

**PREA AUDIT REPORT    INTERIM    FINAL**  
**JUVENILE FACILITIES**

**Date of report:** September 15, 2016

<b>Auditor Information</b>		
<b>Auditor name:</b> Ms. Kimberly C. Bonner		
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<b>Telephone number:</b> 205-928-0414 or 334-412-5446		
<b>Date of facility visit:</b> <a href="#">Click here to enter text.</a>		
<b>Facility Information</b>		
<b>Facility name:</b> Coosa Valley Youth Services Attention Home		
<b>Facility physical address:</b> 4621 McClellan Blvd, Anniston, Alabama 36204		
<b>Facility mailing address:</b> <i>(if different from above)</i> <a href="#">Click here to enter text.</a>		
<b>Facility telephone number:</b> 256-236-5437		
<b>The facility is:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> State
	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Municipal
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private not for profit	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other
<b>Facility type:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Correctional	<input type="checkbox"/> Detention
<b>Name of facility's Chief Executive Officer:</b> Mr. Mike Rollins		
<b>Number of staff assigned to the facility in the last 12 months:</b> 14		
<b>Designed facility capacity:</b> 14		
<b>Current population of facility:</b> 14		
<b>Facility security levels/inmate custody levels:</b> Non-Secure Residential		
<b>Age range of the population:</b> 12 - 17		
<b>Name of PREA Compliance Manager:</b> Nilda I. Kernion		<b>Title:</b> Program Manager/ PREA Compliance Manager
<b>Email address:</b> nkernion@cableone.net		<b>Telephone number:</b> 256-236-5437
<b>Agency Information</b>		
<b>Name of agency:</b> Coosa Valley Youth Services		
<b>Governing authority or parent agency:</b> <i>(if applicable)</i> <a href="#">Click here to enter text.</a>		
<b>Physical address:</b> 4625 McClellan Blvd, Anniston, Alabama 36206		
<b>Mailing address:</b> <i>(if different from above)</i> P.O. Box 4519, Anniston, Alabama 36204		
<b>Telephone number:</b> 256-237-2881		
<b>Agency Chief Executive Officer</b>		
<b>Name:</b> Mike Rollins		<b>Title:</b> Executive Director
<b>Email address:</b> mike.rollins@alacourt.gov		<b>Telephone number:</b> 256-237-2881
<b>Agency-Wide PREA Coordinator</b>		
<b>Name:</b> Leisa Cole		<b>Title:</b> Assistant Director
<b>Email address:</b> Leisa@cvys.net		<b>Telephone number:</b> 256-237-2881

## AUDIT FINDINGS

### NARRATIVE

Coosa Valley Youth Services had its first PREA Audit conducted on August 15, 2016. The facility did very well in preparing files for the audit review and assisting the Auditing Team in setting up interviews with staff, administration, and youth that were committed at the time of Audit. Coosa Valley Youth Services has three (3) facilities under its operations; Robert E. Lewis Academy, an Attention Home, and a Detention Program.

1. Robert E. Lewis Academy license capacity is for 30 males age 14-18, the program mission is to reach youth who are having problems at home, school, and in their communities by providing discipline, structure, and mentorship into their lives; to provide safety, security, food, shelter, clothing, and basic medical care to Lewis Academy youth; to provide educational opportunities by means of academic instruction, drug counseling, and individual group and family counseling. Robert E. Lewis Academy offers a program that will give Lewis Academy youth the necessary training in basic living skills, physical education and confidence training, ultimately offering youth a second chance in life upon completion of the program.
2. Attention Home; this program license capacity is for 14 females ages ranging from 12-17, it's a non-secure, safe, residential environment for youth in need of supervision. The Attention Home's adolescents are considered status offenders, not delinquent offenders, it is a treatment program, a "diversion program" serving to prevent residents' further involvement with the juvenile justice system. This 24-hour program mission is to provide a safe environment wherein the primary, educational, behavioral, medical, and emotional needs of its residents are met; to prevent residents' further involvement in the Juvenile Justice System by serving as an effective behavioral modification program, returning to the communities we serve more respectful, responsible, and productive citizens; and to prevent adolescent abuse and neglect and promote healthier lifestyles among this and future generations by providing parent education and family support.

The goal of the Attention Home Program is to provide the residents with the necessary skills in order to improve their negative behaviors and learn acceptable and appropriate ones. There are several skills offered in achieving this goal to include; communication

skills, social, problem solving, independent living, academic, and vocational skills. With the preparation and training it is the goal that these residents return to the world with leadership skills, humility, maturity, and a heart to lead by example.

3. Coosa Valley Juvenile Detention Center is a 48 bed facility to serve both female and male youth age ranging from 10-18. All juveniles placed in the program have been court ordered and length of stay is less than twenty-four (24) hours to approximately two (2) months. This facility strives to make a positive impact on the youth by utilizing individual and group counseling, an in-house academic program, on-site medical attention, and a token economy system employing behavioral modification techniques. Coosa Valley Juvenile Detention Center Goal is to provide individualized and short-term treatment to each and every juvenile in the facility, the mission is to serve counties of Northeast Alabama by providing a safe and secure environment for youth who are charged with delinquent acts; to provide necessary and adequate food, clothing, shelter, and medical care to detained youth; lastly to offer detained youth an opportunity to evaluate their current position, direction, and attitude through education, counseling and structure.

Coosa Valley Youth Services Administrative Staff has done a great job educating their youth and staff in the goals and implementation of PREA. Staff Interviewed and Youth housed at the time of audit were very knowledgeable of the standards and the agency has a veteran staff who showed enthusiasm and a vested commitment to the facility. Prior to the arrival at the facility the PREA Auditor and the facilities' PREA Compliance Manager(s) communicated occasionally. This preparation made the Audit process transition smooth. Upon arrival at the facilities, we conducted a very conclusive walkthrough, took several pictures, conducted interviews with a random selection of staff and residents, and in addition to the PREA Compliance Manager, spoke with the Agency PREA Coordinator and Executive Director in an exit interview to address any concerns and questions.

Medical Staff was interviewed on sight and was very informative of the screening process, and the steps to be taken from the medical standpoint when an investigation is conducted. She served as

Medical Personnel for all three facilities, and showed interest in enhancing her knowledge of the PREA Process as a whole.

Upon review of the files and through interviews, it was reiterated that PREA Audits are like none other, the Auditor has to be satisfied that policy or procedure exist to satisfy the standard, that the practice in place is consistent with the standard and policy, and that the policy and practice has become institutionalized. The PREA Compliance Managers worked extremely hard to ensure consistency and compliance were both met, each individual facility showed great effort in different areas by going over and beyond, which is notated in the standard section. Thanks to the Coosa Valley Youth Services Administration Team as a whole for their tenacity and dedication in working with the Auditor where necessary adjustments were needed.

## DESCRIPTION OF FACILITY CHARACTERISTICS

Coosa Valley Youth Services established in August 1974 with the creation of the Juvenile Detention Center has since added the Attention Home and Camp Robert E. Lewis Program, provide services to approximately 1,000 each year, and strives to make a positive impact on the youth served. In addition to the three (3) residential programs, Coosa Valley Youth Services operates the “Alabama Growing Station”, a tree farm project supported entirely through donations, grants and in-kind service. Camp Lewis cadets, students from the Attention Home and staff provide community service to a variety of locations;



## **SUMMARY OF AUDIT FINDINGS**

There were no incidents of sexual abuse, assault or harassment reported during this audit period. This was confirmed by the PREA Compliance Manager, PREA Coordinator, and the Executive Directive of the Facility. A total of 41 Standards were reviewed, 1 was N/A (the facility currently does not contract with any agency for the confinement of its residents), 1 exceeded Auditors expectation, (the Attention Home implemented a PREA Curriculum that is age appropriate and introduce different and interesting ways to educate the youth), and 39 meets standard. A random selection of both staff (3/14) and residents (2) were interviewed, see the following for classification of staff (administration not included in count);

- PREA Compliance Manager
- Teachers (s)
- Staff
- Nurse
- Crisis Center by Phone/MOU
- PREA Coordinator
- Executive Director

Number of standards exceeded: 1

Number of standards met: 39

Number of standards not met: 0

Number of standards not applicable: 1

**Standard 115.311 Zero tolerance of sexual abuse and sexual harassment; PREA Coordinator**

- Exceeds Standard (substantially exceeds requirement of standard)
- Meets Standard (substantial compliance; complies in all material ways with the standard for the relevant review period)
- Does Not Meet Standard (requires corrective action)

**Auditor discussion, including the evidence relied upon in making the compliance or non-compliance determination, the auditor’s analysis and reasoning, and the auditor’s conclusions. This discussion must also include corrective action recommendations where the facility does not meet standard. These recommendations must be included in the Final Report, accompanied by information on specific corrective actions taken by the facility.**

**§ 115.311 Zero tolerance of sexual abuse and sexual harassment; PREA coordinator.**

(a) An agency shall have a written policy mandating zero tolerance toward all forms of sexual abuse and sexual harassment and outlining the agency’s approach to preventing, detecting, and responding to such conduct.

(b) An agency shall employ or designate an upper-level, agency-wide PREA coordinator with sufficient time and authority to develop, implement, and oversee agency efforts to comply with the PREA standards in all of its facilities.

(c) Where an agency operates more than one facility, each facility shall designate a PREA compliance manager with sufficient time and authority to coordinate the facility’s efforts to comply with the PREA standards.

The agency has a written policy mandating zero tolerance toward all forms of sexual abuse and sexual harassment in facilities it operates directly or under contract.

*Coosa Valley Youth Services Attention Home has implemented a written Policy and Procedure establishing Zero Tolerance of Sexual Abuse & Harassment. It is a twenty-seven-page policy which contains language that specifically mandates zero tolerance toward all forms of sexual abuse and sexual harassment and clearly outlines the agency’s approach to preventing, detecting, and responding to such conduct.*

*Coosa Valley Youth Services Attention Home PREA Coordinator serves as Assistant Director, alongside the PREA Compliance Manager who also serves as Program Manager for the facility. It has been verified that there is sufficient time and authority to develop, implement, and oversee agency efforts to comply with the PREA standards in this facility.*

*During an interview with the PREA Compliance Manager, a great effort was shown to implement the PREA standards and the intent thereof.*

*The position of the PREA Coordinator and the PREA Compliance Manager is in the agency's organizational structure.*



**Standard 115.312 Contracting with other entities for the confinement of residents**

- Exceeds Standard (substantially exceeds requirement of standard)
- Meets Standard (substantial compliance; complies in all material ways with the standard for the relevant review period)
- Does Not Meet Standard (requires corrective action)

**Auditor discussion, including the evidence relied upon in making the compliance or non-compliance determination, the auditor’s analysis and reasoning, and the auditor’s conclusions. This discussion must also include corrective action recommendations where the facility does not meet standard. These recommendations must be included in the Final Report, accompanied by information on specific corrective actions taken by the facility.**

**§ 115.312 Contracting with other entities for the confinement of residents.**

- (a) A public agency that contracts for the confinement of its residents with private agencies or other entities, including other government agencies, shall include in any new contract or contract renewal the entity’s obligation to adopt and comply with the PREA standards.
- (b) Any new contract or contract renewal shall provide for agency contract monitoring to ensure that the contractor is complying with the PREA standards.

