

The Edmund L. Thomas Adolescent Center

Julian Blanks, PREA Coordinator

The Edmund L. Thomas Adolescent Center is committed to meeting the requirements of the Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003 and enhancing the safety and security for ELTAC residents as a result thereof.

This report is a summary of the agency's efforts in PREA compliance. By examining the aggregation of agency data the ELTAC is dedicated to improving the effectiveness of sexual misconduct detection, prevention, and response.

August 6, 2019

Prison Rape Elimination Act:

Purpose

This document serves as an annual review to assess and improve the effectiveness of sexual misconduct prevention, detection, and response; moreover, its policies, practices, and training in the Edmund L. Thomas Adolescent Center (ELTAC), pursuant to §115.387 and §115.388 of the national PREA standards. Therein, the Center is required to:

1. Review and aggregate incident-based sexual misconduct data annually in order to improve the effectiveness of sexual abuse prevention, detection, and response as well as, policies, practices, and training to include:
 - a. Identifying problem areas
 - b. Taking corrective action on an on-going basis; and
 - c. Preparing an annual report of its findings
2. Compare the current year's data and corrective actions with those from prior year's and provide an assessment of the agency's progress in addressing sexual misconduct.
3. Publish the annual report on the ELTAC website of its findings and corrective actions for the agency as a whole.

