

PRISON RAPE ELIMINATION ACT

Annual Report 2024

Introduction

The Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) was signed into Federal law in 2003 by President George W. Bush and 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 sexual assault/ sexual abuse in prisons, jails, police lock-ups, and community confinement facilities.

Community Resources for Justice, Inc. (CRJ) has a zero-tolerance policy relative to sexual misconduct. All of its community-based residential reentry programs comply with federal and respective state laws as they pertain to PREA, sexual violence and sexual misconduct.

Heriberto Crespo, Assistant Director of Quality and Compliance (Q&C), as the Corporate PREA Coordinator works in tandem with Senior Management staff to develop, implement, and oversee company efforts to comply with PREA standards in all of CRJ's community-based residential reentry programs. The Program Directors are designated to serve as their facility's PREA Liaison to coordinate each individual facility's efforts in its compliance with the PREA standards.

In compliance with PREA requirements, Community Resources for Justice, Inc. (CRJ) submits this 2024 Annual Report.

PREA Compliance Activities

During 2024 CRJ's Quality and Compliance Department monitored PREA activities at all eleven community-based residential reentry programs throughout the year. In the fall of 2024, Community Resources for Justice entered into a subcontract partnership with Lowell House, Inc, now rebranded as Riverbend, to provide community based residential reentry services in the Merrimack Valley region of Massachusetts. This partnership is an extension of the Community Based Residential Reentry Services (CBRRS) contract that CRJ holds with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Riverbend provides residential reentry services, Road to Renewal, through their 25-bed program in Lowell, MA in compliance with the CBRRS contract. CRJ provides training, technical support, and monitoring to ensure Riverbend meets contractual obligations and provides quality services.

Q&C, under the guidance of the PREA Coordinator, is responsible for:

1. Conducting audits of case files for completion of:
 - a. PREA Intake Orientation Checklists upon admission;

- b. PREA Screening and Scoring forms within 72 hours of admission;
and
 - c. PREA safe discussions between residents and case managers at
the first case management meeting and every meeting
thereafter.
2. Observing PREA postings in all programs during facility walk-throughs
 3. Establishing a paperless documentation process for future PREA audits
 4. Tracking PREA training throughout the year
 5. Maintaining the PREA Incident Tracking Chart
 6. Maintaining all documentation of allegations of sexual abuse or sexual harassment and the resulting investigation reports

In 2024, four programs underwent their PREA Certification: Horizon House (March 11 & 12, 2024); Lighthouse (May 6 & 7, 2024); Houston House (July 15 & 16, 2024); and Brooke House (November 18 & 19, 2024). The four Re-entry programs were audited by an independent, Department of Justice certified, PREA auditor, Jack Fitzgerald (the same auditor used to audit CRJ's programs in 2015, 2016, 2018, 2021, 2022 and 2023.)

The final PREA Audit reports for Horizon House, LightHouse, Houston House and Brooke House were posted on the CRJ webpage, along with previous audit reports for 2015, 2016, 2018, 2019, 2021, 2022 and 2023. The PREA Audit report results for all four programs reflect compliance in all areas of the regulations.

Table 1 below shows the number of PREA allegations by location and allegation type in 2024.

Total number of residents admitted in 2024: N = 877

2024 N =10	Allegations of RESIDENT on RESIDENT Sexual Abuse	Allegations of RESIDENT on RESIDENT Sexual Harassment	Allegations of RESIDENT on STAFF Sexual Abuse	Allegations of STAFF on RESIDENT Sexual Abuse	Allegations of STAFF on RESIDENT Sexual Harassment
Brooke	0	0	0	0	0
McGrath	0	0	0	1	0
NBRC	0	0	0	0	0
WMRC	0	0	0	0	0
Coolidge*	1	0	0	0	0
Hampshire*	0	1	0	1	0
Horizon*	0	2	1	1	0
Houston*	0	0	0	0	1
LightHouse*	0	0	0	0	0
FRE - Dana House	0	0	0	0	0
Road to Renewal/ Riverbend - opened Sept. 2024	0	0	0	1	0
Totals	1	3	1	4	1

Table 2 shows a summary of findings by allegation type in the CRJ programs overall.

Total number of residents admitted in 2024: N = 877

2024 Findings	ALLEGATIONS	SUBSTANTIATED	UNSUBSTANTIATED	UNFOUNDED	ONGOING INVESTIGATION
Resident on Resident Sexual Abuse	1	0	1	0	0
Resident on Resident Sexual Harassment	3	1	0	2	0
RESIDENT on STAFF Sexual Abuse	1	1	0	0	0
Staff on Resident Sexual Abuse	3	1	0	3	0
Staff on Resident Sexual Harassment	1	0	0	1	0
TOTALS	10	3	1	6	0

PREA Allegations reported and investigated

During the 2024 reporting period, there were a total of ten PREA allegations and investigations. Please refer to Table 1 for details on the number and type of allegations by location. Table 2 shows the allegation type and finding

Below is the summary of the ten sexual abuse/sexual harassment allegations reported in 2024.