N/A

*Coosa Valley Youth Services Attention Home does not contract out with any agency for the confinement of its residents.*

**Standard 115.313 Supervision and monitoring**

- Exceeds Standard (substantially exceeds requirement of standard)
- Meets Standard (substantial compliance; complies in all material ways with the standard for the relevant review period)
- Does Not Meet Standard (requires corrective action)

**Auditor discussion, including the evidence relied upon in making the compliance or non-compliance determination, the auditor’s analysis and reasoning, and the auditor’s conclusions. This discussion must also include corrective action recommendations where the facility does not meet standard. These recommendations must be included in the Final Report, accompanied by information on specific corrective actions taken by the facility.**

**§ 115.313 Supervision and monitoring.**

- (a) The agency shall ensure that each facility it operates shall develop, implement, and document a staffing plan that provides for adequate levels of staffing, and, where applicable, video monitoring, to protect residents against sexual abuse. In calculating adequate staffing levels and determining the need for video monitoring, facilities shall take into consideration:
  - (1) Generally accepted juvenile detention and correctional/secure residential practices;



- (2) Any judicial findings of inadequacy;
  - (3) Any findings of inadequacy from Federal investigative agencies;
  - (4) Any findings of inadequacy from internal or external oversight bodies;
  - (5) All components of the facility's physical plant (including "blind spots" or areas where staff or residents may be isolated);
  - (6) The composition of the resident population;
  - (7) The number and placement of supervisory staff;
  - (8) Institution programs occurring on a particular shift;
  - (9) Any applicable State or local laws, regulations, or standards;
  - (10) The prevalence of substantiated and unsubstantiated incidents of sexual abuse; and
  - (11) Any other relevant factors.
- (b) The agency shall comply with the staffing plan except during limited and discrete exigent circumstances, and shall fully document deviations from the plan during such circumstances.
- (c) Each secure juvenile facility shall maintain staff ratios of a minimum of 1:8 during resident waking hours and 1:16 during resident sleeping hours, except during limited and discrete exigent circumstances, which shall be fully documented. Only security staff shall be included in these ratios. Any facility that, as of the date of publication of this final rule, is not already obligated by law, regulation, or judicial consent decree to maintain the staffing ratios set forth in this paragraph shall have until October 1, 2017, to achieve compliance.
- (d) Whenever necessary, but no less frequently than once each year, for each facility the agency operates, in consultation with the PREA coordinator required by § 115.311, the agency shall assess, determine, and document whether adjustments are needed to:
- (1) The staffing plan established pursuant to paragraph (a) of this section;
  - (2) Prevailing staffing patterns;
  - (3) The facility's deployment of video monitoring systems and other monitoring technologies; and
  - (4) The resources the facility has available to commit to ensure adherence to the staffing plan.
- (e) Each secure facility shall implement a policy and practice of having intermediate-level or higher level supervisors conduct and document unannounced rounds to identify and deter staff sexual abuse and sexual harassment. Such policy and practice shall be implemented for night shifts as well as day shifts. Each secure facility shall have a policy to prohibit staff from alerting other staff members that these supervisory rounds are occurring, unless such announcement is related to the legitimate operational functions of the facility.

*Coosa Valley Youth Services Attention Home has a staffing plan that has assessed any possible areas of vulnerability. This facility has no judicial findings of inadequacy pertaining to security. Several suggestions were made as a "preventive method" and the facility has acknowledged the areas of concerns.*

*During the exit interview, the PREA Coordinator, PREA Compliance Manager, and Facility Director were shown other areas that could use better coverage. It is highly suggested that if there are means to prevent future liabilities, that additional camera coverage should be taken into strong consideration. For the purpose of this audit period, due to the current staffing plan, the facility*

*meets the standard. Other determining factors include the verification of Unannounced Rounds and Facility Policy.*

**Standard 115.315 Limits to cross-gender viewing and searches**

- Exceeds Standard (substantially exceeds requirement of standard)
- Meets Standard (substantial compliance; complies in all material ways with the standard for the relevant review period)
- Does Not Meet Standard (requires corrective action)

**Auditor discussion, including the evidence relied upon in making the compliance or non-compliance determination, the auditor’s analysis and reasoning, and the auditor’s conclusions. This discussion must also include corrective action recommendations where the facility does not meet standard. These recommendations must be included in the Final Report, accompanied by information on specific corrective actions taken by the facility.**

**§ 115.315 Limits to cross-gender viewing and searches.**

(a) The facility shall not conduct cross-gender strip searches or cross-gender visual body cavity searches (meaning a search of the anal or genital opening) except in exigent circumstances or when performed by medical practitioners.

(b) The agency shall not conduct cross-gender pat-down searches except in exigent circumstances.

(c) The facility shall document and justify all cross-gender strip searches, cross-gender visual body cavity searches, and cross-gender pat-down searches.

(d) The facility shall implement policies and procedures that enable residents to shower, perform bodily functions, and change clothing without nonmedical staff of the opposite gender viewing their breasts, buttocks, or genitalia, except in exigent circumstances or when such viewing is incidental to routine cell checks. Such policies and procedures shall require staff of the opposite gender to announce their presence when entering a resident housing unit. In facilities (such as group homes) that do not contain discrete housing units, staff of the opposite gender shall be required to announce their presence when entering an area where residents are likely to be showering, performing bodily functions, or changing clothing.

(e) The facility shall not search or physically examine a transgender or intersex resident for the sole purpose of determining the resident's genital status. If the resident's genital status is unknown, it may be determined during conversations with the resident, by reviewing medical records, or, if necessary, by learning that information as part of a broader medical examination conducted in private by a medical practitioner.

(f) The agency shall train security staff in how to conduct cross-gender pat-down searches, and searches of transgender and intersex residents, in a professional and respectful manner, and in the least intrusive manner possible, consistent with security needs.

*Coosa Valley Youth Services Attention Home has a written policy prohibiting cross-gender searches. Policies and procedures are in place that enable residents to shower without staff of the opposite gender viewing them. Determining factors include; review of policies, interviews with residents and staff, and cross-gender search statement.*

*At the time of audit there had been no occurrences.*

**Standard 115.316 Residents with disabilities and residents who are limited English proficient**

- Exceeds Standard (substantially exceeds requirement of standard)
- Meets Standard (substantial compliance; complies in all material ways with the standard for the relevant review period)
- Does Not Meet Standard (requires corrective action)

**Auditor discussion, including the evidence relied upon in making the compliance or non-compliance determination, the auditor's analysis and reasoning, and the auditor's conclusions. This discussion must also include corrective action recommendations where the facility does not meet standard. These recommendations must be included in the Final Report, accompanied by information on specific corrective actions taken by the facility.**

**§ 115.316 Residents with disabilities and residents who are limited English proficient.**

(a) The agency shall take appropriate steps to ensure that residents with disabilities (including, for example, residents who are deaf or hard of hearing, those who are blind or have low vision, or those who have intellectual, psychiatric, or speech disabilities), have an equal opportunity to participate in or benefit from all aspects of the agency’s efforts to prevent, detect, and respond to sexual abuse and sexual harassment. Such steps shall include, when necessary to ensure effective communication with residents who are deaf or hard of hearing, providing access to interpreters who can interpret effectively, accurately, and impartially, both receptively and expressively, using any necessary specialized vocabulary. In addition, the agency shall ensure that written materials are provided in formats or through methods that ensure effective communication with residents with disabilities, including residents who have intellectual disabilities, limited reading skills, or who are blind or have low vision. An agency is not required to take actions that it can demonstrate would result in a fundamental alteration in the nature of a service, program, or activity, or in undue financial and administrative burdens, as those terms are used in regulations promulgated under title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, 28 CFR 35.164.

(b) The agency shall take reasonable steps to ensure meaningful access to all aspects of the agency’s efforts to prevent, detect, and respond to sexual abuse and sexual harassment to residents who are limited English proficient, including steps to provide interpreters who can interpret effectively, accurately, and impartially, both receptively and expressively, using any necessary specialized vocabulary.

(c) The agency shall not rely on resident interpreters, resident readers, or other types of resident assistants except in limited circumstances where an extended delay in obtaining an effective interpreter could compromise the resident’s safety, the performance of first-response duties under §115.364, or the investigation of the resident’s allegations.

*Coosa Valley Youth Services Attention Home has a Policy and Procedure in place that states the facility will have methods that ensure effective communication with residents with disabilities; that the facility will coordinate efforts with the juvenile court having jurisdiction over the youth to assist in securing necessary accommodation or interpreter when needed, and also have an in-house interpreter. The Attention Home prohibits the use of resident interpreters. Other supporting documentation was the review of Juvenile PREA Intake Orientation Checklist, PREA Handout, and through verification of resident interviews, and Staff Development – Training Report.*

**Standard 115.317 Hiring and promotion decisions**

- Exceeds Standard (substantially exceeds requirement of standard)
- Meets Standard (substantial compliance; complies in all material ways with the standard for the relevant review period)
- Does Not Meet Standard (requires corrective action)

**Auditor discussion, including the evidence relied upon in making the compliance or non-compliance determination, the auditor’s analysis and reasoning, and the auditor’s conclusions. This discussion**

**must also include corrective action recommendations where the facility does not meet standard. These recommendations must be included in the Final Report, accompanied by information on specific corrective actions taken by the facility.**

### **§ 115.317 Hiring and promotion decisions.**

- (a) The agency shall not hire or promote anyone who may have contact with residents, and shall not enlist the services of any contractor who may have contact with residents, who—
- (1) Has engaged in sexual abuse in a prison, jail, lockup, community confinement facility, juvenile facility, or other institution (as defined in 42 U.S.C. 1997);
  - (2) Has been convicted of engaging or attempting to engage in sexual activity in the community facilitated by force, overt or implied threats of force, or coercion, or if the victim did not consent or was unable to consent or refuse; or
  - (3) Has been civilly or administratively adjudicated to have engaged in the activity described in paragraph (a)(2) of this section.
- (b) The agency shall consider any incidents of sexual harassment in determining whether to hire or promote anyone, or to enlist the services of any contractor, who may have contact with residents.
- (c) Before hiring new employees who may have contact with residents, the agency shall:
- (1) Perform a criminal background records check;
  - (2) Consult any child abuse registry maintained by the State or locality in which the employee would work; and
  - (3) Consistent with Federal, State, and local law, make its best efforts to contact all prior institutional employers for information on substantiated allegations of sexual abuse or any resignation during a pending investigation of an allegation of sexual abuse.
- (d) The agency shall also perform a criminal background records check, and consult applicable child abuse registries, before enlisting the services of any contractor who may have contact with residents.
- (e) The agency shall either conduct criminal background records checks at least every five years of current employees and contractors who may have contact with residents or have in place a system for otherwise capturing such information for current employees.
- (f) The agency shall also ask all applicants and employees who may have contact with residents directly about previous misconduct described in paragraph (a) of this section in written applications or interviews for hiring or promotions and in any interviews or written self-evaluations conducted as part of reviews of current employees. The agency shall also impose upon employees a continuing affirmative duty to disclose any such misconduct.
- (g) Material omissions regarding such misconduct, or the provision of materially false information, shall be grounds for termination.
- (h) Unless prohibited by law, the agency shall provide information on substantiated allegations of sexual abuse or sexual harassment involving a former employee upon receiving a request from an institutional employer for whom such employee has applied to work.

*Coosa Valley Youth Services Attention Home has a policy stating the prohibiting of hiring or promoting of anyone who has been found guilty of sexual abuse, sexual misconduct, or sexual harassment. Background checks are conducted at least every five years for current employees in*

*accordance with Coosa Valley Youth Services personnel policies. The facility will also conduct a CA/N registry check on all applicants for Employment/Volunteer/Intern.*

*Other supporting documentation included staff interviews, communication with Administration Personnel, and the review of Pre-Employment Process and Background Checks.*

**Standard 115.318 Upgrades to facilities and technologies**

- Exceeds Standard (substantially exceeds requirement of standard)
- Meets Standard (substantial compliance; complies in all material ways with the standard for the relevant review period)
- Does Not Meet Standard (requires corrective action)

**Auditor discussion, including the evidence relied upon in making the compliance or non-compliance determination, the auditor’s analysis and reasoning, and the auditor’s conclusions. This discussion must also include corrective action recommendations where the facility does not meet standard. These recommendations must be included in the Final Report, accompanied by information on specific corrective actions taken by the facility.**

**§ 115.318 Upgrades to facilities and technologies.**

- (a) When designing or acquiring any new facility and in planning any substantial expansion or modification of existing facilities, the agency shall consider the effect of the design, acquisition, expansion, or modification upon the agency’s ability to protect residents from sexual abuse.
- (b) When installing or updating a video monitoring system, electronic surveillance system, or other monitoring technology, the agency shall consider how such technology may enhance the agency’s ability to protect residents from sexual abuse.

