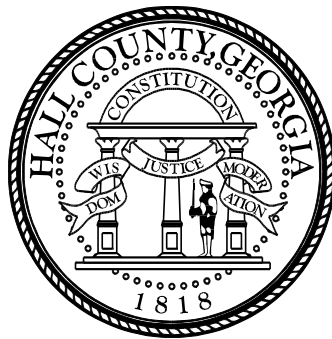


Hall County

Correctional Institute

Prison Rape Elimination Act
(PREA)

Annual Report 2016



Introduction

The Hall County Correctional Institute has a “Zero Tolerance” policy regarding the sexual assault, abuse, or harassment of any offender in our custody or control. Whenever anyone is alleged to have committed any form of sexual assault, abuse or harassment a criminal and/or administrative investigation will be thoroughly conducted. Criminal investigations are conducted by the Hall County Sheriff’s Office. Any person determined to have committed a criminal offense will be referred to the Hall County District Attorney for criminal prosecution. A specially trained investigator will conduct all administrative investigations internally. Any person that has committed a violation of a county policy or procedure will be referred for administrative disciplinary action up to and including termination of employment.

Development

There were no investigations completed by this institution prior to June 1, 2015 as we became compliant with the Federal PREA Standards. There were laws, policies, and procedures in place to protect offenders from sexual abuse and sexual harassment, but these were not based on the Federal Standards. Warden Walt Davis created the position of PREA Compliance Manager and designated Captain Frank Sosebee to assume this role for the department. Analyses of the Federal Standards were compiled and policies and procedures were developed. This ensured our department would come into full compliance with all standards in preparation for a federal audit to be completed prior to August 19, 2016. There are 43 standards for Adult Prisons and 40 Standards for Community Confinement that are required for the Hall County Correctional Institute that will require policy and procedure modification to ensure compliance.

2016 Complaints & Corrective Actions

In 2016, offenders/residents filed three complaints and no corrective actions were initiated.

2016 Changes Initiated

The transition to our new facility took place on March 14, 2016. We have added an additional 57 cameras, total of 100 cameras throughout our institution. The construction of a new building adjacent to our institution was completed in 2016 and two cameras were installed to monitor inmate movement. This new building inside the perimeter gate is utilized as a staging area for morning detail call out. We gave our employees, volunteers and contractors a pocket guide "Staff First Responder Duties" for sexual abuse and sexual harassment. Monthly management meetings are conducted related to PREA procedures and other topics. Continued enhanced PREA training has been implemented for all volunteers entering our institution by our SART team. Our medical team completes annual PREA training by our facility SART team and through on-line training at NIC. All our employees both certified and non-certified completes annual PREA on-line training through NIC and during in-service training. Extensive annual training for our SART team and shift supervisors is completed annually through NIC, and

GPSTC. PREA informational posters are placed throughout our facility for offenders/residents, staff, volunteers and citizens. Implementation and proper documentation for announcing PREA rounds are completed. A procedure for announcing and documenting opposite gender presence for all housing areas was implemented. Our facility introduced a housing plan for PREA victims/aggressors through our screening and classification process and has been a contributing factor reducing complaints. Procedures were developed and initiated; this gives our offenders/residents the ability of reporting sexual abuse via telecommunication, through staff and third party reporting or directly to the Georgia Department of Corrections Inmate Affairs. We have updated the inmate handbook related to our Zero Tolerance Policy for sexual assault and misconduct. The inmate handbook is available for inmates to review on the Kiosk System 24/7. These are changes implemented from 2016 into 2017.

Definitions

Sexual Abuse

Of an offender, detainee, or resident by a staff member, contractor, or volunteer includes any of the following acts, with or without consent of the offender, detainee, or resident:

1. Contact between the penis and the vulva or the penis and the anus, including penetration, however slight;
2. Contact between the mouth and the penis, vulva, or anus;
3. Contact between the mouth and any body part where the staff member, contractor, or volunteer has the intent to abuse, arouse, or gratify sexual desire;
4. Penetration of the anal or genital opening, however slight, by a hand, finger, object, or other instrument, that is unrelated to official duties or where the staff member, contractor, or volunteer has the intent to abuse, arouse, or gratify sexual desire;
5. Any other intentional contact, either directly or through the clothing, of or with the genitalia, anus, groin, breast, inner thigh, or the buttocks, that is unrelated to official duties or where the staff member, contractor, or volunteer has the intent to abuse, arouse, or gratify sexual desire;
6. Any attempt, threat, or request by a staff member, contractor, or volunteer to engage in the activities described in paragraph (1) through (5) of this definition;
7. Any display by a staff member, contractor, or volunteer of his or her uncovered genitalia, buttocks, or breast in the presence of an offender, detainee, or resident;
8. Voyeurism by a staff member, contractor, or volunteer. Voyeurism by a staff member, contractor, or volunteer means an invasion of privacy of an offender, detainee, or resident by staff for reasons unrelated to official duties.

Sexual Harassment or Sexual Misconduct

Repeated and unwelcome sexual advances, request for sexual favors, or verbal comments, gestures, or actions of a derogatory or offensive sexual nature by one offender, detainee, or resident directed towards another. Repeated verbal comments or gestures of a sexual nature to an offender, detainee, or resident by a staff member, contractor, or volunteer, including demeaning references to gender, sexually suggestive or derogatory comments about body or clothing, or obscene language or gestures.

Substantiated Allegation

An allegation that was investigated and determined to have occurred.

Unsubstantiated Allegation

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

An allegation that was investigated and determined not to have occurred.

Referral to Outside Agency

An allegation was investigated and that the investigation was then referred to another agency with sufficient legal authority to complete the investigation and take the appropriate action.

2016 Statistics

Total Allegations Reported in 2016: 3

Substantiated	Unsubstantiated	Unfounded	Referral to Outside Agency
0	1	2	0

Inmate on Inmate Harassment: 0

Substantiated	Unsubstantiated	Unfounded	Referral to Outside Agency
0	0	0	0

Inmate on Inmate Abuse: 2

Substantiated	Unsubstantiated	Unfounded	Referral to Outside Agency
0	1	1	0

Staff on Inmate Harassment: 0

Substantiated	Unsubstantiated	Unfounded	Referral to Outside Agency
0	0	0	0

Staff on Inmate Abuse: 0

Substantiated	Unsubstantiated	Unfounded	Referral to Outside Agency
0	0	1	0

Specific Case(s) Discussed

- Case 16-0001 involves an allegation of an inappropriate strip search. Claim was unfounded. No policy change required; not motivated by group affiliation; no physical barriers; adequate staffing; technology consideration none discussed; discussed strip search to be conducted at HCCI to prevent future allegations.
- Case 16-0002 involves an allegation of sexual abuse. Claim was unfounded. No policy change required; not motivated by group affiliation; no physical barriers; adequate staffing; technology consideration none discussed.
- Case 16-0003 involves an allegation of sexual abuse. Claim was unsubstantiated. No policy change required; not motivated by group affiliation; no physical barriers; adequate staffing; technology consideration none discussed.