

## **Working Alternatives Incorporated**

### **Annual PREA Report**

#### **Brawley RRC (9WD)**

**2023**

In 2021, Working Alternatives contracted with PREAmerica to certify the Brawley RRC was PREA compliant. Verification of the certification can be located on the facility's website, [www.workingalternatives.org](http://www.workingalternatives.org).

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, ordered by writing to the Facility's PREA Coordinator at [g.weiss@workingalternatives.org](mailto:g.weiss@workingalternatives.org), or accessed via the facility website, [www.workingalternatives.org](http://www.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 at the Facility, which includes a posting of the available points of contact to report allegations of abuse or harassment. The signage in the RRC is 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 (3) reported PREA allegations during this reporting period. One of the allegations was reported to have occurred at another facility before the resident's arrival to Brawley RRC and the information was forwarded to that facility for disposition. Another allegation was investigated administratively, and the outcome resulted in classifications of unfounded and unsubstantiated.

And the third allegation was referred to law enforcement for investigation and a disposition is pending. During the last (3) years, there was (1) additional allegation of sexual abuse which was classified as unfounded.

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

Since the last annual report:

- Memorandums of Understanding remain intact with the Brawley Police Department, Pioneers Memorial Hospital and SureHelpline to ensure PREA related services are available.
- Facility leadership continues to affirm first responder steps and coordinated action plans during monthly staff meetings.
- The Facility installed additional surveillance cameras to increase the swath of video coverage.
- The Facility made a financial donation to SureHelpline which provides rape crisis resources to the Brawley community.

#### **Future Plans**

- The Facility plans to expand its number of facility investigators to ensure trained staff remain available to perform administrative investigations.
- The Facility plans to seek certification of PREA compliance in 2024 through an audit by PREAmerica.