*Coosa Valley Youth Services Attention Home had use of monitoring through video surveillance however, during the exit interview, the PREA Coordinator, PREA Compliance Manager, and Facility Director were shown areas that could use better coverage. It is highly suggested that if there are means to prevent future liabilities, that additional camera coverage should be taken into strong consideration.*

*Determining factors of compliance were verified through interviews with residents and staff, layout of facility, facility staffing plan and examination of the monitoring system.*

**Standard 115.321 Evidence protocol and forensic medical examinations**

- Exceeds Standard (substantially exceeds requirement of standard)
- Meets Standard (substantial compliance; complies in all material ways with the standard for the relevant review period)
- Does Not Meet Standard (requires corrective action)



**Auditor discussion, including the evidence relied upon in making the compliance or non-compliance determination, the auditor's analysis and reasoning, and the auditor's conclusions. This discussion must also include corrective action recommendations where the facility does not meet standard. These recommendations must be included in the Final Report, accompanied by information on specific corrective actions taken by the facility.**

**§ 115.321 Evidence protocol and forensic medical examinations.**

(a) To the extent the agency is responsible for investigating allegations of sexual abuse, the agency shall follow a uniform evidence protocol that maximizes the potential for obtaining usable physical evidence for administrative proceedings and criminal prosecutions.

(b) The protocol shall be developmentally appropriate for youth and, as appropriate, shall be adapted from or otherwise based on the most recent edition of the U.S. Department of Justice's Office on Violence Against Women publication, "A National Protocol for Sexual Assault Medical Forensic Examinations, Adults/Adolescents," or similarly comprehensive and authoritative protocols developed after 2011.

(c) The agency shall offer all residents who experience sexual abuse access to forensic medical examinations whether on-site or at an outside facility, without financial cost, where evidentiary or medically appropriate. Such examinations shall be performed by Sexual Assault Forensic Examiners (SAFEs) or Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANEs) where possible. If SAFEs or SANEs cannot be made available, the examination can be performed by other qualified medical practitioners. The agency shall document its efforts to provide SAFEs or SANEs.

(d) The agency shall attempt to make available to the victim a victim advocate from a rape crisis center. If a rape crisis center is not available to provide victim advocate services, the agency shall make available to provide these services a qualified staff member from a community-based organization or a qualified agency staff member. Agencies shall document efforts to secure services from rape crisis centers. For the purpose of this standard, a rape crisis center refers to an entity that provides intervention and related assistance, such as the services specified in 42 U.S.C.

14043g(b)(2)(C), to victims of sexual assault of all ages. The agency may utilize a rape crisis center that is part of a governmental unit as long as the center is not part of the criminal justice system (such as a law enforcement agency) and offers a comparable level of confidentiality as a nongovernmental entity that provides similar victim services.

(e) As requested by the victim, the victim advocate, qualified agency staff member, or qualified community-based organization staff member shall accompany and support the victim through the forensic medical examination process and investigatory interviews and shall provide emotional support, crisis intervention, information, and referrals.

(f) To the extent the agency itself is not responsible for investigating allegations of sexual abuse, the agency shall request that the investigating agency follow the requirements of paragraphs (a) through (e) of this section.

(g) The requirements of paragraphs (a) through (f) of this section shall also apply to:

(1) Any State entity outside of the agency that is responsible for investigating allegations of sexual abuse in juvenile facilities; and

(2) Any Department of Justice component that is responsible for investigating allegations of sexual abuse in juvenile facilities.



(h) For the purposes of this standard, a qualified agency staff member or a qualified community-based staff member shall be an individual who has been screened for appropriateness to serve in this role and has received education concerning sexual assault and forensic examination issues in general.

*Coosa Valley Youth Services Attention Home has a policy and procedure in place that follows the most recent edition of the U.S. Department of Justice's Office on Violence against Women publication "A National Protocol for Sexual Assault Medical Forensic Examinations, Adults/Adolescents". Additional determining factors were the review of policy, verification of the MOA with 2<sup>nd</sup> Chance, Inc., and interviews with facility administrators.*

**Standard 115.322 Policies to ensure referrals of allegations for investigations**

- Exceeds Standard (substantially exceeds requirement of standard)
- Meets Standard (substantial compliance; complies in all material ways with the standard for the relevant review period)
- Does Not Meet Standard (requires corrective action)

**Auditor discussion, including the evidence relied upon in making the compliance or non-compliance determination, the auditor's analysis and reasoning, and the auditor's conclusions. This discussion must also include corrective action recommendations where the facility does not meet standard. These recommendations must be included in the Final Report, accompanied by information on specific corrective actions taken by the facility.**

**§ 115.322 Policies to ensure referrals of allegations for investigations.**

- (a) The agency shall ensure that an administrative or criminal investigation is completed for all allegations of sexual abuse and sexual harassment.
- (b) The agency shall have in place a policy to ensure that allegations of sexual abuse or sexual harassment are referred for investigation to an agency with the legal authority to conduct criminal investigations, unless the allegation does not involve potentially criminal behavior. The agency shall publish such policy on its website or, if it does not have one, make the policy available through other means. The agency shall document all such referrals.
- (c) If a separate entity is responsible for conducting criminal investigations, such publication shall describe the responsibilities of both the agency and the investigating entity.
- (d) Any State entity responsible for conducting administrative or criminal investigations of sexual abuse or sexual harassment in juvenile facilities shall have in place a policy governing the conduct of such investigations.
- (e) Any Department of Justice component responsible for conducting administrative or criminal investigations of sexual abuse or sexual harassment in juvenile facilities shall have in place a policy governing the conduct of such investigations.

*Coosa Valley Youth Services Attention Home meets compliance through the review of policy and procedures and collaboration with the Calhoun County Sheriff's Department. At the time of audit,*

*there had been no occurrences. Other determining factors were interviews with administration investigators and training curriculum.*

**Standard 115.331 Employee training**

- Exceeds Standard (substantially exceeds requirement of standard)
- Meets Standard (substantial compliance; complies in all material ways with the standard for the relevant review period)
- Does Not Meet Standard (requires corrective action)

**Auditor discussion, including the evidence relied upon in making the compliance or non-compliance determination, the auditor’s analysis and reasoning, and the auditor’s conclusions. This discussion must also include corrective action recommendations where the facility does not meet standard. These recommendations must be included in the Final Report, accompanied by information on specific corrective actions taken by the facility.**

**§ 115.331 Employee training.**

- (a) The agency shall train all employees who may have contact with residents on:
- (1) Its zero-tolerance policy for sexual abuse and sexual harassment;
  - (2) How to fulfill their responsibilities under agency sexual abuse and sexual harassment prevention, detection, reporting, and response policies and procedures;
  - (3) Residents’ right to be free from sexual abuse and sexual harassment;
  - (4) The right of residents and employees to be free from retaliation for reporting sexual abuse and sexual harassment;
  - (5) The dynamics of sexual abuse and sexual harassment in juvenile facilities;
  - (6) The common reactions of juvenile victims of sexual abuse and sexual harassment;
  - (7) How to detect and respond to signs of threatened and actual sexual abuse and how to distinguish between consensual sexual contact and sexual abuse between residents;
  - (8) How to avoid inappropriate relationships with residents;
  - (9) How to communicate effectively and professionally with residents, including lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, or gender nonconforming residents; and
  - (10) How to comply with relevant laws related to mandatory reporting of sexual abuse to outside authorities;
  - (11) Relevant laws regarding the applicable age of consent.
- (b) Such training shall be tailored to the unique needs and attributes of residents of juvenile facilities and to the gender of the residents at the employee’s facility. The employee shall receive additional training if the employee is reassigned from a facility that houses only male residents to a facility that houses only female residents, or vice versa.
- (c) All current employees who have not received such training shall be trained within one year of the effective date of the PREA standards, and the agency shall provide each employee with refresher training every two years to ensure that all employees know the agency’s current sexual abuse and sexual harassment policies and procedures. In years in which an employee does not receive refresher training, the agency shall provide refresher information on current sexual abuse and sexual harassment policies.

(d) The agency shall document, through employee signature or electronic verification, that employees understand the training they have received.

*Coosa Valley Youth Services Attention Home has policy and procedures validating employee training on zero tolerance for sexual abuse and sexual harassment. All personnel including staff, volunteers, and anyone having contact with residents is trained on zero tolerance policy and his/her responsibility under this policy. In addition to this training that is conducted every two years, the PREA Compliance Manager makes an effort to ensure that information is continuously and readily available and/or visible to all staff through posters, PREA compliance discussions, reminders, and staff meetings. Training for volunteers, interns, and contractors is dependent upon the services they provide and level of contact they have with the youth.*

*Determining factors were Staff training logs and module training curriculum, Staff Development – Training Reports, and verification through random interviews of staff and administration.*

#### **Standard 115.332 Volunteer and contractor training**

- Exceeds Standard (substantially exceeds requirement of standard)
- Meets Standard (substantial compliance; complies in all material ways with the standard for the relevant review period)
- Does Not Meet Standard (requires corrective action)

**Auditor discussion, including the evidence relied upon in making the compliance or non-compliance determination, the auditor’s analysis and reasoning, and the auditor’s conclusions. This discussion must also include corrective action recommendations where the facility does not meet standard. These recommendations must be included in the Final Report, accompanied by information on specific corrective actions taken by the facility.**

#### **§ 115.332 Volunteer and contractor training.**

(a) The agency shall ensure that all volunteers and contractors who have contact with residents have been trained on their responsibilities under the agency’s sexual abuse and sexual harassment prevention, detection, and response policies and procedures.

(b) The level and type of training provided to volunteers and contractors shall be based on the services they provide and level of contact they have with residents, but all volunteers and contractors who have contact with residents shall be notified of the agency’s zero-tolerance policy regarding sexual abuse and sexual harassment and informed how to report such incidents.

(c) The agency shall maintain documentation confirming that volunteers and contractors understand the training they have received.

*Coosa Valley Youth Services Attention Home has a policy in place to train all volunteers and contractors who have contact with residents on the agency’s zero tolerance policy. The level and type of training is based on the services they provide and level of contact they have with the youth. Verifying information was the PREA Handout, pamphlet and visual posters.*

### Standard 115.333 Resident education

- Exceeds Standard (substantially exceeds requirement of standard)
- Meets Standard (substantial compliance; complies in all material ways with the standard for the relevant review period)
- Does Not Meet Standard (requires corrective action)

**Auditor discussion, including the evidence relied upon in making the compliance or non-compliance determination, the auditor's analysis and reasoning, and the auditor's conclusions. This discussion must also include corrective action recommendations where the facility does not meet standard. These recommendations must be included in the Final Report, accompanied by information on specific corrective actions taken by the facility.**

### § 115.333 Resident education.

- (a) During the intake process, residents shall receive information explaining, in an age appropriate fashion, the agency's zero tolerance policy regarding sexual abuse and sexual harassment and how to report incidents or suspicions of sexual abuse or sexual harassment.
- (b) Within 10 days of intake, the agency shall provide comprehensive age-appropriate education to residents either in person or through video regarding their rights to be free from sexual abuse and sexual harassment and to be free from retaliation for reporting such incidents, and regarding agency policies and procedures for responding to such incidents.
- (c) Current residents who have not received such education shall be educated within one year of the effective date of the PREA standards, and shall receive education upon transfer to a different facility to the extent that the policies and procedures of the resident's new facility differ from those of the previous facility.
- (d) The agency shall provide resident education in formats accessible to all residents, including those who are limited English proficient, deaf, visually impaired, or otherwise disabled, as well as to residents who have limited reading skills.
- (e) The agency shall maintain documentation of resident participation in these education sessions.
- (f) In addition to providing such education, the agency shall ensure that key information is continuously and readily available or visible to residents through posters, resident handbooks, or other written formats.

