2024 Lewis Academy Annual PREA Report

Review of 2023 and 2024

Summary

This report represents an overview of PREA incident data collected from Coosa Valley Youth Services Lewis Academy Facility. This synopsis focuses on the outcomes from the current year and provides a comparison to the previous year's data. The findings allow the Lewis Academy Facility to evaluate effectiveness of existing prevention, detection and response protocols associated with sexual abuse and sexual harassment reports within PREA's Juvenile settings

Background

CVYS Lewis Academy Facility participated in its first, three- year cycle audit in 2016 and received 100% compliance. CVYS Lewis Academy Facility participated in its 2nd, three-year audit in 2019 and received 100% compliance score.

Incident Reports

All CVYS Lewis Academy staff who work directly with juveniles receive varying levels of PREA training. Additionally, youth admitted to our secure detention facility and our Residential facilities, receive information about PREA and are instructed on what to do if they experience or witness sexual harassment or abuse.

Within the workforce training provided, there is a clear expectation for staff to immediately complete a PREA Incident Report once they become aware of (reported, witnessed or suspected) sexual contact or harassment. Staff's report is routed to the program's PREA Compliance Manager and PREA Coordinator for review and subsequent investigatory steps. A compilation of facts ends up guiding agency notifications and the outcome summary – which identifies whether the incident was declared substantiated, unsubstantiated or unfounded.

Comparison Between Last Two Years:

Lewis Academy had 1 PREA report in 2023 and after investigation was complete it was declared unfounded. There was no corrective action plan.

Lewis Academy had 3 PREA allegations and investigations in 2024. Two of the allegations were declared Unsubstantiated upon investigation and the other PREA allegation was declared Unfounded after investigation was complete.

The camera system was updated and cameras were added to all areas the youth have access to; including closets, which provided more vision to ensure increased safety of the youth.

Final Statement

In conclusion, it is important to recognize the work from line staff at CVYS Detention Facility who engage with youth on a daily basis. These staff are diligent, compassionate and mindful of the work they do in order to help the youth identify their strengths and make better choices in the future.

Leisa R. Cole, Assistant Director

Jason Granholm, Executive Director