

Western Nevada Regional Youth Center

3550 Graham Ave., PO Box 330, Silver Springs, NV 89429

(775)577-4200 Phone, (775)577-3339 Fax

REFERENCES:

PREA Standards

(<https://www.prearesourcecenter.org/sites/default/files/content/preafinalstandardstypejuveniles.pdf>)

2021 REPORT

Western Nevada Regional Youth Center has a Zero Tolerance Policy against all forms of sexual abuse and sexual harassment. The protection of the facility's youth against all forms of sexual abuse and sexual harassment is important. All employees, staff, residents, contract employees, contract services personnel, volunteers and visitors are subject to the Zero Tolerance Policy.

All residents have an equal opportunity and access to participate in or benefit from all aspects of our efforts to prevent, detect, and respond to sexual abuse and sexual harassment. Western Nevada Regional Youth Center has an accessibility plan and will provide alternative materials based on need or request of the youth. Alternatives include materials/formats/resources which accommodate language, reading ability, hearing and/or vision impaired to ensure understanding and communication with residents upon intake.

STAFF TRAINING AND RESIDENT EDUCATION

Western Nevada Regional Youth Center not only trains staff at hire and annually, but on day-to-day basis. Western Nevada Regional Youth Centers PREA Coordinator and Youth Counselor Supervisor along with the management team conduct daily and weekly supervisor rounds. During this time, they not only complete a PREA check, but also interact with staff and residents discussing resident rights, prevention, definitions of sexual abuse, sexual harassment, coercion, consensual, age of consent, avoiding inappropriate relationships, setting boundaries, reporting mechanisms, communicating professionally, amongst other dynamics. This not only trains staff, but also educates residents at the same time. Residents receive on going PREA Education throughout their stay to include intake, monthly check ins, and groups conducted by youth counselors. Western Nevada Regional Youth Center also randomly selects staff and clients to complete a monthly PREA questionnaire.

PROGRESS IN 2020

- On June 16th, 2020, the Operations and Technical Committee (OTC) voted and did affirm that Federal PREA regulations do apply to the WNRYP facility and to proceed with developing policies in compliance with those guidelines.
- Western Nevada Regional Youth Center started the process of training staff members and clients on PREA standards and updated PREA Policies.
- Western Nevada Regional Youth Center worked with China Spring Youth Camp and the PREA Resource Center to develop and implement PREA policies.

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- The facility surveillance program was reviewed. Updates were made to the system to include added cameras to all administrative offices.
- Memorandum of Understanding with Lyon County Sheriff's Office was updated. Lyon County Sheriff's Office will review all staff allegations of PREA misconduct.
- Western Nevada Regional Youth Center worked with Jennifer Simeo with the Division of Child and Family Services, Juvenile Justice to develop policies, staffing plan, and protocols.
- Tyler Creel Youth Counselor Supervisor /PREA Coordinator along with Lisa Marracinni Youth Counselor both received training in Administrative and Criminal Investigations.

DATA AND ANALYSIS

In 2020, Western Nevada Regional Youth Center received and investigated two (2) allegations of youth on youth sexual harassment. The first allegation was substantiated, the second allegation was unsubstantiated. Western Nevada Regional Youth Center received zero allegations of staff sexual misconduct.

ACTIONS

Western Nevada Regional Youth Center prides itself on hiring staff with good character, intentions, and experiences & education. Each staff goes thru an extensive background process to ensure we are meeting this goal. We analyzed the goals for our first year implementing PREA guidelines. We decided that employee training and education would be our main focus. All existing employees were trained on PREA guidelines per WNRVC policy. All new employees completed PREA training before ever interacting with youth at Western Nevada Regional Youth Center. Western Nevada Regional Youth Centers PREA Coordinator has signed up for the PREA 101 course offered thru the PREA Resource Center.

Additionally, our management team evaluated the educational materials provided to the Western Nevada Regional Youth Center clients. We increased our client education program to include clients reviewing PREA guidelines before ever interacting with other clients, increasing spacing requirements in identified high risk areas, monthly groups and questionnaires focusing on clients understanding of PREA.

SUMMARY

Western Nevada Regional Youth Center takes all reports seriously, in addition to, the sexual safety of both staff and residents of our facility. The goal would be that we are an incident free facility, in 2020, we had two incidences. Each incident was dissected into type and nature of risk along with a strategy or corrective action to reduce and eliminate the risk. With the one substantiated incident, we had to remove the resident from the facility. The other resident was successfully released from the program shortly after the conclusion of the investigation.