*Coosa Valley Youth Services Attention Home has a policy that states that it will ensure that youth receive, at a minimum, age-appropriate oral information, the PREA Handout explaining the agency's zero tolerance policy regarding sexual abuse and sexual harassment and how to report such incidents or suspicions of sexual abuse or sexual harassment. Within 72 hours of intake, the facility will provide comprehensive age-appropriate education to youth either in person or through use of video and youth will sign the Youth PREA Acknowledgment Statement.*

*Compliance was verified through most revised curriculum for residents which covers PREA in youth friendly format, resident interviews in which the audit team had a census the residents were being educated on the importance of PREA. Visual posters and methods of reporting were notated*

*around the facility. It was explained during the interview process from several residents and staff of the education during the screening process at intake. Other supporting documentation, PREA Youth Acknowledgment Statement, Juvenile PREA Intake Orientation Checklist, and Coosa Valley Youth Services Youth PREA Handout.*

**Standard 115.334 Specialized training: Investigations**

- Exceeds Standard (substantially exceeds requirement of standard)
- Meets Standard (substantial compliance; complies in all material ways with the standard for the relevant review period)
- Does Not Meet Standard (requires corrective action)

**Auditor discussion, including the evidence relied upon in making the compliance or non-compliance determination, the auditor’s analysis and reasoning, and the auditor’s conclusions. This discussion must also include corrective action recommendations where the facility does not meet standard. These recommendations must be included in the Final Report, accompanied by information on specific corrective actions taken by the facility.**

**§ 115.334 Specialized training: Investigations.**

(a) In addition to the general training provided to all employees pursuant to § 115.331, the agency shall ensure that, to the extent the agency itself conducts sexual abuse investigations, its investigators have received training in conducting such investigations in confinement settings.

(b) Specialized training shall include techniques for interviewing juvenile sexual abuse victims, proper use of Miranda and Garrity warnings, sexual abuse evidence collection in confinement settings, and the criteria and evidence required to substantiate a case for administrative action or prosecution referral.

(c) The agency shall maintain documentation that agency investigators have completed the required specialized training in conducting sexual abuse investigations.

(d) Any State entity or Department of Justice component that investigates sexual abuse in juvenile confinement settings shall provide such training to its agents and investigators who conduct such investigations.

*Coosa Valley Youth Services Attention Home has shown compliance through review of the training curriculum for the investigators and through review of the policy that states in addition to the general training provided to all employees pursuant to 115.351 that the facility shall ensure to the extent the center itself conducts investigations that its administrative investigators, including the Executive Director, Assistant Director, and Program Manager, have received training in conducting such investigations in confinement settings.*

**Standard 115.335 Specialized training: Medical and mental health care**

- Exceeds Standard (substantially exceeds requirement of standard)



- Meets Standard (substantial compliance; complies in all material ways with the standard for the relevant review period)
- Does Not Meet Standard (requires corrective action)

**Auditor discussion, including the evidence relied upon in making the compliance or non-compliance determination, the auditor’s analysis and reasoning, and the auditor’s conclusions. This discussion must also include corrective action recommendations where the facility does not meet standard. These recommendations must be included in the Final Report, accompanied by information on specific corrective actions taken by the facility.**

**§ 115.335 Specialized training: Medical and mental health care.**

(a) The agency shall ensure that all full- and part-time medical and mental health care practitioners who work regularly in its facilities have been trained in:

- (1) How to detect and assess signs of sexual abuse and sexual harassment;
- (2) How to preserve physical evidence of sexual abuse;
- (3) How to respond effectively and professionally to juvenile victims of sexual abuse and sexual harassment; and
- (4) How and to whom to report allegations or suspicions of sexual abuse and sexual harassment.

(b) If medical staff employed by the agency conduct forensic examinations, such medical staff shall receive the appropriate training to conduct such examinations.

(c) The agency shall maintain documentation that medical and mental health practitioners have received the training referenced in this standard either from the agency or elsewhere.

(d) Medical and mental health care practitioners shall also receive the training mandated for employees under § 115.331 or for contractors and volunteers under § 115.332, depending upon the practitioner’s status at the agency.

*Coosa Valley Youth Services Attention Home has a written policy and procedure in place for medical and mental healthcare practitioners stating the agency nurse and all counseling staff would receive specialized training as required by PREA standards and the agency and that all specialized training would be documented. Determining factors verified through interviews and MOA with 2<sup>nd</sup> Chance, Inc., also through review of training, credentials and interview with the agency’s nurse.*

**Standard 115.341 Screening for risk of victimization and abusiveness**

- Exceeds Standard (substantially exceeds requirement of standard)
- Meets Standard (substantial compliance; complies in all material ways with the standard for the relevant review period)
- Does Not Meet Standard (requires corrective action)

**Auditor discussion, including the evidence relied upon in making the compliance or non-compliance determination, the auditor’s analysis and reasoning, and the auditor’s conclusions. This discussion must also include corrective action recommendations where the facility does not meet standard. These**

**recommendations must be included in the Final Report, accompanied by information on specific corrective actions taken by the facility.**

**§ 115.341 Obtaining information from residents.**

- (a) Within 72 hours of the resident’s arrival at the facility and periodically throughout a resident’s confinement, the agency shall obtain and use information about each resident’s personal history and behavior to reduce the risk of sexual abuse by or upon a resident.
- (b) Such assessments shall be conducted using an objective screening instrument.
- (c) At a minimum, the agency shall attempt to ascertain information about:
  - (1) Prior sexual victimization or abusiveness;
  - (2) Any gender nonconforming appearance or manner or identification as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or intersex, and whether the resident may therefore be vulnerable to sexual abuse;
  - (3) Current charges and offense history;
  - (4) Age;
  - (5) Level of emotional and cognitive development;
  - (6) Physical size and stature;
  - (7) Mental illness or mental disabilities;
  - (8) Intellectual or developmental disabilities;
  - (9) Physical disabilities;
  - (10) The residents own perception of vulnerability; and
  - (11) Any other specific information about individual residents that may indicate heightened needs for supervision, additional safety precautions, or separation from certain other residents.
- (d) This information shall be ascertained through conversations with the resident during the intake process and medical and mental health screenings; during classification assessments; and by reviewing court records, case files, facility behavioral records, and other relevant documentation from the resident’s files.
- (e) The agency shall implement appropriate controls on the dissemination within the facility of responses to questions asked pursuant to this standard in order to ensure that sensitive information is not exploited to the resident’s detriment by staff or other residents.

*Coosa Valley Youth Services Attention Home has a written policy and procedures and conducts screening assessments during intake. Determination of compliance was made through interviews with the agency’s nurse, interviews with residents, random interviews with staff, and through review of the Screening for Vulnerability to Victimization & Sexually Aggressive Behavior Form.*

**Standard 115.342 Use of screening information**

- Exceeds Standard (substantially exceeds requirement of standard)
- Meets Standard (substantial compliance; complies in all material ways with the standard for the relevant review period)
- Does Not Meet Standard (requires corrective action)



**Auditor discussion, including the evidence relied upon in making the compliance or non-compliance determination, the auditor's analysis and reasoning, and the auditor's conclusions. This discussion must also include corrective action recommendations where the facility does not meet standard. These recommendations must be included in the Final Report, accompanied by information on specific corrective actions taken by the facility.**

**§ 115.342 Placement of residents in housing, bed, program, education, and work assignments.**

- (a) The agency shall use all information obtained pursuant to § 115.341 and subsequently to make housing, bed, program, education, and work assignments for residents with the goal of keeping all residents safe and free from sexual abuse.
- (b) Residents may be isolated from others only as a last resort when less restrictive measures are inadequate to keep them and other residents safe, and then only until an alternative means of keeping all residents safe can be arranged. During any period of isolation, agencies shall not deny residents daily large-muscle exercise and any legally required educational programming or special education services. Residents in isolation shall receive daily visits from a medical or mental health care clinician. Residents shall also have access to other programs and work opportunities to the extent possible.
- (c) Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or intersex residents shall not be placed in particular housing, bed, or other assignments solely on the basis of such identification or status, nor shall agencies consider lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or intersex identification or status as an indicator of likelihood of being sexually abusive.
- (d) In deciding whether to assign a transgender or intersex resident to a facility for male or female residents, and in making other housing and programming assignments, the agency shall consider on a case-by-case basis whether a placement would ensure the resident's health and safety, and whether the placement would present management or security problems.
- (e) Placement and programming assignments for each transgender or intersex resident shall be reassessed at least twice each year to review any threats to safety experienced by the resident.
- (f) A transgender or intersex resident's own views with respect to his or her own safety shall be given serious consideration.
- (g) Transgender and intersex residents shall be given the opportunity to shower separately from other residents.
- (h) If a resident is isolated pursuant to paragraph (b) of this section, the facility shall clearly document:
- (1) The basis for the facility's concern for the resident's safety; and
  - (2) The reason why no alternative means of separation can be arranged.
- (i) Every 30 days, the facility shall afford each resident described in paragraph (h) of this section a review to determine whether there is a continuing need for separation from the general population.

*Coosa Valley Youth Services Attention Home does not designate placement based on youth's sexual orientation or gender identity and residents may only be isolated as a last resort when less restrictive measures are inadequate to keep them and other residents safe and only until an alternative means of keeping all residents safe can be arranged. During this audit period, there has not been any transgender or intersex residents to assess. Other verification methods were*

through random interviews with staff and residents, staff training logs and Curriculum, and facility policy.

**Standard 115.351 Resident reporting**

- Exceeds Standard (substantially exceeds requirement of standard)
- Meets Standard (substantial compliance; complies in all material ways with the standard for the relevant review period)
- Does Not Meet Standard (requires corrective action)

**Auditor discussion, including the evidence relied upon in making the compliance or non-compliance determination, the auditor’s analysis and reasoning, and the auditor’s conclusions. This discussion must also include corrective action recommendations where the facility does not meet standard. These recommendations must be included in the Final Report, accompanied by information on specific corrective actions taken by the facility.**

**§ 115.351 Resident reporting.**

(a) The agency shall provide multiple internal ways for residents to privately report sexual abuse and sexual harassment, retaliation by other residents or staff for reporting sexual abuse and sexual harassment, and staff neglect or violation of responsibilities that may have contributed to such incidents.

(b) The agency shall also provide at least one way for residents to report abuse or harassment to a public or private entity or office that is not part of the agency and that is able to receive and immediately forward resident reports of sexual abuse and sexual harassment to agency officials, allowing the resident to remain anonymous upon request. Residents detained solely for civil immigration purposes shall be provided information on how to contact relevant consular officials and relevant officials at the Department of Homeland Security.

(c) Staff shall accept reports made verbally, in writing, anonymously, and from third parties and shall promptly document any verbal reports.

(d) The facility shall provide residents with access to tools necessary to make a written report.

(e) The agency shall provide a method for staff to privately report sexual abuse and sexual harassment of residents.

