

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/implementation/prea-standards/juvenile-facility-standards>)

2022-2023 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 and beyond.

STAFF TRAINING AND RESIDENT EDUCATION

Western Nevada Regional Youth Center has a comprehensive staff training program that includes trainings upon hiring, annually, and Monthly refreshers. Western Nevada Regional Youth Centers PREA Coordinator and Youth Advisor Supervisor along with the management team conduct bimonthly unannounced supervisor rounds. During this time, they not only complete a PREA check, but also interact with staff and clients. The management team is constantly engaging with the staff and clients regarding resident rights, prevention, definitions of sexual abuse, sexual harassment, coercion, avoiding inappropriate relationships, setting boundaries, reporting mechanisms, communicating professionally, amongst other dynamics. This not only trains staff, but also educates clients at the same time. Clients receive on-going PREA Education throughout their stay to include intake, Youth Handbook, posted materials, monthly check ins, and as needed groups conducted by youth advisors. Western Nevada Regional Youth Center also randomly selects staff and clients to complete a monthly PREA questionnaire.

PROGRESS IN 2022-2023

- 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 implemented a new reporting mechanism thru a PREA phone with direct contact with the Lyon County Sheriff's Department and Crisis Support Services of Northern Nevada.
- The facility surveillance program was reviewed. Updates were made to the system enhancing night vision in clients dorms and adjusting camera locations.

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- Western Nevada Regional Youth Center’s PREA Intake and Screening form was reviewed and updated. Western Nevada Regional Youth Center used the updated screening form adopted by that of the Division of Child and Family Services, Juvenile Justice as a comparison.
- Western Nevada Regional Youth Center worked with the Division of Child and Family Services, Juvenile Justice to coordinate selecting a PREA Auditor.
- Western Nevada Regional Youth Center selected a PREA Auditor and went into contract with the Auditor for an official audit to be conducted in November of 2023

DATA AND ANALYSIS

In the July 2022- July 2023, Western Nevada Regional Youth Center received and investigated three (3) allegations of youth on youth sexual harassment. The 3 youth on youth sexual harassment allegations were all investigated and found to be unfounded. Western Nevada Regional Youth Center received Zero (0) 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 implementing PREA guidelines. We continue to focus our attention on employee training and education. All existing employees were trained on PREA guidelines per WNRYS policy. All new employees and contractors completed PREA training before ever interacting with youth at Western Nevada Regional Youth Center.

Additionally, our management team evaluated the PREA educational materials provided to the Western Nevada Regional Youth Center clients. We implemented an ongoing education program to include clients reviewing PREA guidelines before ever interacting with other clients, increasing spacing requirements in identified high risk areas, monthly 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 2022-23, we had Three (3) incidences.