

TN Department of Children's Services
PREA Annual Report
Published August 2015

The Tennessee Department of Children's Services remains committed to ensuring that Youth Development Centers, contract provider agencies and juvenile detention facilities are compliant with the Prison Rape Elimination Act. DCS has taken several steps over the last year to help facilities educate both staff and youth in the areas of sexual abuse prevention and safety.

In order to address identified training needs, DCS reached out to the PREA Resource Center for technical assistance. As a result, The Moss Group developed a new PREA training curriculum and also provided two Training for Trainer sessions for DCS and provider agency staff. These sessions were held in Nashville, TN (November 2014) and Knoxville, TN (January 2015). Subsequent PREA trainings were held in Memphis, TN and Cookeville, TN for provider agency staff in these regions.

A PREA resident education DVD was produced through a Federal Formula Grant through Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth. A total of 100 DVDs were developed and distributed to YDCs, contract providers, and juvenile detention facilities for use as a comprehensive PREA education tool with youth.

Mountain View YDC completed a PREA audit in June 2014, and Wilder YDC completed an

audit in June 2015. Both YDCs are now certified as fully compliant with PREA. In addition, 24 contract provider facilities and nine juvenile detention centers (see below) have completed a PREA audit, with each being certified as fully compliant.

Juvenile Detention Centers

Bedford County
Bradley County
Madison County
Middle Tennessee Juvenile Detention
Putnam County
Richard L. Bean Juvenile Service Center
Rutherford County
Scott County
Williamson County

Contract Provider Facilities

Camelot (New Frontiers)
Florence Crittendon Agency
Free Will Baptist Family Ministries
Frontier Health (three facilities)
G4S
Magnolia Academy (four facilities)
Group Effort (Meridian Behavioral Health)
Memphis Recovery Center
Monroe Harding
Natchez Trace Youth Academy
Omni Visions (SELF and TASK facilities)
Tennessee Children's Home (Spring Hill and TCH West)
Upper Cumberland Human Resource Agency (three facilities)
Varangon Academy
YouthTown

Pursuant to Standard 115.388, DCS tracks specific information related to reported incidents in its facilities. This includes time, location, age, race, as well as victims and perpetrators, with special attention paid to repeat offenders and also victims. This information allows DCS the opportunity to assess and improve the effectiveness of its sexual abuse prevention, detection, and response policies and practices. One identified problem area at Wilder YDC was the shower room. Each dorm was equipped with a six head open bay shower room which provided no privacy for the youth. This was addressed by installing privacy curtains in all shower areas, which provides each resident with privacy during shower time. In addition, Wilder YDC installed 18 convex mirrors to address blind spots in the academic building and each housing unit.

In compliance with Standard 115.367, protection measures are employed when a resident alleges abuse, including the removal of staff and/or resident abusers from the victim. All allegations of sexual misconduct are taken very seriously by DCS. While some allegations may not rise to a level requiring involvement by Child Protective Services, DCS now has additional trained staff available to ensure that all allegations of sexual abuse and sexual harassment as defined by Standard 115.6 of the Prison Rape Elimination Act Juvenile Facility Standards are fully investigated.

DCS remains committed to fostering a culture of reporting, and continues to explore all options for false reporting while seeking to minimize the impact on legitimate and valid incidents of sexual misconduct. For a comparison of this year's data with that of prior years, click here:

Approved by:

Bonnie Hommrich

Bonnie Hommrich, Commissioner
Department of Children's Services