*Coosa Valley Youth Services Attention Home offered several methods of reporting for residents as stated in policy. Visual observation was through posters, Youth PREA Acknowledgement Statement, and review of policy. Residents could also file grievances, or call the toll-free DYS Hotline number or Assistant Director’s number listed on PREA posters around the facility. During the time of audit, interview process with residents, they felt comfortable with the reporting procedures and felt safe at the facility. During staff interviews, it was determined that they had a belief of a reporting population at the facility.*

### **Standard 115.352 Exhaustion of administrative remedies**

- Exceeds Standard (substantially exceeds requirement of standard)
- Meets Standard (substantial compliance; complies in all material ways with the standard for the relevant review period)
- Does Not Meet Standard (requires corrective action)

**Auditor discussion, including the evidence relied upon in making the compliance or non-compliance determination, the auditor's analysis and reasoning, and the auditor's conclusions. This discussion must also include corrective action recommendations where the facility does not meet standard. These recommendations must be included in the Final Report, accompanied by information on specific corrective actions taken by the facility.**

### **§ 115.352 Exhaustion of administrative remedies.**

(a) An agency shall be exempt from this standard if it does not have administrative procedures to address resident grievances regarding sexual abuse.

(b)(1) The agency shall not impose a time limit on when a resident may submit a grievance regarding an allegation of sexual abuse.

(2) The agency may apply otherwise-applicable time limits on any portion of a grievance that does not allege an incident of sexual abuse.

(3) The agency shall not require a resident to use any informal grievance process, or to otherwise attempt to resolve with staff, an alleged incident of sexual abuse.

(4) Nothing in this section shall restrict the agency's ability to defend against a lawsuit filed by a resident on the ground that the applicable statute of limitations has expired.

(c) The agency shall ensure that—

(1) A resident who alleges sexual abuse may submit a grievance without submitting it to a staff member who is the subject of the complaint, and

(2) Such grievance is not referred to a staff member who is the subject of the complaint.

(d)(1) The agency shall issue a final agency decision on the merits of any portion of a grievance alleging sexual abuse within 90 days of the initial filing of the grievance.

(2) Computation of the 90-day time period shall not include time consumed by residents in preparing any administrative appeal.

(3) The agency may claim an extension of time to respond, of up to 70 days, if the normal time period for response is insufficient to make an appropriate decision. The agency shall notify the resident in writing of any such extension and provide a date by which a decision will be made.

(4) At any level of the administrative process, including the final level, if the resident does not receive a response within the time allotted for reply, including any properly noticed extension, the resident may consider the absence of a response to be a denial at that level.

(e)(1) Third parties, including fellow residents, staff members, family members, attorneys, and outside advocates, shall be permitted to assist residents in filing requests for administrative remedies relating to allegations of sexual abuse, and shall also be permitted to file such requests on behalf of residents.

- (2) If a third party, other than a parent or legal guardian, files such a request on behalf of a resident, the facility may require as a condition of processing the request that the alleged victim agree to have the request filed on his or her behalf, and may also require the alleged victim to personally pursue any subsequent steps in the administrative remedy process.
- (3) If the resident declines to have the request processed on his or her behalf, the agency shall document the resident's decision.
- (4) A parent or legal guardian of a juvenile shall be allowed to file a grievance regarding allegations of sexual abuse, including appeals, on behalf of such juvenile. Such a grievance shall not be conditioned upon the juvenile agreeing to have the request filed on his or her behalf.
- (f)(1) The agency shall establish procedures for the filing of an emergency grievance alleging that a resident is subject to a substantial risk of imminent sexual abuse.
- (2) After receiving an emergency grievance alleging a resident is subject to a substantial risk of imminent sexual abuse, the agency shall immediately forward the grievance (or any portion thereof that alleges the substantial risk of imminent sexual abuse) to a level of review at which immediate corrective action may be taken, shall provide an initial response within 48 hours, and shall issue a final agency decision within 5 calendar days. The initial response and final agency decision shall document the agency's determination whether the resident is in substantial risk of imminent sexual abuse and the action taken in response to the emergency grievance.
- (g) The agency may discipline a resident for filing a grievance related to alleged sexual abuse only where the agency demonstrates that the resident filed the grievance in bad faith.

*Coosa Valley Youth Services Attention Home has a written policy and procedure explaining the process and different methods of reporting.*

*At the time of audit, Coosa Valley Youth Services Attention Home had a non-occurrence. Reviewed Youth PREA Acknowledgment Statement, also grievance appeal process, staff training curriculum and resident education checklist.*

**Standard 115.353 Resident access to outside confidential support services**

- Exceeds Standard (substantially exceeds requirement of standard)
- Meets Standard (substantial compliance; complies in all material ways with the standard for the relevant review period)
- Does Not Meet Standard (requires corrective action)

**Auditor discussion, including the evidence relied upon in making the compliance or non-compliance determination, the auditor's analysis and reasoning, and the auditor's conclusions. This discussion must also include corrective action recommendations where the facility does not meet standard. These recommendations must be included in the Final Report, accompanied by information on specific corrective actions taken by the facility.**

**§ 115.353 Resident access to outside support services and legal representation.**

(a) The facility shall provide residents with access to outside victim advocates for emotional support services related to sexual abuse, by providing, posting, or otherwise making accessible mailing addresses and telephone numbers, including toll free hotline numbers where available, of local, State, or national victim advocacy or rape crisis organizations, and, for persons detained solely for civil immigration purposes, immigrant services agencies. The facility shall enable reasonable communication between residents and these organizations and agencies, in as confidential a manner as possible.

(b) The facility shall inform residents, prior to giving them access, of the extent to which such communications will be monitored and the extent to which reports of abuse will be forwarded to authorities in accordance with mandatory reporting laws.

(c) The agency shall maintain or attempt to enter into memoranda of understanding or other agreements with community service providers that are able to provide residents with confidential emotional support services related to sexual abuse. The agency shall maintain copies of agreements or documentation showing attempts to enter into such agreements.

(d) The facility shall also provide residents with reasonable and confidential access to their attorneys or other legal representation and reasonable access to parents or legal guardians.

*Coosa Valley Youth Services Attention Home provides residents with access to outside victim services. Reviewed documented MOA with 2<sup>nd</sup> Chance (rape crisis and child advocacy center), visually observed posting of sexual assault hotline and contact information, and also public notifications posted around the facility and on the agency's website. At the time of audit, there were no occurrences.*

#### **Standard 115.354 Third-party reporting**

- Exceeds Standard (substantially exceeds requirement of standard)
- Meets Standard (substantial compliance; complies in all material ways with the standard for the relevant review period)
- Does Not Meet Standard (requires corrective action)

**Auditor discussion, including the evidence relied upon in making the compliance or non-compliance determination, the auditor's analysis and reasoning, and the auditor's conclusions. This discussion must also include corrective action recommendations where the facility does not meet standard. These recommendations must be included in the Final Report, accompanied by information on specific corrective actions taken by the facility.**

### § 115.354 Third-party reporting.

The agency shall establish a method to receive third-party reports of sexual abuse and sexual harassment and shall distribute publicly information on how to report sexual abuse and sexual harassment on behalf of a resident.

*Coosa Valley Youth Services Attention Home has a policy establishing a method to receive third party reports of sexual abuse and harassment on behalf of the resident and reporting. The facility also publicly displays information on how to report abuse or harassment on behalf of the residents. Determining factor, reviewed PREA Acknowledgment form and PREA posters. At the time of audit, there were no occurrences.*

### Standard 115.361 Staff and agency reporting duties

- Exceeds Standard (substantially exceeds requirement of standard)
- Meets Standard (substantial compliance; complies in all material ways with the standard for the relevant review period)
- Does Not Meet Standard (requires corrective action)

**Auditor discussion, including the evidence relied upon in making the compliance or non-compliance determination, the auditor's analysis and reasoning, and the auditor's conclusions. This discussion must also include corrective action recommendations where the facility does not meet standard. These recommendations must be included in the Final Report, accompanied by information on specific corrective actions taken by the facility.**

### § 115.361 Staff and agency reporting duties.

- (a) The agency shall require all staff to report immediately and according to agency policy any knowledge, suspicion, or information they receive regarding an incident of sexual abuse or sexual harassment that occurred in a facility, whether or not it is part of the agency; retaliation against residents or staff who reported such an incident; and any staff neglect or violation of responsibilities that may have contributed to an incident or retaliation.
- (b) The agency shall also require all staff to comply with any applicable mandatory child abuse reporting laws.
- (c) Apart from reporting to designated supervisors or officials and designated State or local services agencies, staff shall be prohibited from revealing any information related to a sexual abuse report to anyone other than to the extent necessary, as specified in agency policy, to make treatment, investigation, and other security and management decisions.
- (d)(1) Medical and mental health practitioners shall be required to report sexual abuse to designated supervisors and officials pursuant to paragraph (a) of this section, as well as to the designated State or local services agency where required by mandatory reporting laws.
- (2) Such practitioners shall be required to inform residents at the initiation of services of their duty to report and the limitations of confidentiality.
- (e)(1) Upon receiving any allegation of sexual abuse, the facility head or his or her designee shall promptly report the allegation to the appropriate agency office and to the alleged victim's parents



or legal guardians, unless the facility has official documentation showing the parents or legal guardians should not be notified.

(2) If the alleged victim is under the guardianship of the child welfare system, the report shall be made to the alleged victim's caseworker instead of the parents or legal guardians.

(3) If a juvenile court retains jurisdiction over the alleged victim, the facility head or designee shall also report the allegation to the juvenile's attorney or other legal representative of record within 14 days of receiving the allegation.

(f) The facility shall report all allegations of sexual abuse and sexual harassment, including third-party and anonymous reports, to the facility's designated investigators.

*Coosa Valley Youth Services Attention Home has a policy in place governing the reporting by staff of incidents pertaining to sexual abuse or sexual harassment. All staff are considered mandatory reporters and required to report such incidents immediately. Verifying documentation, PREA Acknowledgment Statement, Coosa Valley Youth Services PREA Incident Report, staff training logs and curriculum, and visual posters, pamphlets, handouts, and flyers.*

#### **Standard 115.362 Agency protection duties**

- Exceeds Standard (substantially exceeds requirement of standard)
- Meets Standard (substantial compliance; complies in all material ways with the standard for the relevant review period)
- Does Not Meet Standard (requires corrective action)

**Auditor discussion, including the evidence relied upon in making the compliance or non-compliance determination, the auditor's analysis and reasoning, and the auditor's conclusions. This discussion must also include corrective action recommendations where the facility does not meet standard. These recommendations must be included in the Final Report, accompanied by information on specific corrective actions taken by the facility.**



### § 115.362 Agency protection duties.

When an agency learns that a resident is subject to a substantial risk of imminent sexual abuse, it shall take immediate action to protect the resident.

*Coosa Valley Youth Services Attention Home has a policy that states when it learns that a resident is subject to substantial to imminent sexual abuse it takes immediate action to protect the resident. At the time of audit, there had been a non-occurrence. Determining factors, interviews with staff and training material.*

### Standard 115.363 Reporting to other confinement facilities

- Exceeds Standard (substantially exceeds requirement of standard)
- Meets Standard (substantial compliance; complies in all material ways with the standard for the relevant review period)
- Does Not Meet Standard (requires corrective action)

**Auditor discussion, including the evidence relied upon in making the compliance or non-compliance determination, the auditor's analysis and reasoning, and the auditor's conclusions. This discussion must also include corrective action recommendations where the facility does not meet standard. These recommendations must be included in the Final Report, accompanied by information on specific corrective actions taken by the facility.**

### § 115.363 Reporting to other confinement facilities.

(a) Upon receiving an allegation that a resident was sexually abused while confined at another facility, the head of the facility that received the allegation shall notify the head of the facility or appropriate office of the agency where the alleged abuse occurred and shall also notify the appropriate investigative agency.

(b) Such notification shall be provided as soon as possible, but no later than 72 hours after receiving the allegation.

(c) The agency shall document that it has provided such notification.

(d) The facility head or agency office that receives such notification shall ensure that the allegation is investigated in accordance with these standards.

