

## SWIJDC PREA REPORT Jun 18, 2019

### Report for 2018

The Southwest Idaho Juvenile Detention Center (SWIJDC) has long embraced the principles recently supported by the Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003 (PREA) to keep all juveniles safe while in custody. Years before PREA was passed, the SWIJDC had training sessions on prohibited contact and inappropriate relationships to prevent the problem of sexual abuse within its walls. The Idaho Counties Risk Management Program (ICRMP) helped with this training of our new staff and furnished acknowledgement forms and curriculum for us to use.

After the passage of PREA, Steve Jett, Director of the SWIJDC quickly brought PREA training to the Idaho Association of County Juvenile Justice Administrators (IACJJA) in 2005 through the Idaho Department of Corrections' PREA Coordinator, Lorie Brisbin.

As requests for comments were released by the U.S. Department of Justice, along with drafts of standards for PREA, Director Jett was active in submitting comments on behalf of the SWIJDC, the IACJJA and the National Partnership for Juvenile Services (NPJS). He was appointed to head the NPJS PREA Project and still coordinates the PREA track for training at the NPJS Annual Symposiums.

Director Jett was asked by the USDOJ to attend the first session of PREA Auditor training as one of the first 9 juvenile auditors in the nation.

Director Jett has spearheaded several events to further ready all of the county juvenile detention centers in Idaho for PREA Compliance, including two Technical Assistance Requests to the PREA Resource Center (PRC) which brought the Moss Group to the State to train administrators, staff, mental health clinicians and commissioners. He is P.O.S.T. Certified to teach PREA at the Idaho POST Academy, and is a DOJ-certified PREA Auditor.

During the week of September 16, 2013, the SWIJDC became the first juvenile facility in the nation to be audited under the PREA Juvenile Standards. After an abbreviated Corrective Action Period, DOJ-Certified Auditor Wendy Leach declared on February 14, 2014 that the SWIJDC was fully compliant with the PREA Standards, making it the first facility in the nation of any type to be fully PREA compliant. (The final audit report of the Southwest Idaho Juvenile Detention Center was published on the county website.)

During the week of October 17, 2016, DOJ-Certified Juvenile Facilities Auditor Chuck Kehoe conducted the second audit of the SWIJDC for compliance with the law. The facility was found compliant after an abbreviated corrective action period

which ended on March 20, 2017. The final report of that audit will be posted on this site after it is received from the auditor.

The occurrence of sexual abuse at the SWIJDC is very low due to high levels of security, single occupancy rooms and increased amounts of programming going on throughout the day. However, we realize that we must keep up our efforts to combat this constantly. We will continue to have a strong zero-tolerance policy and environment with regard to all kinds of abuse. Results of investigations are used to determine if anything needs to be changed at the SWIJDC, including, but not limited to, policies, procedures, physical plant characteristics, staffing, shifts, personnel assignments, and supervision.

All allegations of sexual abuse and sexual harassment are taken seriously and investigated. The Caldwell Police Department is the investigating agency, and the staff and administration at the SWIJDC will cooperate at all times with any investigation.

As a result of the investigation of an unfounded allegation in 2015, we identified an area where increased video surveillance would enhance our efforts to safeguard the juveniles in our custody. In October of 2016, a renovated camera system was installed which covered all areas of the facility. Later updated, almost all of the cameras record and maintain video clips for 30+ days. As of the date of this report, video has been downloaded to assist the Canyon County Sheriff's Office in more than one investigation of escapes from the recreation area of Pod 5 of the jail, which happens to be covered by our cameras. Video footage has also been instrumental in other types of investigations inside the juvenile detention center.

In 2017, we received four notifications alleging sexual abuse or sexual harassment. Two were received through the Telmate inmate phone system. Upon investigation, one juvenile stated that he had been simply bored and dialed #9 for fun. The second one was not aware that he had dialed #9, but had been trying to call his mother. The third incident was determined to not be neither sexual abuse nor sexual harassment. The fourth report, an incident alleged to have happened in another detention center in another state, was reported to the proper authorities as required by PREA Standard 115.363.

In 2018, we had no sexual abuse allegations. One juvenile reported a sexual harassment claim, but after investigation, it was determined to be unfounded.

The SWIJDC is due to have another PREA audit in 2019. At the date of this report, requests for audit proposals have been released, and proposals are being reviewed. Training on PREA continues, with another full training due to occur in July and August of 2019.

Our facility continues to put great effort into keeping residents safe, not only with regards to sexual abuse and harassment, but in all aspects of safety.