

Working Alternatives Incorporated

Annual PREA Report

Brawley RRC (9WD)

April 2021

(Amended September 2022 – Underlined & Italicized Below)

In late 2018, Working Alternatives contracted with PREAmerica to certify the Brawley RRC, contracted under the auspices of the Federal Bureau of Prisons, was PREA compliant.

This report memorializes the RRC's steps to remain compliant, and the planned steps to enhance compliance.

This report also provides direction on where and how this report can be accessed.

Access to the Report

A copy of this report will be stored in the Facility Director's Office and made available upon request.

The Facility Director will ensure that PREA bulletin boards reflect that the report may be viewed in the Director's Office and ordered by writing to the Facility's PREA Coordinator at g.weiss@workingalternatives.org.

A copy of this report will also be forwarded to the Federal Bureau of Prisons Contract Oversight Specialist and certification of the report's availability will be sent to PREAmerica.

PREA Implementation

Working Alternative's has continued to enforce a zero-tolerance standard for sexual abuse and sexual harassment. The Facility continues to use training materials, handbooks, logs, and signage to keep the standard of zero tolerance relevant with staff, volunteers, vendors, contractors, visitors, and residents.

New employees continue to receive training on PREA during their orientation, and annual refresher training is provided to all staff.

Residents continue to receive orientation to PREA upon their arrival to the Facility, which includes the available points of contact to report allegations of abuse or harassment. The signage in the RRC is routinely updated when changes to the points of contact or community resources occur.

The Facility employs a designated PREA Liaison to assess residents for risk of abuse, and to provide victim resources. The Liaison, Facility Director Yvette Raygoza, also continues to serve as an investigator if allegations arise of sexual abuse and sexual harassment. There were (2) PREA related allegations of sexual harassment/sexual abuse during this reporting period. Following administrative investigations, the allegations were classified as unfounded and unsubstantiated. *During the last (3) years, (1) additional allegation of sexual*

abuse was lodged and classified as unfounded, and (1) additional allegation of sexual harassment was lodged and classified as unsubstantiated.

The Facility also continues to deploy a designated PREA Coordinator and Chief Operations Officer Grant Weiss serves in this capacity.

Since the last annual report, the following PREA related activities occurred:

- A Memorandum of Understanding was updated and signed between the RRC and the new Chief of the Brawley Police Department to enhance lines of communication and ensure evidence collection protocols are in place.
- A Memorandum of Understanding was updated and signed between the RRC and Pioneers Memorial Hospital to ensure linkage to a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner.
- Facility leadership affirmed first responder steps during monthly staff meetings.
- The Facility converted to an electronic data base to secure, store, and restrict access to confidential resident data, including individual risk of abuse screenings.
- The Facility ensured residents remained tied to family, counseling, and other community resources during the Covid-19 crisis by coordinating activities through computers and other virtual devices.
- The Facility installed an additional toll-free telephone/intercom on the second floor which provides residents access to staff and improved confidentiality.
- The Facility installed motion sensors in the parking lot and adjoining sidewalk to provide greater security around the Facility premises.

Future Plans

- The Facility plans to expand its number of facility investigators to ensure trained staff remain available to perform thorough administrative investigations when necessary.
- Facility leadership plans to schedule a Mental Health 1st Aide class for continued development of staff's understanding of trauma, and techniques to handle trauma related behaviors.
- The Facility will resume on-grounds visitation, including the use of the private family space, within 90 days of entering Phase III of the Bureau of Prisons Covid-19 protocols.
- Facility staff will participate in a "Denim Day" event in conjunction with the Sure Helpline Crisis center to raise awareness about sexual assault.
- The Facility will be audited by PREAmerica in May 2021 to seek continued certification that operations meet PREA standards.