*Coosa Valley Youth Services Attention Home has a policy stating upon receiving an allegation that a resident was sexually abused while confined at another facility, the head of that facility that received that allegation will notify the head of the facility or appropriate office where the alleged abuse occurred. This information will be provided and documented as soon as possible, but no later than 72 hours after receiving an allegation. This standard compliance was met through written policy and interviews with administration. During the time of audit there had been a non-occurrence.*

### **Standard 115.364 Staff first responder duties**

- Exceeds Standard (substantially exceeds requirement of standard)
- Meets Standard (substantial compliance; complies in all material ways with the standard for the relevant review period)
- Does Not Meet Standard (requires corrective action)

**Auditor discussion, including the evidence relied upon in making the compliance or non-compliance determination, the auditor's analysis and reasoning, and the auditor's conclusions. This discussion must also include corrective action recommendations where the facility does not meet standard. These recommendations must be included in the Final Report, accompanied by information on specific corrective actions taken by the facility.**

### **§ 115.364 Staff first responder duties.**

- (a) Upon learning of an allegation that a resident was sexually abused, the first staff member to respond to the report shall be required to:
- (1) Separate the alleged victim and abuser;
  - (2) Preserve and protect any crime scene until appropriate steps can be taken to collect any evidence;
  - (3) If the abuse occurred within a time period that still allows for the collection of physical evidence, request that the alleged victim not take any actions that could destroy physical evidence, including, as appropriate, washing, brushing teeth, changing clothes, urinating, defecating, smoking, drinking, or eating; and
  - (4) If the abuse occurred within a time period that still allows for the collection of physical evidence, ensure that the alleged abuser does not take any actions that could destroy physical evidence, including, as appropriate, washing, brushing teeth, changing clothes, urinating, defecating, smoking, drinking, or eating.
- (b) If the first staff responder is not a security staff member, the responder shall be required to request that the alleged victim not take any actions that could destroy physical evidence, and then notify security staff.

*Coosa Valley Youth Services Attention Home has mandated that all employees act as first responders. The policy states that the staff member receiving sexual abuse information will immediately refer the youth to the agency nurse for initial evaluation and determination of the need for an outside medical referral for further testing and evaluation. The standard was verified compliant through random interviews with staff and questions about the first responder duties in which all staff (interviewed) responded appropriately.*

### **Standard 115.365 Coordinated response**

- Exceeds Standard (substantially exceeds requirement of standard)
- Meets Standard (substantial compliance; complies in all material ways with the standard for the relevant review period)
- Does Not Meet Standard (requires corrective action)

**Auditor discussion, including the evidence relied upon in making the compliance or non-compliance determination, the auditor's analysis and reasoning, and the auditor's conclusions. This discussion must also include corrective action recommendations where the facility does not meet standard. These recommendations must be included in the Final Report, accompanied by information on specific corrective actions taken by the facility.**

### § 115.365 Coordinated response.

The facility shall develop a written institutional plan to coordinate actions taken in response to an incident of sexual abuse among staff first responders, medical and mental health practitioners, investigators, and facility leadership.

*Coosa Valley Youth Services Attention Home has a written policy and Agency Coordinated Response to a Sexual Assault Incident Plan which outlines efforts to take action and respond to an incident of sexual abuse among staff first responders, medical and mental health practitioners, investigators and facility leadership in pursuant to the zero tolerance policy for the facility.*

*The Executive Director and Assistant Director will be notified of all allegations, and where there is an alleged sexual assault, the mandated report will notify law enforcement who will conduct the investigation. Follow-up will be done by the Executive Director for cooperation and assistance, the Agency PREA Coordinator will be notified and together reviews will be conducted to determine if additional services are needed. Reviewed Coordinated Response Plan.*

### Standard 115.366 Preservation of ability to protect residents from contact with abusers

- Exceeds Standard (substantially exceeds requirement of standard)
- Meets Standard (substantial compliance; complies in all material ways with the standard for the relevant review period)
- Does Not Meet Standard (requires corrective action)

**Auditor discussion, including the evidence relied upon in making the compliance or non-compliance determination, the auditor's analysis and reasoning, and the auditor's conclusions. This discussion must also include corrective action recommendations where the facility does not meet standard. These recommendations must be included in the Final Report, accompanied by information on specific corrective actions taken by the facility.**

### § 115.366 Preservation of ability to protect residents from contact with abusers.

(a) Neither the agency nor any other governmental entity responsible for collective bargaining on the agency's behalf shall enter into or renew any collective bargaining agreement or other agreement that limits the agency's ability to remove alleged staff sexual abusers from contact with residents pending the outcome of an investigation or of a determination of whether and to what extent discipline is warranted.

(b) Nothing in this standard shall restrict the entering into or renewal of agreements that govern:

(1) The conduct of the disciplinary process, as long as such agreements are not inconsistent with the provisions of §§ 115.372 and 115.376; or

(2) Whether a no-contact assignment that is imposed pending the outcome of an investigation shall be expunged from or retained in the staff member's personnel file following a determination that the allegation of sexual abuse is not substantiated.

*Coosa Valley Youth Services Attention Home at the time of audit had not had any disciplinary actions against staff in relation to sexual abuse and sexual harassment, Administrators and*

*Supervisory Staff will ensure that staff and youth who report sexual abuse and sexual harassment are not victims of any form of retaliation, verified through interviews with Facility Director, PREA Coordinator, and PREA Compliance Manager.*

**Standard 115.367 Agency protection against retaliation**

- Exceeds Standard (substantially exceeds requirement of standard)
- Meets Standard (substantial compliance; complies in all material ways with the standard for the relevant review period)
- Does Not Meet Standard (requires corrective action)

**Auditor discussion, including the evidence relied upon in making the compliance or non-compliance determination, the auditor’s analysis and reasoning, and the auditor’s conclusions. This discussion must also include corrective action recommendations where the facility does not meet standard. These recommendations must be included in the Final Report, accompanied by information on specific corrective actions taken by the facility.**

**§ 115.367 Agency protection against retaliation.**

- (a) The agency shall establish a policy to protect all residents and staff who report sexual abuse or sexual harassment or cooperate with sexual abuse or sexual harassment investigations from retaliation by other residents or staff and shall designate which staff members or departments are charged with monitoring retaliation.
- (b) The agency shall employ multiple protection measures, such as housing changes or transfers for resident victims or abusers, removal of alleged staff or resident abusers from contact with victims, and emotional support services for residents or staff who fear retaliation for reporting sexual abuse or sexual harassment or for cooperating with investigations.
- (c) For at least 90 days following a report of sexual abuse, the agency shall monitor the conduct or treatment of residents or staff who reported the sexual abuse and of residents who were reported to have suffered sexual abuse to see if there are changes that may suggest possible retaliation by residents or staff, and shall act promptly to remedy any such retaliation. Items the agency should monitor include any resident disciplinary reports, housing, or program changes, or negative performance reviews or reassignments of staff. The agency shall continue such monitoring beyond 90 days if the initial monitoring indicates a continuing need.
- (d) In the case of residents, such monitoring shall also include periodic status checks.

(e) If any other individual who cooperates with an investigation expresses a fear of retaliation, the agency shall take appropriate measures to protect that individual against retaliation.

(f) An agency's obligation to monitor shall terminate if the agency determines that the allegation is unfounded.

*Coosa Valley Youth Services Attention Home has implemented a policy to protect residents and staff who report sexual abuse or sexual harassment or for said persons who cooperate with sexual abuse and sexual harassment investigators, and has a retaliation monitoring team.*

*Further verification was met through review of PREA Acknowledgement Statement, PREA Youth Acknowledgement Statement, Juvenile PREA Intake Orientation Checklist, and Coosa Valley Youth Services Youth PREA Handout, and interviews with staff and residents who equally shared a comfort with the facility's rules and regulations pertaining to the prohibition of retaliation.*

#### **Standard 115.368 Post-allegation protective custody**

- Exceeds Standard (substantially exceeds requirement of standard)
- Meets Standard (substantial compliance; complies in all material ways with the standard for the relevant review period)
- Does Not Meet Standard (requires corrective action)

**Auditor discussion, including the evidence relied upon in making the compliance or non-compliance determination, the auditor's analysis and reasoning, and the auditor's conclusions. This discussion must also include corrective action recommendations where the facility does not meet standard. These recommendations must be included in the Final Report, accompanied by information on specific corrective actions taken by the facility.**

#### **§ 115.368 Post-allegation protective custody.**

Any use of segregated housing to protect a resident who is alleged to have suffered sexual abuse shall be subject to the requirements of § 115.342.

*Coosa Valley Youth Services Attention Home has a written policy stating the program manager will make a housing assessment and develop a housing plan to ensure the alleged victim and alleged perpetrator do not have contact with each other. During this audit period, there had been a non-occurrence.*

#### **Standard 115.371 Criminal and administrative agency investigations**

- Exceeds Standard (substantially exceeds requirement of standard)
- Meets Standard (substantial compliance; complies in all material ways with the standard for the relevant review period)
- Does Not Meet Standard (requires corrective action)

**Auditor discussion, including the evidence relied upon in making the compliance or non-compliance determination, the auditor's analysis and reasoning, and the auditor's conclusions. This discussion**

**must also include corrective action recommendations where the facility does not meet standard. These recommendations must be included in the Final Report, accompanied by information on specific corrective actions taken by the facility.**

## **Investigations**

### **§ 115.371 Criminal and administrative agency investigations.**

- (a) When the agency conducts its own investigations into allegations of sexual abuse and sexual harassment, it shall do so promptly, thoroughly, and objectively for all allegations, including third-party and anonymous reports.
- (b) Where sexual abuse is alleged, the agency shall use investigators who have received special training in sexual abuse investigations involving juvenile victims pursuant to § 115.334.
- (c) Investigators shall gather and preserve direct and circumstantial evidence, including any available physical and DNA evidence and any available electronic monitoring data; shall interview alleged victims, suspected perpetrators, and witnesses; and shall review prior complaints and reports of sexual abuse involving the suspected perpetrator.
- (d) The agency shall not terminate an investigation solely because the source of the allegation recants the allegation.
- (e) When the quality of evidence appears to support criminal prosecution, the agency shall conduct compelled interviews only after consulting with prosecutors as to whether compelled interviews may be an obstacle for subsequent criminal prosecution.
- (f) The credibility of an alleged victim, suspect, or witness shall be assessed on an individual basis and shall not be determined by the person's status as resident or staff. No agency shall require a resident who alleges sexual abuse to submit to a polygraph examination or other truth-telling device as a condition for proceeding with the investigation of such an allegation.
- (g) Administrative investigations:
  - (1) Shall include an effort to determine whether staff actions or failures to act contributed to the abuse; and
  - (2) Shall be documented in written reports that include a description of the physical and testimonial evidence, the reasoning behind credibility assessments, and investigative facts and findings.
- (h) Criminal investigations shall be documented in a written report that contains a thorough description of physical, testimonial, and documentary evidence and attaches copies of all documentary evidence where feasible.
- (i) Substantiated allegations of conduct that appears to be criminal shall be referred for prosecution.
- (j) The agency shall retain all written reports referenced in paragraphs (g) and (h) of this section for as long as the alleged abuser is incarcerated or employed by the agency, plus five years, unless the abuse was committed by a juvenile resident and applicable law requires a shorter period of retention.
- (k) The departure of the alleged abuser or victim from the employment or control of the facility or agency shall not provide a basis for terminating an investigation.
- (l) Any State entity or Department of Justice component that conducts such investigations shall do so pursuant to the above requirements.
- (m) When outside agencies investigate sexual abuse, the facility shall cooperate with outside investigators and shall endeavor to remain informed about the progress of the investigation.



