



Department of Juvenile Services

86 Dyess , Denison, Texas 75020

Telephone (903)786-6326

Annual Data Report, Findings, and Action Plan

January 29, 2024 – Report for Calendar Year (CY) 2023

This report has been prepared in accordance with 28 CFR §115.388 of the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) to assess and improve the effectiveness of sexual abuse prevention, detection, and response policies, practices and training in the Grayson County Juvenile Services (GCJS) facilities. GCJS is required to:

1. Review the aggregate incident-based sexual abuse data annually in order to improve the effectiveness of sexual abuse prevention, detection and response policies, practices and training to include
 - a. Identifying problem areas
 - b. Enhancing a reporting culture
 - c. Taking corrective action on an ongoing basis: and
 - d. Preparing an annual report of its findings.
2. The sexual abuse and sexual harassment aggregate data report has been updated to include the calendar year 2023 data.
3. Grayson County Juvenile Services collects data from the referrals for investigation of sexual abuse and sexual harassment: both resident-on-resident and staff-on-resident. The data in this section contains aggregate data as well as a comparison between Calendar Year (CY) 2019, CY 2020, CY 2021, and CY 2022.

All allegations are entered and tracked through the GCJS PREA Statistics excel spreadsheet and posted at: <https://www.co.grayson.tx.us/page/juv.PREA> (for viewing or download). The following depicts the breakdown of CY 2023 sexual abuse and sexual harassment data:

Substantiated allegation: an allegation that was investigated and determined to have occurred.

Unsubstantiated allegation: an allegation that was investigated and the investigation produced insufficient evidence to make a final determination as to whether or not the event occurred.

Unfounded allegation: an allegation that was investigated and determined not to have occurred.

4. The following was noted for the calendar year 2023 data:
 - a. Thirteen (13) allegations were made in 2023 (7 in Post and 6 in detention).
 - i. One (1) allegation of staff sexual abuse (non-contact) of a resident was investigated and determined to be unfounded.
 - ii. One (1) allegation of youth sexual abuse: contact was investigated and determined to be unfounded.
 - iii. Eleven (11) allegations of youth on youth sexual conduct were investigated. 7 were unfounded, and 6 were founded.

5. CORRECTIVE ACTION: There were zero allegations of sexual abuse that resulted in a disposition of Founded following an internal investigation, and there were subsequent periodic incident reviews by the Sexual Abuse Response Team.
 - a. Of the eleven youth on youth allegations that were reported in both programs, five were in post and six in pre-adjudication. After investigations, six of them were founded (two in post and four in pre). In pre, of the four, three of them were accounted for by two individuals with incidents on separate dates.
 - b. The allegation of staff sexual abuse by non-contact involved a youth alleging that a staff member showed him sensitive pictures from a phone. The allegation of the staff member showing this youth the phone was supported by video evidence and yet the actual sexual abuse-non-contact was determined to be unfounded after an investigation. The allegation of staff sexual abuse by contact was made after an individual left, and appeared to be a fabricated story.

6. Progress in the Prevention of, Detection of, and Response to Sexual Abuse and Sexual Harassment:
 - a. The facility was initially certified as compliant with the National Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) Standards for Juvenile Facilities as of October 26, 2016 (in cycle 1, year 3).
 - b. The facility was certified compliant for the second time in March 2020 (end of cycle 2, year 3).
 - c. The facility was certified compliant for the third time in October 2023 (in cycle 3, year 3).
 - d. The facility continues to provide PREA training to all facility staff, contractors, volunteers, interns, and probation staff who have contact with residents.
 - e. Department administrators continue to conduct unannounced rounds across all facility shifts.
 - f. The facility has 108 video cameras within the two facilities that are utilized in part to prevent Sexual Abuse and Sexual Harassment,
 - i. The facilities share space in the Administrative (33) and in the Gymnasium (9) with camera coverage. In the pre-adjudication facility there are 27 cameras, and there are 26 in the Barracks, the sleeping area for post-adjudication. There are another 13 in the area utilized for vocational training for post-adjudication.
 - g. The facility investigates all allegations of sexual abuse and sexual harassment.



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Comparative Data Analysis

These totals are all reports received, irrespective of their case disposition. A comparison between CY 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023 – the last five years – agency reports of sexual abuse and sexual harassment revealed the following;

- In CY 2019, there were seven total incidents that were substantiated. Five of them were youth on youth sexual harassment allegations that involved one youth, and all occurred in the detention center over a two-month timeframe. The youth on youth sexual abuse allegation also occurred in the detention center. It involved a male youth briefly touching a female youth over clothing. The other allegation of staff on youth sexual harassment occurred in the post adjudication program, and involved a staff talking inappropriately with youth.
- In CY 2020, there were five total incidents that were substantiated. All of them were youth on youth sexual harassment allegations.
- In CY 2021, there were zero total incidents that were substantiated. There were three allegations made during the calendar year. All were in Post, and no allegations in Pre.
- In CY 2022, there were zero incidents substantiated, and four allegations made.
- In CY 2023, there were six incidents of youth on youth sexual contact that were substantiated (2 by contact through clothing, 3 by exposure/non-contact, and 1 by harassment), and thirteen total allegations made during the calendar year. 4 of the 6 incidents in detention involved 2 individuals (different incidents at different times).

