Wisconsin Community Services 2018 REA Annual Report

The Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) was established in 2003 to address the problems of sexual abuse and sexual harassment in the Correctional System. PREA is a Federal Law established to address the elimination, reduction, and prevention of sexual assault and rape within the Correctional System.

Wisconsin Community Services, Inc. (WCS) has a zero tolerance policy pertaining to all sexual misconduct, including sexual abuse and sexual harassment; and states in the PREA policy there shall be no sexual activity between staff and inmates/detainees/residents, or between incarcerated/detained persons. WCS works continuously to implement new policies and procedures; implement PREA training requirements for staff and inmates/residents; develop standards for the detection, prevention, reduction of sexual misconduct; and ensure that all sexual misconduct is reported and investigated accurately and completely.

It is the policy of Wisconsin Community Services to respond to, and ensure the thorough investigation every allegation of sexual misconduct reported. Investigations will be deferred to the appropriate officials (the Federal Bureau of Prisons, Wisconsin Department of Corrections, Milwaukee Police Department, or other) and their progress is followed to its conclusion by the PREA Compliance Managers. At the conclusion of each investigation, all cases will have one of these three following results:

**Substantiated allegation:** This means an allegation was investigated and determined to have occurred.

**Unsubstantiated allegation:** This means an allegation was investigated and the investigation produced insufficient evidence to make a final determination as to whether or not the event occurred.

**Unfounded:** This means an allegation was investigated and determined not to have occurred.

In 2018, Wisconsin Community Services had 2 PREA cases filed.
- 0 cases were reported for Inmate/Inmate Non-Consensual Sexual acts.
- 0 cases were reported for Inmate/Inmate Abusive Sexual Contact.
- 1 case was reported for Inmate/Inmate Sexual Harassment.
- 1 case was reported for Sexual Harassment of Resident/Inmate by Staff.
- 2 cases was reported for Sexual Misconduct of Resident/Inmate by Staff. These cases were investigated and determined to be unsubstantiated.
All data was collected and aggregated in order to assess and improve the effectiveness of our sexual abuse prevention, detection, and response policies, practices, and training.

Wisconsin Community Services continues to be committed to taking corrective actions to comply with the Prison Rape Elimination Act Standards and to continue to provide a safe environment for its residents.

Wisconsin Community Services had their Federal Department of Justice PREA audits performed at both Joshua Glover and Parsons House Residential Re-Entry Centers (RRC’s) in June of 2016. The Certified PREA Auditor found the WCS RRC’s to be in total compliance with the PREA Standards. These PREA audits occur in windows of every three years. Our PREA audit in 2016 was in the 2014-2016 three year window. The next PREA audits will be scheduled in June of 2019, which will fulfill our audit for the three year window of 2017-2019.

Wisconsin Community Services added 12” x 12” windows in all the doors in each facility where a resident would be meeting behind closed doors with a staff member. The windows have been added in order to ensure safety for both staff member and resident.

Wisconsin Community Services Residential Re-Entry Center (RRC) Staff are fully trained to perform any Pat Searches of residents with regard to the Department of Justice PREA Standards. All of the Pat Searches are performed in front of our cameras to alleviate any potential accusations of any improper searches. These practices and services continue to be provided to the residents at our two RRC’s, Joshua Glover Residential Re-Entry Facility, a facility housing Wisconsin Department of Corrections offenders, and Parsons House, a facility housing Federal offenders.

While the PREA Standards require PREA refresher training every two years, all WCS RRC staff are required to complete yearly PREA Training. We take our PREA refresher trainings online through a company called Relias. Every new hire is required to take the online course entitled “PREA: An Introduction and Overview.” We also talk about PREA issues and policies at most of our monthly mandatory all-staff meetings. We continue to have regular PREA trainings to update the education and awareness of all of the staff.

Wisconsin Community Services continues to be committed to taking corrective actions to comply with the Prison Rape Elimination Act Standards. We will continue to maintain a zero tolerance policy regarding Sexual Harassment, Abuse, and Assault in our facilities.