Six allegations were Staff on Resident:

- Hampshire House reported one allegation of sexual abuse by a staff on resident. The Program Director conducted the investigation. The investigation determined this was substantiated, staff had entered into an inappropriate relationship with resident. Staff was terminated and resident was returned to higher custody.
- Horizon House reported one allegation of sexual abuse by a staff on resident. The Program Director conducted the investigation. It was determined to be unfounded
- Coolidge House reported one allegation of sexual abuse by a staff on a resident. The Program Director conducted the investigation and determined it was unsubstantiated. The Program Director implemented additional Pat Search training for all staff as a result of the investigation to ensure consistency of search protocols.
- McGrath House reported one allegation of sexual abuse by a staff on resident. The Program Director and Assistant Director conducted the investigation. The investigation determined it was unfounded.
- Houston House - reported one allegation of staff on resident sexual harassment. The Program Director completed the investigation and determined the incident to be unfounded.
- Road To Renewal: reported one allegation of staff on resident sexual abuse. Resident said pat search was inappropriate. The Program Director completed the investigation and determined the incident to be unfounded.

Three allegations were Resident on Resident

- Horizon House reported two allegations of resident-on-resident sexual harassment/abuse. The Program Director completed the investigations, and both were determined to be unfounded.

- Hampshire House reported one allegation of resident-on-resident sexual harassment. The allegation occurred at the residents' worksite. The Program Director completed the investigation, and it was deemed to be substantiated. The resident requested not to pursue a formal PREA complaint. However, it should be noted that the resident who conducted the harassment was returned to custody for failure to comply with program rules.

One allegation was Resident on Staff Sexual Abuse

- Horizon House reported one allegation of resident on staff sexual abuse. The allegation occurred at the program. The Assistant Director, in consultation with the Senior Director of Reentry Services and the CRJ PREA Coordinator conducted the investigation. The investigation determined the allegation was substantiated. The resident was returned to higher custody. The program also ensured that the staff person had access to appropriate sexual assault counseling services.

In addition to the Q&C audits and reviews, the Federal Bureau of Prisons (FBOP) conducted quarterly monitoring visits (external audits) at the five CRJ/BOP programs. Brooke House, McGrath House, Western MA Reentry Center, and New Bedford Reentry Center received no external audits from its funders. There were no accreditation (external) audits conducted by the American Correctional Association (ACA) of any CRJ program in 2024. Dana's House is funded under CT DOC. They did not conduct any external audit in 2024.

Tables 3 and 4 below illustrate the same data for the period of 2015 - 2024. Over that period there were 83 allegations made. Table 3 shows the type of allegation by location and Table 4 shows the findings by allegation type.

Table 3: Combined PREA data for the years 2015-2024

Total number of residents admitted in 2015-2024: N = 9,127

2015- 2024	Allegations of RESIDENT on RESIDENT Sexual Abuse	Allegations of RESIDENT on RESIDENT Sexual Harassment	Allegations of RESIDENT on STAFF Sexual Abuse	Allegations of STAFF on RESIDENT Sexual Abuse	Allegations of STAFF on RESIDENT Sexual Harassment
N = 83					
Brooke	0	1	0	2	1
McGrath	0	3	0	3	0

WMRC	0	0	0	1	1
NBRC	0	0	1	0	1
Coolidge*	2	1	0	4	10
Hampshire*	1	3	2	9	5
Horizon*	0	3	1	3	6
Houston*	0	4	0	1	5
LightHouse*	0	2	0	1	5
FRE - Dana House	0	0	0	0	0
Road to Renewal	0	0	0	1	0
Totals	3	17	4	25	34

* = BOP contracted programs

Table 4: Summary of Findings 2015-2024

Total number of residents admitted in 2015-2024: N = 9,127

2015-2024 N=83	TOTAL ALLEGATIO NS	SUBSTANTIA TED	UNSUBSTANTI ATED	UNFOUN DED	ONGOING INVESTIGATI ON
Resident on Resident Nonconsensua l Sexual Acts	2	0	2	0	0
Resident on Resident Sexual Harassment	17	8	5	4	0
Resident on Staff Sexual Abuse	3	1	1	1	0
Staff on Resident Sexual Abuse	27	3	3	21	0
Staff on Resident Sexual Harassment	34	3	7	24	0
TOTALS	83	15	18	50	0

CRJ continues its PREA training for all staff and residents in the community-based residential reentry programs to prevent sexual misconduct and to fully investigate and prosecute those involved in such conduct.

The system of collecting data on incidents of a sexual nature at each of CRJ's community-based residential reentry programs continues to provide PREA data.

Each program collects accurate, uniform data for every allegation of sexual abuse or sexual harassment under its direct control using a standardized instrument and the Corporate PREA Coordinator aggregates incident-based data as needed. The data collection is all electronic and located on a confidential, shared drive. The Program Director or designee enters the data monthly and the PREA Coordinator checks the database periodically to ensure the data is entered.

Since 2015, the aggregation of sexual abuse and sexual harassment data is required by CRJ Corporate policy. Each community-based residential reentry program that CRJ operates continues to make great efforts to improve the prevention, detection, and response to incidents of sexual abuse or sexual harassment.

Report prepared by PREA Coordinator/Quality & Compliance Department

Report Reviewed and approved by:

Signature: *Deborah M. O'Brien*

Deb O'Brien, CEO and President of CRJ Date: Feb 14, 2025