After three PREA compliant audits, the department continues to implement policies, practices, and training to maintain a safe environment, and allow youth processes for reporting when they feel unsafe. While we are always concerned about allegations, we do feel like the safety and reporting culture for youth and staff is improving. While there is no corrective action necessary, we will continue to find ways to improve both safety and a reporting culture. We will continue to be vigilant as there is an increase in allegations and yet be careful to make sure that we are creating safety around reporting and recognizing that safe reporting cultures might cause a rise in reports.

Corrective Actions

Grayson County Juvenile Services continues to explore, review, and implement best practices and the requirements of the PREA standards in order to address allegations of sexual abuse and sexual harassment.

Additionally, the leadership of Grayson County Juvenile Services is dedicated to on-going monitoring.

In late October 2023, Grayson County Juvenile Services completed its third compliance audit. There are continued learning opportunities. We made several adjustments to our policies and practices as a result of the most recent audit process.

We took corrective actions in 2023 related to making sure youth had 24/7 unimpeded access to emotional support services related to sexual abuse. We emphasized the ability to make anonymous allegations. Entering into 2024, we will re-designate the PREA Coordinator position to give it additional focus, time and support.

We continue to commit to ongoing progress. In a commitment to prevention and detection in the following areas, Grayson County Juvenile Services will:

Prevention Planning

- Continue to ensure the safety and security of youth and staff.
- Continue to screen for vulnerable and/or predatory youth to enhance supervision and monitor behavior.
- Continue to conduct unannounced housing unit visits by the facility supervisors, managers, compliance officers and administrators on all shifts monthly.
- Continue to ensure that the Zero Tolerance and Break the Silence posters are displayed and visible throughout the facilities.
- Continue to maintain a 1:8/1:16 ratio.
- Continue to ensure that the Juvenile Supervision Officers (JSO) maintain a direct line of sight supervision of the youth at all times during waking hours.
- Continue to ensure that each youth is in their appropriate assigned room at bedtime.
- Continue to ensure that headcounts are being conducted consistently.
- Continue the practice of conducting Criminal Records Check and Child Abuse Registry checks on new employees, volunteers and contractors.
- Continue to ensure staff of the opposite gender announce their presence when entering a sleeping area of a youth of the opposite gender.
- Continue to utilize surveillance video (live and archival).

Training and Education

- Continue to ensure that staff are appropriately trained in PREA annually.
- Continue to ensure youth are instructed on how to report any sexual abuse, sexual harassment and sexual misconduct allegation via the hotline, staff, volunteers, grievance, parent, or third party.
- Continue to take available trainings that assist us in our commitment to the safety of our facility: PREA Coordinator completed PREA 101 (2nd national cohort from the PREA Resource Center) in CY2021.



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Screening for Risk of Sexual Victimization and Abusiveness

- Continue to screen all youth to improve the identification of vulnerable populations.
- Continue to ensure classification for each youth upon Intake and Orientation taking into account their age, stature, history, LGBT status, etc. for determining suitable facility placement.
- Continue to conduct within 120-day re-screening and implement recommendations and corrective actions.

Official Response Following a Resident Report

- Continue to monitor for ninety days after an allegation, all youth who allege they are a victim of sexual abuse, sexual harassment, sexual misconduct to ensure that retaliation does not occur.
- Continue to increase youth's willingness to report abuse by supporting a positive reporting environment with multiple internal and external reporting methods and prompts, including conducting thorough investigations.
- Continue to report and investigate all allegations of sexual abuse and sexual harassment.

Medical and Mental Care

- Continue to provide medical and mental health follow up services within 14 days of intake to arriving youth who report a prior sexual abuse that may have occurred in another facility or in a community setting.
- Continue to ensure that all victims of sexual abuse are offered and/or provided trauma counseling services by the facility's mental health professionals as well as through an outside local Rape Crisis Center or Advocacy agency.

As described, Grayson County Juvenile Services is committed to a culture that protects the youth we serve, and continues to invest resources to educate our youth, select and train our staff, improve our procedures, and upgrade our facilities to support the prevention, detection, reporting and investigating of all forms of sexual abuse and sexual harassment.

Greg Sumpter
Chief Juvenile Probation Officer & PREA Coordinator

Date