

## **Volunteers of America Delaware Valley**

### **Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA)**

#### **Annual Report 2015**

##### **PREA Background:**

The Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) was signed into Federal law in 2003 by President George W. Bush. It was created to address the problem of sexual misconduct in all confinement facilities. In 2012, the U.S. Department of Justice released national PREA standards to prevent, detect and respond to sexual abuse and sexual harassment in confinement facilities. The Act requires all federal, state, and local corrections agencies to have a zero-tolerance policy regarding prisons, jails, police lock-ups, and community confinement facilities.

Volunteers of America Delaware Valley, Inc. has a zero-tolerance policy relative to sexual misconduct. All facilities/programs comply with federal and respective state laws as they pertain to PREA, sexual violence and sexual misconduct.

##### **Definitions**

- **Substantiated** -A substantiated allegation means an allegation that was investigated and determined to have occurred.
- **Unsubstantiated** An 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** -An unfounded allegation means an allegation that was investigated and determined not to have occurred.

##### **Annual Report**

Since 2013, when the final PREA standards came into effect, Volunteers of America Delaware Valley, Inc. made multiple revisions to corporate and facility policies to better guide our employees, volunteers, vendors and residents with regard to incidents of sexual abuse and harassment. We have designated a PREA Coordinator to ensure compliance with the PREA standards across all facilities/programs, and have integrated PREA into our Health and Safety Committee.

There is a system in place to collect data on incidents of a sexual nature in each of VOADV facilities. Each program collects data for every allegation of sexual abuse under its direct control using a standardized form and the PREA Coordinator aggregates that data annually. This data collection began July 1, 2013 and the 2013 report reflects July 1, 2015 -December 31, 2015.

	Allegations	Substantiated	Unsubstantiated	Unfounded	Ongoing Investigation	Total Results
Resident on Resident <b>Nonconsensual Sexual Acts</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0
Resident on Resident <b>Abusive Sexual Contacts</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0
Staff on Resident <b>Sexual Misconduct and Harassment</b>	2	0	2	0	0	2
<b>Totals</b>	2	0	2	0	0	2

There were (2) unsubstantiated, (0) unfounded, and (0) substantiated allegations of sexual abuse at VOADV facilities during the reporting period. One of the incidents there was not sufficient evidence to make a determination. The second incident the client was removed by NJDOC before the PREA Coordinator could conduct investigation.

A PREA Coordinator was designated to serve as the upper – level individual that develops, implements, and oversees company efforts to comply with PREA standards in all of our facilities. Audits of facilities governed by PREA standards will began in 2014.