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SHERIFF'S OFFICE



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Data Collection Summary 2015

In the year beginning from the date January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2015 The Cherokee County Sheriff's Office had four reports of incidents of sexual abuse or sexual harassment. All four reports were fully investigated and were found that none were substantiated. Three were found to be unsubstantiated and one was concluded as unfounded.

There was one report in which alleged Inmate -on- Inmate Sexual Harassment. The incident was reported to Administrative Staff by the alleged victim and was reported to have occurred in an area of the facility which is regularly monitored. The inmate who alleged the incident reported that there were five perpetrators who allegedly were harassing him with derogatory comments of a sexual nature. The investigation concluded that after interviews were conducted with other inmates and staff the inmate reporting the allegations was having some issues with others in the living unit where he was housed and that this was an attempt to be moved to an alternative housing area of the facility. An administrative decision was made to house the alleged victim in an alternative housing unit. The allegations were found to be unsubstantiated. There were no further reports or allegations once the alleged victim was moved.

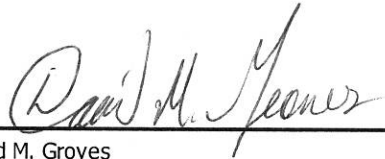
Another report in which allegedly involved Inmate -on- Inmate Sexual Harassment was reported by the alleged victim in a sealed envelope and submitted to Administrative Staff. The report was reported to have occurred in an area of the facility which is regularly monitored as was the previous report mentioned above. The inmate who alleged the incident reported dealing with voyeurism and harassment by others in her housing unit and from the housing unit next door. The report alleged that there were Inmates next door yelling slanders and banging on the walls directed towards the victim reporting. Also the alleged victim reported that there were two Inmates who were watching the alleged victim shower and making comments about the alleged victims' body. The alleged victim requested to be moved to an alternative location but after further interview during investigation chose not to and reported that the harassment and voyeurism had stopped. The alleged victim also reported that the perpetrators or Inmates who

were involved in the harassment and voyeurism had been moved to another housing area in the facility and there were no further issues. The investigation concluded and found the case to be unsubstantiated.

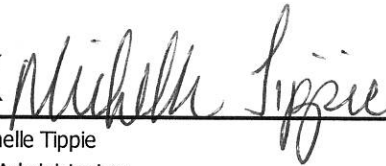
There were two reports in which alleged Staff Misconduct. Both incidents were reported by the alleged victims. One incident was reported to Administrative Staff and the other one was reported to a CO/Front line staff member. Both incidents occurred in areas of the facility in which are regularly monitored, that are in range of video and that can be filmed by video surveillance. Another common factor included that both incidents occurred on a Saturday. One of the reports alleged that the staff member used inappropriate language when informing an inmate about taking his pictures for the booking process. The victim alleged that the staff member informed him that he needed a full body picture. When the alleged victim questioned the staff member further the staff member informed him that he needed it for further identification purposes and also replied with "just think of it like a movie picture." After further review, investigation and statements from witnesses the case was found to be unsubstantiated. The other report alleged that a staff member touched the private area of an inmate. After further review of the camera footage from that housing location the alleged staff member was observed removing an item from the alleged victim that was contraband. The staff member was observed quickly removing the item in which the alleged victim had placed on his lap area while seated. The staff member who removed the item was of the same sex and it was made clear on the camera that the staff member was not doing anything outside of his job duties in removing the contraband. The investigation was found to be unfounded. In both cases of alleged staff misconduct the alleged victims appear to be upset with the officers about a given situation and are filing the reports in a form or means of retaliation.

The nature and findings of investigations from the above alleged reports in the year dating from January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2015 clearly show that all four incidents of sexual abuse and sexual harassment cases for the Cherokee County Sheriff's Office were investigated regardless of the extent. All cases have some similarities but none were found to substantiate extensive changes in policies or procedures for the facility. The necessary changes and updates that are needed or that have been recommended by the auditor are currently being made. The necessary changes and updates for training for all staff, contractors and volunteers and their duties to report incidents of sexual harassment and the definitions of sexual harassment in accordance to the standards are currently being made. This year was the first ever PREA audit for the facility. The first year of collecting data pursuant with the questions from the Survey of Sexual Violence and the data was sent to the Department of Justice. There is no data for comparison from the previous year. The Sheriff, Under-Sheriff, Jail Administrator, Assistant Jail Administrator, Chief Detective, and PREA Coordinator all have met and discussed the Staffing Plan and areas where incidents of sexual harassment and sexual abuse could occur and have allegedly occurred in the past year. All have discussed, considered and made some recommendations or actions they may see to benefit in prevention for these areas and potential

blind spots in the facility. The Cherokee County Sheriff's Office is dedicated in making its best efforts towards full compliance to all of the PREA standards.

X 

David M. Groves
Sheriff

X 

Michelle Tippie
Jail Administrator