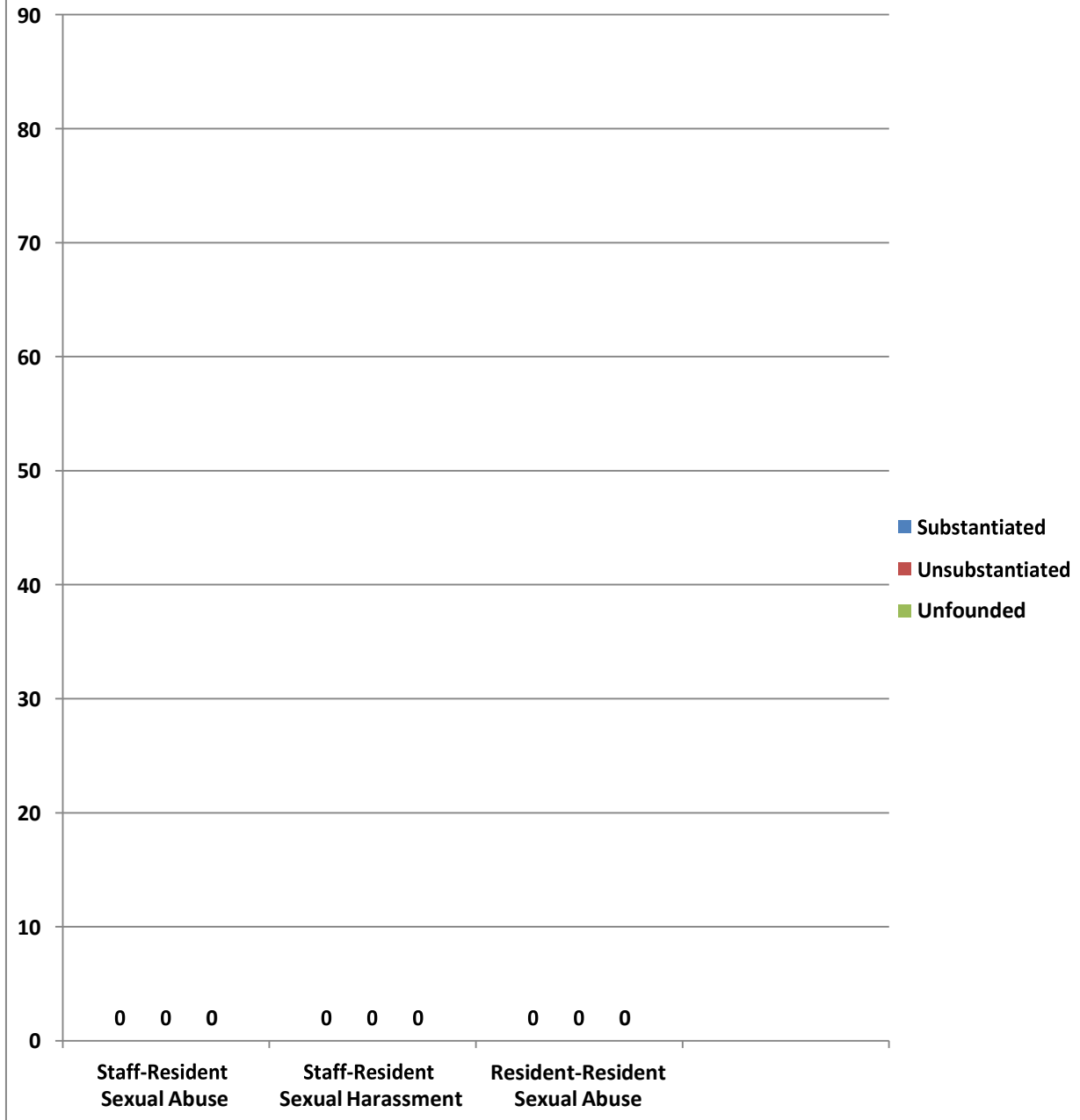
Aggregated Data

ELTAC collects data from the referrals for investigation of sexual abuse and sexual harassment, resident-on-resident sexual abuse and staff-on-resident sexual abuse and sexual harassment. The data in this section contains aggregated data between April 15, 2018 and April 16, 2019.

All allegations are entered and tracked through a secure database. The following graph depicts a breakdown of April 2018 – April 2019 sexual abuse and sexual harassment data; staff-on-resident and resident-on-resident sexual abuse.

Prison Rape Elimination Act:

Prison Rape Elimination Act 2018/2019 PREA Case Breakdown



Prison Rape Elimination Act:

Notably, as cited in the “Department of Justice National Standards to Prevent, Detect, and Respond to Prison Rape Executive Summary”:

“An increase in incidents reported to facility administrators might reflect increased abuse, or it might just reflect inmates’ increased willingness to report abuse, due to the facility’s success at assuring inmates that reporting will yield positive outcomes and not result in retaliation. Likewise, an increase in substantiated incidents could mean either that a facility is failing to protect inmates, or else simply that it has improved its effectiveness at investigating allegations. For these reasons, the standards generally aim to inculcate policies and procedures that will reduce and ameliorate bad outcomes, recognizing that one possible consequence of improved performance is that evidence of more incidents will come to light.”

Problem Areas

Upon aggregating the data of April 2018 – April 2019, zero (0) incident was reported, but was unfounded.

Consequently, a focus on general program safety and effectively implementing PREA culture successfully yielded a more positive approach to ELTAC PREA enhancement efforts throughout the year.

PREA Implementation Action Plans

Edmund L. Thomas Adolescent Center became PREA compliant April, 2015. The ELTAC continues to implement best practice and the requirements of the PREA standards in order to address allegations of sexual abuse and sexual harassment of residents. Leadership of the ELTAC is dedicated to on-going monitoring and corrective action in order to maintain full PREA compliance and most importantly to maximize and maintain the sexual safety of our residents. Creating culture change is a long and arduous process. As an agency, the ELTAC is steadily and continually making progress toward systemic change that fully integrates the intent of the PREA standards and the highest level of sexual safety.

Prison Rape Elimination Act:

The following are PREA Implementation Plans completed at the agency level:

- Revised many policies to enhance PREA policy and practice
- Enhanced education for staff and residents
- Implemented specialized training required of specialized staff
- Developed and implemented an objective screening tool
- Enhanced data collection and aggregation
- Implemented Sexual Abuse Response Teams (S.A.R.T.)
- Developed and implemented Memorandums of Understanding (MOU'S) with outside agencies
- Additional video surveillance to monitor residents and staff

April 2019-2020 Initiatives

- Seek additional PREA web-based and workshop trainings to further enhance the understanding of PREA for staff and PREA coordinator.
- Assess the need for deployment of additional video surveillance.
- Apply for grant funding.
- The PREA Coordinator will continue to utilize the PREA Resource Center to keep abreast of standards, updates and PREA-related materials.
- Improve PREA training efforts.
- Assess ways to reduce the amount of deviations.

Summary

The ELTAC is committed to continual and progressive culture change and continues to implement the requirements of the PREA standards and make adjustments on an on-going basis. In doing so, the ELTAC is eager to raise the bar in the confidence and integrity of our system.

Gerald T. Battle, Superintendent of ELTAC

Date

Julian Blanks, Assistant Director and
PREA Coordinator of ELTAC

Date

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