



Bossier Parish Corrections Bureau 2017 Annual PREA Report

Background

The Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) was passed by Congress and signed into law by President George W. Bush in 2003 to prevent, detect and respond to incidents of sexual abuse and sexual harassment that occurs in confinement settings. The National Prison Rape Elimination Commission developed national standards which apply to adult prisons and jails, juvenile facilities, lockups and community confinement facilities.

The Bossier Parish Sheriff's Office has long supported the principles associated with the Prison Rape Elimination Act by strictly enforcing a zero tolerance policy on sexual misconduct and establishing procedures designed to combat sexual assaults within our facilities.

The Bossier Parish Sheriff's Office was selected as the first parish agency in the State of Louisiana to be audited for PREA compliance.

In June of 2015, The Bossier Parish Corrections Bureau set the example for all other parish agencies by passing the PREA audit with 100% compliance of all the federal standards established in the Prison Rape Elimination Act.

Zero-Tolerance Policy

The Bossier Parish Sheriff's Office mandates a zero tolerance policy for all acts involving sexual misconduct, sexual assault, attempted sexual assault, or sexual harassment of any inmate in the custody of the sheriff. All staff, volunteers, contractors and inmates must abide by this and related policies, laws, and standards that help prevent, detect, and reduce sexual assaults. The Bossier Sheriff's Office policies provide staff with guidance to help ensure that prompt and effective intervention and investigation measures are taken should an assault occur.

The Bossier Parish Corrections Bureau has a designated agency-wide PREA Coordinator to revise existing policies and establish new policies in accordance with the PREA standards. Other efforts to comply with the PREA standards include, but are not limited to:

- Specialized training for staff, volunteers and contractors on an annual basis;
- Collaboration with other agencies and local Rape Crisis Centers;
- Implementation of internal confidential reporting methods;
- Implementation of confidential support services hotline to local Rape Crisis Centers;
- Developed education material to be provided to inmates;
- Developed assessment for risk of victimization during initial intake.

Annual Statistics

Sexual Harassment, Non-Consensual Sexual Acts and Abusive Sexual Contact are all defined as PREA related incidents involving inmates. Staff Sexual Harassment and Staff Sexual Misconduct are defined as PREA related incidents involving staff.

During the period of January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2017, there were 36 PREA related incidents reported in our detention facilities. Each of these incidents was fully investigated in compliance with PREA standards.

ASSESSMENT

After reviewing all of the PREA incident reports for 2017, it was determined that there was no change of policies or procedures needed. There were no physical barriers identified and staffing levels were determined to be adequate. The Corrections Bureau is taking steps to provide more training to staff on investigations specifically related to PREA and encourages staff to interact with, and educate inmates on how to avoid becoming a victim of sexual abuse. The Bossier Parish Sheriff's Office will continue to make appropriate changes where necessary to ensure a safe, secure environment for both inmates, staff and the community.



BREAK THE SILENCE REPORT SEXUAL ABUSE

**IF YOU, A FRIEND, OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW HAS
BEEN THREATENED OR HAS BEEN THE VICTIM OF
SEXUAL ABUSE, WE CAN HELP!**

**To Report Sexual Abuse contact:
The Bossier Parish Sheriff's Office (318) 965-2203
OR
Project Celebration Sexual Assault & Crisis Center
24 hour Hotline (318) 227-7900
2900 Hearne Avenue
Shreveport, LA 71103**

ALL REPORTS WILL BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY AND WILL BE INVESTIGATED