*Coosa Valley Youth Services Attention Home has administration investigation teams who conduct all administrative investigations and if the investigation results in criminal activity, the agency will then refer the investigation to the presiding law enforcement agency. Other supporting documentation, training module curriculum, facility policy, and the Agency Coordinated response to a Sexual Assault Incident.*

**Standard 115.372 Evidentiary standard for administrative investigations**

- Exceeds Standard (substantially exceeds requirement of standard)
- Meets Standard (substantial compliance; complies in all material ways with the standard for the relevant review period)
- Does Not Meet Standard (requires corrective action)

**Auditor discussion, including the evidence relied upon in making the compliance or non-compliance determination, the auditor’s analysis and reasoning, and the auditor’s conclusions. This discussion must also include corrective action recommendations where the facility does not meet standard. These recommendations must be included in the Final Report, accompanied by information on specific corrective actions taken by the facility.**

**§ 115.372 Evidentiary standard for administrative investigations.**

The agency shall impose no standard higher than a preponderance of the evidence in determining whether allegations of sexual abuse or sexual harassment are substantiated.

*Coosa Valley Youth Services Attention Home has a written policy stating that the facility will impose no standard higher than a preponderance of evidence in determining whether allegations of sexual abuse or sexual harassment are substantiated the Executive Director or Designee is responsible for conducting internal administrative investigations of sexual abuse/sexual harassment. In the event that physical evidence has been preserved by the first responder, Coosa Valley Youth Services staff would avoid handling it to prevent damaging the evidence. Supporting documentation includes training curriculum for administrative investigators, interviews with PREA Compliance Manager and Random Staff Interviews.*

**Standard 115.373 Reporting to residents**

- Exceeds Standard (substantially exceeds requirement of standard)
- Meets Standard (substantial compliance; complies in all material ways with the standard for the relevant review period)
- Does Not Meet Standard (requires corrective action)

**Auditor discussion, including the evidence relied upon in making the compliance or non-compliance determination, the auditor’s analysis and reasoning, and the auditor’s conclusions. This discussion must also include corrective action recommendations where the facility does not meet standard. These recommendations must be included in the Final Report, accompanied by information on specific corrective actions taken by the facility.**

**§ 115.373 Reporting to residents.**

- (a) Following an investigation into a resident’s allegation of sexual abuse suffered in an agency facility, the agency shall inform the resident as to whether the allegation has been determined to be substantiated, unsubstantiated, or unfounded.
- (b) If the agency did not conduct the investigation, it shall request the relevant information from the investigative agency in order to inform the resident.
- (c) Following a resident’s allegation that a staff member has committed sexual abuse against the resident, the agency shall subsequently inform the resident (unless the agency has determined that the allegation is unfounded) whenever:
  - (1) The staff member is no longer posted within the resident’s unit;
  - (2) The staff member is no longer employed at the facility;
  - (3) The agency learns that the staff member has been indicted on a charge related to sexual abuse within the facility; or
  - (4) The agency learns that the staff member has been convicted on a charge related to sexual abuse within the facility.
- (d) Following a resident’s allegation that he or she has been sexually abused by another resident, the agency shall subsequently inform the alleged victim whenever:
  - (1) The agency learns that the alleged abuser has been indicted on a charge related to sexual abuse within the facility; or
  - (2) The agency learns that the alleged abuser has been convicted on a charge related to sexual abuse within the facility.
- (e) All such notifications or attempted notifications shall be documented.
- (f) An agency’s obligation to report under this standard shall terminate if the resident is released from the agency’s custody.

*Coosa Valley Youth Services Attention Home has a written policy stating the center should follow an investigation of a resident’s allegation and the agency shall inform the resident as to whether the allegation has been substantiated, unsubstantiated, or unfounded. Procedures state upon completion of an investigation of sexual abuse or sexual harassment the Executive Director shall inform the resident of the findings. During this audit period, there had been a non-occurrence. Found Compliant through interview with Facility Director and PREA Compliance Manager, and review of Coosa Valley Youth Services Attention Home Program Contact Sheet.*

**Standard 115.376 Disciplinary sanctions for staff**

- Exceeds Standard (substantially exceeds requirement of standard)
- Meets Standard (substantial compliance; complies in all material ways with the standard for the relevant review period)
- Does Not Meet Standard (requires corrective action)

**Auditor discussion, including the evidence relied upon in making the compliance or non-compliance determination, the auditor’s analysis and reasoning, and the auditor’s conclusions. This discussion must also include corrective action recommendations where the facility does not meet standard. These**

**recommendations must be included in the Final Report, accompanied by information on specific corrective actions taken by the facility.**

**§ 115.376 Disciplinary sanctions for staff.**

- (a) Staff shall be subject to disciplinary sanctions up to and including termination for violating agency sexual abuse or sexual harassment policies.
- (b) Termination shall be the presumptive disciplinary sanction for staff who have engaged in sexual abuse.
- (c) Disciplinary sanctions for violations of agency policies relating to sexual abuse or sexual harassment (other than actually engaging in sexual abuse) shall be commensurate with the nature and circumstances of the acts committed, the staff member's disciplinary history, and the sanctions imposed for comparable offenses by other staff with similar histories.
- (d) All terminations for violations of agency sexual abuse or sexual harassment policies, or resignations by staff who would have been terminated if not for their resignation, shall be reported to law enforcement agencies, unless the activity was clearly not criminal, and to any relevant licensing bodies.

*Coosa Valley Youth Services Attention Home has a policy in place that confirms the disciplinary sanctions for staff up to termination for violating the zero tolerance policy set forth in standard 115. 311.*

*During this audit period, there had been a non-occurrence. Determining factors, zero tolerance policy, communication with the PREA Compliance Manger, and review of the disciplinary procedures set forth in the personnel policy.*

**Standard 115.377 Corrective action for contractors and volunteers**

- Exceeds Standard (substantially exceeds requirement of standard)
- Meets Standard (substantial compliance; complies in all material ways with the standard for the relevant review period)
- Does Not Meet Standard (requires corrective action)

**Auditor discussion, including the evidence relied upon in making the compliance or non-compliance determination, the auditor's analysis and reasoning, and the auditor's conclusions. This discussion must also include corrective action recommendations where the facility does not meet standard. These recommendations must be included in the Final Report, accompanied by information on specific corrective actions taken by the facility.**

**§ 115.377 Corrective action for contractors and volunteers.**

- (a) Any contractor or volunteer who engages in sexual abuse shall be prohibited from contact with residents and shall be reported to law enforcement agencies, unless the activity was clearly not criminal, and to relevant licensing bodies.
- (b) The facility shall take appropriate remedial measures, and shall consider whether to prohibit further contact with residents, in the case of any other violation of agency sexual abuse or sexual harassment policies by a contractor or volunteer.

*Coosa Valley Youth Services Attention Home policy ensures that all volunteers and contractors review the zero tolerance policy. Other supporting documentation, Volunteer PREA Acknowledgment Statement and interviews with administration. During the time of audit, there were no volunteers or contractors available for interview, however reviewed signed documentation of the Guidelines for Volunteers and Contractors, Volunteer Applications and Child Abuse and Neglect Registry Clearance Form.*

**Standard 115.378 Disciplinary sanctions for residents**

- Exceeds Standard (substantially exceeds requirement of standard)
- Meets Standard (substantial compliance; complies in all material ways with the standard for the relevant review period)
- Does Not Meet Standard (requires corrective action)

**Auditor discussion, including the evidence relied upon in making the compliance or non-compliance determination, the auditor’s analysis and reasoning, and the auditor’s conclusions. This discussion must also include corrective action recommendations where the facility does not meet standard. These recommendations must be included in the Final Report, accompanied by information on specific corrective actions taken by the facility.**

**§ 115.378 Interventions and disciplinary sanctions for residents.**

- (a) A resident may be subject to disciplinary sanctions only pursuant to a formal disciplinary process following an administrative finding that the resident engaged in resident-on-resident sexual abuse or following a criminal finding of guilt for resident-on-resident sexual abuse.
- (b) Any disciplinary sanctions shall be commensurate with the nature and circumstances of the abuse committed, the resident’s disciplinary history, and the sanctions imposed for comparable offenses by other residents with similar histories. In the event a disciplinary sanction results in the isolation of a resident, agencies shall not deny the resident daily large-muscle exercise or access to any legally required educational programming or special education services. Residents in isolation shall receive daily visits from a medical or mental health care clinician. Residents shall also have access to other programs and work opportunities to the extent possible.
- (c) The disciplinary process shall consider whether a resident’s mental disabilities or mental illness contributed to his or her behavior when determining what type of sanction, if any, should be imposed.
- (d) If the facility offers therapy, counseling, or other interventions designed to address and correct underlying reasons or motivations for the abuse, the facility shall consider whether to offer the offending resident participation in such interventions. The agency may require participation in such interventions as a condition of access to any rewards-based behavior management system or other behavior-based incentives, but not as a condition to access to general programming or education.
- (e) The agency may discipline a resident for sexual contact with staff only upon a finding that the staff member did not consent to such contact.
- (f) For the purpose of disciplinary action, a report of sexual abuse made in good faith based upon a reasonable belief that the alleged conduct occurred shall not constitute falsely reporting an incident

or lying, even if an investigation does not establish evidence sufficient to substantiate the allegation.

(g) An agency may, in its discretion, prohibit all sexual activity between residents and may discipline residents for such activity. An agency may not, however, deem such activity to constitute sexual abuse if it determines that the activity is not coerced.

*Coosa Valley Youth Services Attention Home policy and procedures states that the agency offers therapy, counseling and other interventions to assist residents in the event of sexual abuse and sexual harassment. Residents may be subject to disciplinary sanctions only pursuant to a formal disciplinary process following an administrative finding that the resident engaged in resident on resident sexual abuse or following a criminal finding of guilt for resident on resident sexual abuse. Supporting documentation, PREA Youth Acknowledgment Statement, Juvenile PREA Intake Orientation Checklist, MOA with 2<sup>nd</sup> Chance, and PREA Handout. At the time of audit, there had been a non-occurrence.*

#### **Standard 115.381 Medical and mental health screenings; history of sexual abuse**

- Exceeds Standard (substantially exceeds requirement of standard)
- Meets Standard (substantial compliance; complies in all material ways with the standard for the relevant review period)
- Does Not Meet Standard (requires corrective action)

**Auditor discussion, including the evidence relied upon in making the compliance or non-compliance determination, the auditor's analysis and reasoning, and the auditor's conclusions. This discussion must also include corrective action recommendations where the facility does not meet standard. These recommendations must be included in the Final Report, accompanied by information on specific corrective actions taken by the facility.**

#### **Medical and Mental Care**

§ 115.381 Medical and mental health screenings; history of sexual abuse.

(a) If the screening pursuant to § 115.341 indicates that a resident has experienced prior sexual victimization, whether it occurred in an institutional setting or in the community, staff shall ensure that the resident is offered a follow-up meeting with a medical or mental health practitioner within 14 days of the intake screening.

(b) If the screening pursuant to § 115.341 indicates that a resident has previously perpetrated sexual abuse, whether it occurred in an institutional setting or in the community, staff shall ensure that the resident is offered a follow-up meeting with a mental health practitioner within 14 days of the intake screening.

(c) Any information related to sexual victimization or abusiveness that occurred in an institutional setting shall be strictly limited to medical and mental health practitioners and other staff, as necessary, to inform treatment plans and security and management decisions, including housing, bed, work, education, and program assignments, or as otherwise required by Federal, State, or local law.

(d) Medical and mental health practitioners shall obtain informed consent from residents before reporting information about prior sexual victimization that did not occur in an institutional setting, unless the resident is under the age of 18.

