making the cameras all accessible from one software system, which is more stable and less likely to go offline.
- The following staff trainings were conducted:

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- 4/27/18 – Duty to Report, Standards of Conduct, Employee Conduct, Staff Requirements, and Supervision/Monitoring Procedures
- 7/12/18 – Incident Hotline and Reporting
- 8/1/18 – Conducting Count
- 9/14/18 – Client Confidentiality, Documentation Deadlines
- 10/2/18 – PREA
- 10/9/18 – Grievance Resolutions, Room Inspections, Incident Reports
- 6/5/18 – Emergency Plans

2017 Corrective Actions

- BVCASA replaced its camera system in the Horizon building, and almost doubled the number of cameras in the facility. In 2016, there were 16 cameras in the facility. In 2017, all old cameras were removed and replaced by 31 high-quality cameras, as well as new cabling, in order to increase coverage and video quality.
- BVCASA added a statement to its PREA Policies/Procedures that staff are not to enter a client's room without another staff member present and/or a documented need to enter the room. All staff were trained on this procedure.
- Procedures were implemented for Shift Leaders from other areas of the facility and Direct Care Supervisors to conduct random walkthroughs of the male facility to prevent staff from feeling isolated, and to diminish the appearance of the Shift Leader coming across as "invincible" or "untouchable."
- Training was conducted on staff's "duty to report" as outlined in BVCASA Procedure 116.D.
- Mirrors were added to the facility at hallway intersections to improve visibility down hallways.

2016 Corrective Actions

Although there were no allegations of sexual abuse or sexual harassment in either 2015 or 2016, BVCASA took new preventative steps in 2016 toward ensuring improved safety measures for its residents. In 2016, BVCASA implemented the following actions:

- Licensed and prepared a separate building on the same campus for its male residents in order to separate female and male residents by building, rather than by floor. This move took place May 18, 2016.
- Designed and implemented a video monitoring system in the new building to ensure all hallways and the day/group room are fully covered, with no blind spots.
- Invested in high quality HD cameras, cabling, and software, as well as a dedicated server to ensure quality video monitoring and recordings.

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- Implemented a podium system on the women's residential floors to ensure each hallway is continually monitored by security staff throughout the day.
- Began planning for upgrades to the camera system in the Horizon (women's) building.
- Developed and implemented a new client grievance system, with improved processes for reporting, tracking, processing/investigating, and documenting grievances. Grievances are now handled in a more secure manner by limiting staff access to grievances, and they are processed and investigated more quickly.
- Brought in the Sexual Assault Resource Center (SARC) to train staff on sexual assault and sexual harassment.

2015 Corrective Actions

- Hired a File Clerk to be housed in the basement located across from the elevator, mid-way on the main hall with viewing distance to the other hallway. The File Clerk's door was made into a half door so that the hallway can be viewed at all times.
- A door alarm was added to the door that is outside of the camera view to alert the File Clerk if someone enters the basement through that door way.
- The doors on all unused rooms were boarded and/or nailed shut. Any corners on the floors where residents could possibly hide, such as in the day room, were boarded off.
- Procedures were implemented to ensure that security staff escort clients throughout the building, such as to and from the laundry room in the basement, rather than residents in a structure position.
- Implemented the use of Facility Passes to be used by residents to help staff monitor their movement throughout the facility. Residents moving throughout the facility without a pass would alert a staff member to question their whereabouts.

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APPROVED BY:

Signature of Agency Head: 

Name/Title of Agency Head: Crystal Crowell, Executive Director

Date Annual Report Approved: 1-31-20