



# City of Virginia Beach

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DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
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JUVENILE DETENTION CENTER  
MUNICIPAL CENTER BUILDING 27  
2533 GEORGE MASON DRIVE  
VIRGINIA BEACH, VA 23456

January 30, 2024

## **SUBJECT: PRISON RAPE ELIMINATION ACT (PREA) ANNUAL REPORT JANUARY 1, 2023 – DECEMBER 31, 2023**

### **Sited Policy and Purpose:**

The Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) requires the Human Services Department, which has a juvenile detention facility under its jurisdiction, to collect accurate, uniform data for every allegation of sexual abuse using a standardized instrument and set of definitions. The data collected is aggregated at least annually answering all questions from the most recent version of the Survey of Sexual Violence conducted by the Department of Justice.

The Virginia Beach Juvenile Detention Center (VBJDC) maintains, reviews, and collects data as needed from all available incident-based documents, including reports, investigation files, and sexual abuse incident reviews to create an annual report. The annual report provides previous calendar year data to the Department of Justice upon request.

PREA also requires that the VBJDC review collected data to see if corrective actions are necessary to improve the effectiveness of its sexual abuse prevention, detection, and response policies, practices, and training, including:

- (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 implementation.

The report will include a comparison of current year's data and corrective actions with those from prior years and will provide an assessment of the facility's progress in addressing sexual abuse. The report is approved by the Director of Human Services, with input from the VBJDC Superintendent, and made available to the public on the facility's website.

There may be redacted information when publication of the annual report presents a clear and specific threat to the safety and security of the VBJDC residents and staff but will indicate the nature of the material redacted.

The facility will maintain sexual abuse data collected pursuant to § 115.387 for at least 10 years after the date of its initial collection unless Federal, State, or local law requires otherwise.

**VBJDC Findings:**

- The VBJDC had zero (0) allegations of sexual abuse to report, as defined by PREA, during this reporting period.
- During this reporting period, the VBJDC had zero (0) incident of sexual harassment. The facility takes all allegations seriously, regardless of whether it meets PREA.
- The VBJDC has a long history and reputation of having a standing zero tolerance policy for sexual abuse and sexual harassment.
- The facility operates several strong programs that exceed standards in preventing, detecting, and responding to abuse of any kind.

**VBJDC Training and Education:**

- New-hire PREA training was conducted for eleven (11) new-hires that reported aboard during this reporting period.
- Sixty One (61) full-time and six (6) part-time VBJDC staff were provided annual PREA training and/or refresher training, along with extensive training on the emergency preparedness & response plan; behavior management; residents' rights and prohibited actions; child abuse & neglect training including policies & procedures; mandated reporter training; suicide prevention training including policies & procedures; maintaining appropriate professional relationships; healthy adolescent development; working with detained juvenile adolescents; vulnerable population awareness training; health screening; and annual bloodborn pathogens.
- Sixty-four (64) individuals participated in the PREA safety questionnaire. These individuals were candidates for employment or internal staff promotions.
- The Virginia Beach City Public School teachers contributed to making our programs successful, risk-free of sexual abuse and sexual harassment, and offered a continuous environment for learning. There were eleven (11) returning teachers that participated in the PREA refresher training and five (5) reoccurring contractors who received PREA information.
- The facility took every opportunity to conduct teachable moments, model appropriate actions and behaviors, and conducted ninety-six (96) unannounced rounds ensuring PREA compliance.

**VBJDC Partnership:**

- The VBJDC has taken extraordinary measures to build an excellent working relationship with the Virginia Beach Police Department/Special Victims Unit, YWCA, and Human Services Department/Child Protective Services, and with Chesapeake Forensic nurses (SANEs) for the purpose of creating a safe, humane, and secure environment for all residents that is free of sexual abuse and sexual harassment.
- The VBJDC PREA Coordinator is a member of the Hampton Roads Sexual Assault Response Team (SART).

**Conclusion:**

- The VBJDC participated in one (1) successful PREA audit conducted by a certified PREA auditor during the required three (3) year period in 2022.
- The VBJDC will continue to enhance program deliverables, ensuring responsiveness to its diverse population of residents and to their individual needs.

Please do not hesitate to contact Christopher D. Haws, the VBJDC Superintendent, at 757-385-1220 or by email at [chaws@vb.gov](mailto:chaws@vb.gov) should you have any questions.

Respectfully Submitted,



Aileen L. Smith  
Human Services Director



Christopher D. Haws  
VBJDC Superintendent

CDH/voc

CC: Charlene Collins, Deputy Director of Social Services  
Christopher D. Haws, Acting VBJDC PREA Coordinator

