



Pecos Municipal Criminal Justice Center

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To: Town of Pecos City-City Council

From: Chief of Police Lisa Tarango

Date: August 24th, 2023

Subject: Pecos Municipal Criminal Justice Center 2021 PREA report

Synopsis:

The Pecos Municipal CJC has implemented procedures to help prevent sexual abuse of those who are in our custody. We have a Zero Tolerance Policy. Reports of sexual abuse are taken seriously and are investigated fully including turning investigations over to police investigations if criminal charges are appropriate. In 2021 the Pecos Municipal CJC processed 907 book-ins. **We had no reported PREA violations in 2021.**

PREA Report Results and Analysis:

In 2021 there were no reported incidents of sexual abuse of any kind. No inmate reported abuse, no staff reported witnessing any sexual abuse and we did not receive any third part notification of sexual abuse in the Pecos Municipal CJC.

The results can be attributed to several reasons; The jail staff diligently preserves the safety of the inmate population through thorough and frequent jail checks, contacts, and inmate contacts. The Pecos Municipal CJC also makes use of a classification system which prevents housing inmates that are likely to be victimized with inmates that have a history of violence or abuse.

Background:

The Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) was passed by Congress on September 04, 2003. The Pecos Municipal CJC has established a zero-tolerance philosophy and policy regarding inmate sexual assault/abuse. Sexual violence investigations shall be actively pursued by the Pecos Municipal CJC and the agency's response shall not vary on the basis of the characteristics, status or profession of the victim or the perpetrator. It is the policy of this department to reduce the incidents and severity of sexual violence, protect victims of sexual violence, and promote safety for the inmates and staff.

The Pecos Municipal CJC has a "Zero Tolerance" policy for sexual abuse as described in 28 C.F.R. §115. This includes sexual abuse of inmates and sexual acts involving inmates, regardless of consensual status. All incidents of sexual assault/abuse shall be reported

3) Sexual harassment includes

a. Repeated and unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, or verbal comments, gestures, or actions of a derogatory or offensive sexual nature by one inmate, detainee, or resident directed toward another; and

b. Repeated verbal comments or gestures of a sexual nature to an inmate, 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.

General Information:

All claims of sexual abuse as described above are investigated in one of two ways, an administrative investigation conducted by a corrections supervisor or a criminal investigation with a detective.

Sexual abuse allegations are heard at the administrative level until such time it is determined that the incident is a criminal matter. Some cases may initially present as a criminal event and will therefore be entirely a criminal investigation. Any criminal PREA investigation in which a member of the Pecos Municipal CJC is the suspect will be conducted by an outside agency.

Investigations, regardless of the type, will include interviews of the victim, accused and any witnesses. They will include all available evidence to include video, biological, photographic or any other that is available.

The conclusion of an administrative investigation will include a finding by the investigator. There are three (3) possible outcomes to a PREA investigation, they are:

Unfounded -The allegation is false or not factual.

Unsubstantiated - There is insufficient factual evidence either to prove or disprove the allegations.

Substantiated - The allegations are supported by sufficient factual evidence.

Respectfully submitted,



Lisa Tarango