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Elmore County Detention Center 2017 Annual PREA Report - 01/05/2018

Rape and sexual activity seriously reduces the mission of the Elmore County Sheriff's Office to provide a safe and secure environment for offenders and staff. In accordance with the Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003, the Elmore County Detention Center has established a zero-tolerance standard regarding the incidence of rape and sexual activity.

By providing training, education and policy reviews on an annual basis, we are confident that we are providing the inmates, staff, contractors and volunteers everything they need to be confident and comfortable with their responsibilities concerning PREA. We are also confident that all our staff, contractors and volunteers have a thorough knowledge and understanding of the PREA requirements and the Elmore County Detention Center policy and procedures in order to effectively provide sexual abuse and harassment prevention, detection and response to those allegations.

A PREA incident review is conducted on all PREA allegations whether they have been substantiated or unsubstantiated. The results of these reviews are used to access and improve our effectiveness and any corrective actions that may be needed pursuant to PREA mandate 115.88.

The occurrence of sexual abuse at the Elmore County Detention Center is very low. Since collecting and aggregating data starting in 2013 we have not had any substantiated allegations of sexual abuse. With this first annual report, we specifically reviewed the aggregate data for the year 2017. Upon review of that data, we report that the Elmore County Detention Center did not have any substantiated allegations of sexual abuse.

The Elmore County Sheriff's Office has policies and procedures in place in the instance a PREA allegation is found to be substantiated. These policies are in place to ensure that each incident and investigation are thoroughly reviewed by a review committee to determine if any corrective actions need to be taken in order to make our facility and processes better and safer for the inmate population.

The review committee would consider several factors when determining if any corrective actions should be taken to prevent similar sexual abuse incidents. They would consider if the policies and procedures effectively provided prevention, detection and response to the allegation. They would consider if the incident was motivated by group dynamics or if the physical plant layout enabled the abuse. They would consider if there was an appropriate amount of staff on duty and they would review the approved staffing plan to check for any deviations in the number of staff working at the time of the incident. The review committee would also consider whether there was adequate video monitoring equipment in place. If the review committee determines that any corrective actions need to be taken, those actions are documented and an action plan is put into place to make and track those changes.

In 2017, the Elmore County Sheriff's Office took a proactive step to help ensure effective prevention, detection and response to PREA allegations by installing 16 additional cameras, 4 additional monitors and a state of the art recording system. We are confident that this upgrade will help us better monitor for signs of sexual abuse within the facility.

We know that we must continually provide training to our staff members, contractors and volunteers and we must continually provide education to the inmates in order to provide effective detection, prevention and response to PREA allegations. We are dedicated to providing high levels of supervision and monitoring of the inmates to provide them the protection they deserve. We are dedicated to providing strong zero-tolerance policies and procedures and a safe and secure environment for the inmates. We work diligently to create a safe and trusted environment so that the inmate population understands that they can report a PREA allegation and be free from retaliation.

Lt. Shauna Gavin