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Bonneville County Jail 2023 Annual PREA Report

Rape and sexual activity seriously reduces the mission of the Bonneville County Sheriff's Office to prevent crime and provide quality criminal justice service. In accordance with the Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003, the Bonneville County Jail has established a zero-tolerance standard regarding the incidence of rape and sexual activity.

By providing training, education, and reviewing our policy and procedures on a yearly basis we are confident that we are providing the inmates, staff, contractors, and volunteers everything we can so they are confident and comfortable with the PREA mandates. We are also confident that all our staff, contractors, and volunteers have a thorough knowledge and understanding of the PREA mandates and the Bonneville County Jail policy and procedures in order to effectively provide sexual abuse and harassment prevention, detection, and response to those allegations. A PREA incident review is conducted on all PREA allegations that have been substantiated, unsubstantiated and unfounded. The results of these reviews are used to assess and improve our effectiveness and any corrective actions that may be needed pursuant to PREA mandate 115.88. The occurrence of sexual abuse and sexual harassment at the Bonneville County Jail is very low. Upon reviewing the aggregated data for 2021 we had Zero (0) substantiated allegations of sexual abuse, either involving inmate on inmate contact or staff on inmate contact and one (1) substantiated allegation(s) of sexual harassment involving inmate on inmate harassment.

In assessing and reviewing the total number of substantiated PREA related incidents (sexual abuse (0), sexual harassment (1), voyeurism (0)) the Bonneville County Jail PREA review team felt that our current policy and procedures effectively provided prevention, detection, and response to the allegations. The incident review team did not feel the substantiated inmate on inmate sexual harassment incidents were motivated by group dynamics. The incident review team determined that there were no physical barriers enabling the sexual harassment. The incident review team felt that we had sufficient staffing to provide prevention, detection, and response. The perpetrator(s) were all disciplined within the administrative process of the jail.

We realize that we must continually provide training to our staff members, contractors, and volunteers and we must continually provide education to the inmates in order to provide effective detection, prevention, and response to PREA allegations. We are dedicated to providing high levels of supervision and monitoring of the inmates to provide them the protection they deserve. We are dedicated to providing strong zero-tolerance policies and procedures, and a safe and secure environment for the inmates, providing them with a comfort that they can report PREA allegations free from retaliation and in a confidential format.

Edward Vitacolonna
Jail Captain