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Valley County Sheriff's Office – PREA Corrective action report

Report for 2021

The Valley County Sheriff's Office makes PREA compliance a high priority and has devoted a significant amount of time and resources over the last few years to policy development, training of staff, and education of inmates on all aspects of PREA. When confronted with areas that do not meet standards or require improvements, agency leadership works immediately to implement any corrective action plans. These immediate actions reinforce the agency's commitment to ensuring the safety of inmates and staff in the Valley County Adult Detention Center.

In accordance with PREA Standard 115.88:

§ 115.88 Data review for corrective action.

(a) The agency shall review data collected and aggregated pursuant to § 115.87 in order to assess and improve the effectiveness of its sexual abuse prevention, detection, and response policies, practices, and training, including by:

(1) Identifying problem areas.

(2) Taking corrective action on an ongoing basis; and

(3) Preparing an annual report of its findings and corrective actions for each facility, as well as the agency as a whole.

(b) Such report shall include a comparison of the current year's data and corrective actions with those from prior years and shall provide an assessment of the agency's progress in addressing sexual abuse.

(c) The agency's report shall be approved by the agency head and made readily available to the public through its website or, if it does not have one, through other means.

(d) The agency may redact specific material from the reports when publication would present a clear and specific threat to the safety and security of a facility but must indicate the nature of the material redacted.

Identifying Problem Areas

In reviewing problem areas for 2021, The Valley County Jail has identified a need to update our camera system. The original request was to add new cameras within the following areas.

100-300 sleeping areas

400 & 600 – Individual cell blocks or a camera in the main hallway that will allow us to see inside the cell blocks

500 & 700 Day room cameras, this will allow us to see activity that is missed within the day room.

After discussing with IT and the camera company installers, there may be a way to upgrade our current cameras to newer technology that would allow us to reduce the number of cameras that we need. These cameras will also have the ability to record sounds as well.

Taking Corrective Action on an Ongoing Basis

Privacy blocks on the camera system disallow staff members to view into the bathroom or shower areas in any living unit or holding cell, in compliance with PREA standard 115.15 (d). These privacy blocks are adjusted whenever necessary to maintain compliance. Previously these were blocked by a marker on the camera lens. They are now added digitally to keep from the marker wearing off. We are seeking solutions with Valley County Building and

Grounds on how to install a permanent and safe feature into the shower areas that will allow us to still have a privacy barrier and get rid of the shower curtain rod.

Sergeant Michael Lacroix
Jail Commander
Valley County Sheriff's Office