*Coosa Valley Youth Services Attention Home has policy on medical and mental health screenings. They have an agency nurse who assesses and assists the residents. The nurse is very knowledgeable of the mental and health screening process and is very aware of the screening for victimization. Supporting documentation, review of nurse credentials, PREA Youth Acknowledgment Statement, and interview with the nurse. At the time of audit, there had been a non-occurrence.*

**Standard 115.382 Access to emergency medical and mental health services**

- Exceeds Standard (substantially exceeds requirement of standard)
- Meets Standard (substantial compliance; complies in all material ways with the standard for the relevant review period)
- Does Not Meet Standard (requires corrective action)

**Auditor discussion, including the evidence relied upon in making the compliance or non-compliance determination, the auditor’s analysis and reasoning, and the auditor’s conclusions. This discussion must also include corrective action recommendations where the facility does not meet standard. These recommendations must be included in the Final Report, accompanied by information on specific corrective actions taken by the facility.**

**§ 115.382 Access to emergency medical and mental health services.**

- (a) Resident victims of sexual abuse shall receive timely, unimpeded access to emergency medical treatment and crisis intervention services, the nature and scope of which are determined by medical and mental health practitioners according to their professional judgment.
- (b) If no qualified medical or mental health practitioners are on duty at the time a report of recent abuse is made, staff first responders shall take preliminary steps to protect the victim pursuant to § 115.362 and shall immediately notify the appropriate medical and mental health practitioners.
- (c) Resident victims of sexual abuse while incarcerated shall be offered timely information about and timely access to emergency contraception and sexually transmitted infections prophylaxis, in accordance with professionally accepted standards of care, where medically appropriate.
- (d) Treatment services shall be provided to the victim without financial cost and regardless of whether the victim names the abuser or cooperates with any investigation arising out of the incident.

*Coosa Valley Youth Services Attention Home has collaborated with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Chance Advocacy Center in which they have MOA established agreeing to assist the facility by providing treatment and services to residents who are victims of sexual abuse. During the time of audit, there had been a non-occurrence.*



**Standard 115.383 Ongoing medical and mental health care for sexual abuse victims and abusers**

- Exceeds Standard (substantially exceeds requirement of standard)
- Meets Standard (substantial compliance; complies in all material ways with the standard for the relevant review period)
- Does Not Meet Standard (requires corrective action)

**Auditor discussion, including the evidence relied upon in making the compliance or non-compliance determination, the auditor's analysis and reasoning, and the auditor's conclusions. This discussion must also include corrective action recommendations where the facility does not meet standard. These recommendations must be included in the Final Report, accompanied by information on specific corrective actions taken by the facility.**

**§ 115.383 Ongoing medical and mental health care for sexual abuse victims and abusers.**

(a) The facility shall offer medical and mental health evaluation and, as appropriate, treatment to all residents who have been victimized by sexual abuse in any prison, jail, lockup, or juvenile facility.

(b) The evaluation and treatment of such victims shall include, as appropriate, follow-up services, treatment plans, and, when necessary, referrals for continued care following their transfer to, or placement in, other facilities, or their release from custody.

(c) The facility shall provide such victims with medical and mental health services consistent with the community level of care.

(d) Resident victims of sexually abusive vaginal penetration while incarcerated shall be offered pregnancy tests.

(e) If pregnancy results from conduct specified in paragraph (d) of this section, such victims shall receive timely and comprehensive information about and timely access to all lawful pregnancy-related medical services.

(f) Resident victims of sexual abuse while incarcerated shall be offered tests for sexually transmitted infections as medically appropriate.

(g) Treatment services shall be provided to the victim without financial cost and regardless of whether the victim names the abuser or cooperates with any investigation arising out of the incident.

(h) The facility shall attempt to conduct a mental health evaluation of all known resident-on-resident abusers within 60 days of learning of such abuse history and offer treatment when deemed appropriate by mental health practitioners.

*Coosa Valley Youth Services Attention Home has collaborated with 2<sup>nd</sup> Chance Advocacy Center in which they have an MOA established and who agree to assist the facility by providing treatment and services to residents who are victims of sexual abuse. These services are located on handouts, on posters around the walls and are accessible for parents in the event they choose to continue ongoing services. During the time of audit, there had been a non-occurrence.*

### Standard 115.386 Sexual abuse incident reviews

- Exceeds Standard (substantially exceeds requirement of standard)
- Meets Standard (substantial compliance; complies in all material ways with the standard for the relevant review period)
- Does Not Meet Standard (requires corrective action)

**Auditor discussion, including the evidence relied upon in making the compliance or non-compliance determination, the auditor's analysis and reasoning, and the auditor's conclusions. This discussion must also include corrective action recommendations where the facility does not meet standard. These recommendations must be included in the Final Report, accompanied by information on specific corrective actions taken by the facility.**

### § 115.386 Sexual abuse incident reviews.

- (a) The facility shall conduct a sexual abuse incident review at the conclusion of every sexual abuse investigation, including where the allegation has not been substantiated, unless the allegation has been determined to be unfounded.
- (b) Such review shall ordinarily occur within 30 days of the conclusion of the investigation.
- (c) The review team shall include upper-level management officials, with input from line supervisors, investigators, and medical or mental health practitioners.
- (d) The review team shall:
  - (1) Consider whether the allegation or investigation indicates a need to change policy or practice to better prevent, detect, or respond to sexual abuse;
  - (2) Consider whether the incident or allegation was motivated by race; ethnicity; gender identity; lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or intersex identification, status, or perceived status; or, gang affiliation; or was motivated or otherwise caused by other group dynamics at the facility;
  - (3) Examine the area in the facility where the incident allegedly occurred to assess whether physical barriers in the area may enable abuse;
  - (4) Assess the adequacy of staffing levels in that area during different shifts;
  - (5) Assess whether monitoring technology should be deployed or augmented to supplement supervision by staff; and
  - (6) Prepare a report of its findings, including but not necessarily limited to determinations made pursuant to paragraphs (d)(1)-(d)(5) of this section, and any recommendations for improvement and submit such report to the facility head and PREA compliance manager.
- (e) The facility shall implement the recommendations for improvement, or shall document its reasons for not doing so.

*Coosa Valley Youth Services Attention Home has written documentation and policies on conducting sexual abuse incident reviews. These reviews will be conducted either by the Coosa Valley Youth Service Incident Review Team, the Program Manager will then evaluate the following; ensure victim receives the required treatment, assess potential causes of incident or allegation, Identify and physical barriers, identify adequacy of staffing, assessing technology, and ensure all identified corrective action is documented. This process is verified through interviews with administration. During the time of audit, there had been a non-occurrence.*

### Standard 115.387 Data collection

- Exceeds Standard (substantially exceeds requirement of standard)
- Meets Standard (substantial compliance; complies in all material ways with the standard for the relevant review period)
- Does Not Meet Standard (requires corrective action)

**Auditor discussion, including the evidence relied upon in making the compliance or non-compliance determination, the auditor's analysis and reasoning, and the auditor's conclusions. This discussion must also include corrective action recommendations where the facility does not meet standard. These recommendations must be included in the Final Report, accompanied by information on specific corrective actions taken by the facility.**

### § 115.387 Data collection.

- (a) The agency shall collect accurate, uniform data for every allegation of sexual abuse at facilities under its direct control using a standardized instrument and set of definitions.
- (b) The agency shall aggregate the incident-based sexual abuse data at least annually.
- (c) The incident-based data collected shall include, at a minimum, the data necessary to answer all questions from the most recent version of the Survey of Sexual Violence conducted by the Department of Justice.
- (d) The agency shall maintain, review, and collect data as needed from all available incident-based documents, including reports, investigation files, and sexual abuse incident reviews.
- (e) The agency also shall obtain incident-based and aggregated data from every private facility with which it contracts for the confinement of its residents.
- (f) Upon request, the agency shall provide all such data from the previous calendar year to the Department of Justice no later than June 30.

*Coosa Valley Youth Services Attention Home has a policy for sexual abuse data collection. This process includes the collection, accuracy, and uniformity of data for every allegation of sexual abuse using a standardized PREA Incident Report. This will be done in collaboration of the Executive Director's completion of the reports and PREA Coordinator's review for improvement for effectiveness of the agency's PREA practices and training. At this time, PREA information links to the agency's website will be maintained by the PREA Coordinator. Verified by interviewing the PREA Coordinator. During the time of audit, there had been a non-occurrence.*

### Standard 115.388 Data review for corrective action

- Exceeds Standard (substantially exceeds requirement of standard)
- Meets Standard (substantial compliance; complies in all material ways with the standard for the relevant review period)
- Does Not Meet Standard (requires corrective action)

**Auditor discussion, including the evidence relied upon in making the compliance or non-compliance determination, the auditor's analysis and reasoning, and the auditor's conclusions. This discussion must also include corrective action recommendations where the facility does not meet standard. These**

**recommendations must be included in the Final Report, accompanied by information on specific corrective actions taken by the facility.**

### **§ 115.388 Data review for corrective action.**

(a) The agency shall review data collected and aggregated pursuant to § 115.387 in order to assess and improve the effectiveness of its sexual abuse prevention, detection, and response policies, practices, and training, including:

- (1) Identifying problem areas;
- (2) Taking corrective action on an ongoing basis; and
- (3) Preparing an annual report of its findings and corrective actions for each facility, as well as the agency as a whole.

(b) Such report shall include a comparison of the current year's data and corrective actions with those from prior years and shall provide an assessment of the agency's progress in addressing sexual abuse.

(c) The agency's report shall be approved by the agency head and made readily available to the public through its website or, if it does not have one, through other means.

(d) The agency may redact specific material from the reports when publication would present a clear and specific threat to the safety and security of a facility, but must indicate the nature of the material redacted.

*Coosa Valley Youth Services Attention Home will document corrective action plans and will report findings from data reviews or corrective actions annually. This information will be maintained by the PREA Coordinator. The facility will make all aggregated sexual data as well as the annual report readily available to the public annually through its website. During the time of audit, there had been a non-occurrence.*

### **Standard 115.389 Data storage, publication, and destruction**

- Exceeds Standard (substantially exceeds requirement of standard)
- Meets Standard (substantial compliance; complies in all material ways with the standard for the relevant review period)
- Does Not Meet Standard (requires corrective action)

**Auditor discussion, including the evidence relied upon in making the compliance or non-compliance determination, the auditor's analysis and reasoning, and the auditor's conclusions. This discussion must also include corrective action recommendations where the facility does not meet standard. These recommendations must be included in the Final Report, accompanied by information on specific corrective actions taken by the facility.**

### **§ 115.389 Data storage, publication, and destruction.**

(a) The agency shall ensure that data collected pursuant to § 115.387 are securely retained.

(b) The agency shall make all aggregated sexual abuse data, from facilities under its direct control and private facilities with which it contracts, readily available to the public at least annually through its website or, if it does not have one, through other means.

(c) Before making aggregated sexual abuse data publicly available, the agency shall remove all personal identifiers.

(d) The agency shall maintain sexual abuse data collected pursuant to § 115.387 for at least 10 years after the date of its initial collection unless Federal, State, or local law requires otherwise.

*Coosa Valley Youth Services Attention Home has a policy requiring that incident based and aggregated data is securely retained. This information will be made readily available to the public through publication, removing all personal identifiers and will be maintained for at least 10 years after the date of its initial collection or until the year the youngest youth involved turns 26; whichever is longer. This information is verifiable through the PREA Coordinator, PREA Compliance Manager or Facility Director.*

**AUDITOR CERTIFICATION**

I certify that:

- The contents of this report are accurate to the best of my knowledge.
- No conflict of interest exists with respect to my ability to conduct an audit of the agency under review, and
- I have not included in the final report any personally identifiable information (PII) about any inmate or staff member, except where the names of administrative personnel are specifically requested in the report template.

*Ms. Kimberly C. Bonner, PREA Auditor* \_\_\_\_\_

*September 15, 2016* \_\_\_\_\_

Auditor Signature

Date