

2023 Attention Annual PREA Report

Review of 2022 and 2023

Summary:

This report represents an overview of PREA incident data collection from Coosa Valley Youth Services Attention Facility. This synopsis focuses on the outcomes from the current year and provides a comparison to the previous year's data. The findings allow the Attention Facility to evaluate the effectiveness of existing prevention, detection, and response protocols associated with sexual abuse and sexual harassment reports within PREA's Juvenile settings.

Background:

CVYS Attention Facility participated in a three – year cycle audit in 2016 and received 100% compliance and in 2019 and received 100% compliance.

Incident Reports:

All CVYS Attention staff who work directly with juveniles receive varying levels of PREA training. Additionally, youth admitted to our secure detention facility and our Residential facilities, receive information about PREA and are instructed on what to do if they experience or witness sexual harassment or abuse.

Within the workforce training provided, there is a clear expectation for staff to immediately complete a PREA Incident Report once they become aware of (reported, witnessed or suspected) sexual contact or harassment. Staff's report is routed to the program's PREA Compliance Manager and PREA Coordinator for review and subsequent investigatory steps. A compilation of facts ends up guiding agency notifications and the outcome summary – which identifies whether the incident was declared substantiated, unsubstantiated or unfounded.

Comparison Between 2022 and 2023:

CVYS Attention Home had 0 PREA Reports in 2022 and 3 PREA Reports in 2023. Attention made the following corrective actions:

The camera system was updated and cameras were added to the youth's rooms, which provided more vision to ensure safety of the youth.

New intakes will not have a roommate for the first seven days, so that staff can monitor youth's behavior and make more informed decisions on youth's roommates.

Youth will spend much less time in their rooms during shift change.

New staff members will receive additional training on “Healthy Boundaries” and shift supervisor will closely monitor new staff members very closely during their probationary period to ensure all new employees have a clear understanding of healthy boundaries.

Final Statement

In conclusion, it is important to recognize the work from line staff at CVYS Attention Facility who engage with youth on a daily basis. These staff are diligent, compassionate and mindful of the work they do in order to help the youth identify their strengths and make better choices in the future.


Leisa R. Cole, Assistant Director


Jason Granholm, Executive Director