

Effingham County Prison
Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA)
Annual Report 2015

PREA Background

PREA was established in 2003 to address sexual abuse and sexual harassment of persons in the custody of U.S. correctional prisons. Major provisions of PREA included the development of standards for detections, prevention, reduction and punishment of sexual abuse and sexual harassment in confinement settings. The Act applies to all public and private institutions that house adult or juvenile offenders. On August 20, 2012, the PREA standards final rule became effective.

Effingham County Prison has a zero tolerance policy on issues pertaining to sexual abuse and sexual harassment involving inmates and is working continuously to develop and implement policies to prevent, detect, and respond to sexual misconduct allegations.

Whenever an agency employee is alleged to have been in violation of a criminal offense, the matter will be investigated by Effingham County Sheriff Department (an outside agency) for any felony offense; if matter is a misdemeanor it will be handled by SART (internally).

It is the policy of Effingham County Prison to thoroughly investigate all complaints of alleged employee misconduct to properly determine whether or not the allegations are substantiated or unfounded and to take appropriate follow up action.

This report will summarize the effect by Effingham County Prison to achieve compliance with the Federal PREA Standards.

Definitions

- A. **Substantiated allegation** means an allegation that was investigated and determined to have occurred.
- B. **Unfounded allegation** means an allegation that was investigated and determined not to have occurred.
- C. **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.

2015 Analysis/Corrective Action

Analysis: A PREA Coordinator was not initiated in 2012 for PREA Compliance.

Corrective Action: Janet Robere became Effingham County PREA Coordinator. Mrs. Robere has over 6 years' experience with Effingham County Prison in both security and care and treatment. Mrs. Robere earned Associate Degree in Business.

Analysis: A Staffing Plan was not initiated in 2012 for PREA Compliance.

Corrective Action: A Staffing Plan has been established.

Analysis: Criminal Records check on all staff every 5 years had not been implemented in 2012 for PREA Compliance, although all security staff has a Criminal Records Check ran every year for firearm qualification.

Corrective Action: Criminal Records Check log was established to ensure that all staff has a Criminal Record Check completed every 5 years for staff at Effingham County Correctional Institution.

Analysis: Staff Training was not in compliance

Corrective Action: All staff has completed additional PREA training besides annual in-service training, and some has completed NICIC training "PREA: Your Role Responding to Sexual Abuse"

SART and Effingham County Sheriff Department Investigator has completed additional PREA training, "Conducting Sexual Abuse Investigations in Confinement Setting"

Analysis: No victim advocate services were initiated in 2012 for PREA Compliance.

Corrective Action: Tina Beckum, has been elected as Advocate for Effingham County.

Analysis: Information for third party reporting was not initiated in 2012 for PREA Compliance.

Corrective Action: Information for third party reporting has been placed in inmate handbook and on Effingham County Website.

Analysis: Monitor for retaliation was not initiated in 2012 for PREA Compliance.

Corrective Action: PREA Coordinator has been assigned the responsibility to monitor for any and all retaliation.

Analysis: Report disposition of cases back to inmate was not initiated in 2012 for PREA Compliance.

Corrective Action: Deputy Warden / Warden has been assigned the responsibility to inform inmates of the disposition of their allegations.

Analysis: No victim services was available

Corrective Action: Contacted SRSAC to enter into Memorandum of Agreement to provide services per PREA standards in 2015.

Analysis: No Sexual Abuse Incident Review Team was initiated in 2012 for PREA Compliance.

Corrective Action: A Sexual Abuse Incident Review Team, consisting of Warden, Deputy Warden, SART, PREA Coordinator, and supervisors was created.

Analysis: No inmate training and notification to inmates about PREA was initiated in 2012.

Corrective Action: Inmates are advised upon intake about PREA and how to protect themselves and report complaints, the counselor and nurse inquiries about sexual abuse in interview and completes assessment within 72 hours of arrival. PREA video in watched and inmates are given the opportunity to ask questions upon arrival and annually. PREA information is included in inmate handbook.

Analysis: There were no established PREA policies for this agency was initiated in 2012, Effingham CP was only relying on policies set by Georgia Department of Corrections.

Corrective Actions: Effingham County PRISON developed and put into place a local PREA policy that mirrors Georgia Department of Corrections PREA Policy 208.06

Analysis: No training was conducted in 2012 for transgender, intersex, lesbian, gay or bisexual inmates for officers to understand the proper pat search.

Corrective Action: Training is being conducted with officers on pat searches for LGBTI and cross gender inmates.

Analysis: Facility did not have a public website for PREA Publications implemented in 2012.

Corrective Action: Effingham County Prison PREA information was added to the Effingham County Website.

Analysis: No Annual Data Report was initiated in 2012 for PREA Compliance.

Corrective Action: Annual Data Report was completed and published on Effingham County Website.

Review data collected and aggregated in order to assess and improve the effectiveness of our sexual abuse prevention, detection, and response policies, practices and training, including by:

1. Identifying problem areas
2. Taking corrective action on an ongoing basis
3. Preparing an annual report of findings and corrective actions for the facility.

Reported PREA Incidents

1 reported PREA allegation has been made at Effingham CP, which was investigated and deemed to be unsubstantiated.

Statistics

Inmate on Inmate

Substantiated	0
Unfounded	0
Unsubstantiated	1

Staff on Inmate

Substantiated	0
Unfounded	0
Unsubstantiated	0

Effingham County Prison will continue to make appropriate changes when necessary to provide a safe and secure environment for inmates, staff, and community.

Effingham County Prison's report is approved by the agency head prior to being made available to the public through its website.

Effingham County Prison's Federal PREA Audit is scheduled for July 11, 2016