



Alston Wilkes Society 2015 PREA Annual Report

PREA Background:

A federal law since 2003, the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) requires agencies to comply with the national standards proposed by the National Prison Rape Elimination Commission and approved by the Attorney General to eliminate sexual abuse in custodial corrections settings, including prisons, jails, police lockups, private facilities, and community-based corrections facilities. On August 20, 2012, the final PREA standards became effective and one-third (1/3) of each facility type (Adult Prisons and Jails, Lockups, Community Confinement, and Juvenile) is required to undergo a PREA compliance audit every year, beginning in the year 2014 (no later than August 20, 2014).

The Alston Wilkes Society currently has four (4) Federal Residential Reentry Centers (RRCs) which fall under the facility type of Community Confinement, and one (1) Youth Home which falls under the facility type of Juvenile. It is not currently under our contract with the South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice to become PREA compliant; however, we as an agency believe in the core value of the PREA standards and have chosen to implement the policies and procedures necessary at our Youth Home to become PREA compliant.

The Alston Wilkes Society began analyzing our current sexual abuse prevention policies and procedures and implementing the needed PREA standards in May 2013. In 2014, we only operated three (3) RRCs (Columbia, Florence, and North Charleston, SC) and we chose to have our North Charleston RRC undergo the PREA Compliance Audit August 11-12, 2014. That facility received a Prison Rape Elimination Act certification for the period of September 11, 2014 to September 11, 2017.

We opened a new RRC in Fayetteville, NC February 1, 2015, bringing our RRC operating total to four (4) RRCs in the year 2015. By August 2015 the Fayetteville, NC RRC had not been operating for at least one year so we only needed to select one RRC to be audited for PREA compliance and we chose our Columbia, SC RRC. This facility was audited for compliance on August 3, 2015 and we are proud to say they have received a Prison Rape Elimination Act certification for the period of August 3, 2015 to August 3, 2018.

Definitions:

Sexual abuse includes touching (either directly or through the clothing) of the genitalia, anus, groin, breast, inner thigh, or buttocks without the person's consent; penetration of someone without their consent; and coercion of sexual contact/penetration by threats of violence or of someone who is unable to consent or refuse. In the case of Staff-on-Client sexual abuse, even if the client consents, it is still considered sexual abuse.

Sexual harassment is repeated and unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, verbal comments, or gestures or actions of a derogatory or offensive sexual nature by someone directed toward another.

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

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

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

Aggregated Data:

The Alston Wilkes Society collects data from every sexual abuse, harassment, and misconduct allegation according to the most recent version of the Survey of Sexual Violence conducted by the Department of Justice. The data has been aggregated for each facility and the agency as a whole.

Columbia Youth Home

- Total Number of Allegations: 0
- Number of Substantiated Allegations: 0
- Number of Unsubstantiated Allegations: 0
- Number of Unfounded Allegations: 0

Corrective Action: N/A

Columbia, SC Residential Reentry Center

- Total Number of Allegations: 0
- Number of Substantiated Allegations: 0
- Number of Unsubstantiated Allegations: 0
- Number of Unfounded Allegations: 0

Corrective Action: N/A

Florence, SC Residential Reentry Center

- Total Number of Allegations: 0
- Number of Substantiated Allegations: 0
- Number of Unsubstantiated Allegations: 0
- Number of Unfounded Allegations: 0

Corrective Action: N/A

North Charleston, SC Residential Reentry Center

- Total Number of Allegations: 0
- Number of Substantiated Allegations: 0
- Number of Unsubstantiated Allegations: 0
- Number of Unfounded Allegations: 0

Corrective Action: N/A

Fayetteville, NC Residential Reentry Center

- Total Number of Allegations: 2
- Number of Substantiated Allegations: 1
- Number of Unsubstantiated Allegations: 1
- Number of Unfounded Allegations: 0

*The substantiated allegation was in the form of Resident-on-Resident Sexual Harassment.

Corrective Action: Allow the Facility Directors and the Program Directors (this would include the RRCs and Youth Home, Director of RRC Services and Director of Youth Services) remote access to the video surveillance system at their designated facility(ies) so that if an allegation were made, a director could log in remotely at any time from their AWS laptops and review footage in a timely manner. This is to be accomplished by January 2016.

Agency as a Whole

- Total Number of Allegations: 2
- Number of Substantiated Allegations: 1
- Number of Unsubstantiated Allegations: 1
- Number of Unfounded Allegations: 0

*The substantiated allegation was in the form of Resident-on-Resident Sexual Harassment.

The Alston Wilkes Society will continue to take steps to ensure the safety of our resident population, our staff, and the public by committing to zero tolerance of sexual abuse not just by written policy but through our actions, prevention methods, and response to allegations.

Submitted by Meagen Mader, PREA Coordinator

Approved by
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AWS Executive Director, Certified Corrections Executive