County of Ocean
Department of Juvenile Services

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There have been no redactions to this document

Ocean County Juvenile Services

Annual PREA Data Review Meeting/Corrective Action Plan

March 12, 2021

Ocean County Juvenile Services held its annual review of the Juvenile Detention Centers PREA incident data for calendar year 2020, on March 12, 2021. The data review was held remotely via email due to ongoing pandemic restrictions with respect to in person meetings. Review participants included Juvenile Services Director Jon Carman, Chief of Administrative Services Rick Seitz and PREA Coordinator Edward Turnbach. Ocean County Juvenile Detention had 1 formal PREA allegation and investigation during calendar year 2020. The investigation into the alleged incident was conducted thoroughly and without delay or obstruction. The outcome of the investigation revealed that the complaint was without merit. Key to the findings of this investigation was footage of the incident made available through the updated camera system. The final report of this incident is on file with the PREA Coordinator. Staffing levels for the facility met the criteria established by the Juvenile Justice Commission of the State of New Jersey and by the guidelines set forth in the Official Staffing Policy of The Ocean

County Juvenile Detention Center. The Detention Center was at full staff as defined by those policies during the entirety of 2020. A review of Staffing Levels for the current calendar year determined that no changes to those levels are needed, based on the average daily population count for the facility. The upgraded CCTV System which went in to service in 2017, continues to perform in a manner which is sufficient to protect the interests of all residents and staff members of the facility. The facilities tri-annual PREA Audit was completed during December of 2019 by an independent auditor contracted through Juvenile Services. The findings of that report indicated that the department met all of the criteria for full compliance with the law. Recommendations as a result of that audit were also instituted in order to fine tune the agency policies relating to PREA. Specifically, all employees are to formally announce their presence when entering any unit that is housing members of the opposite gender. That recommendation was placed in motion through remediation training and additional signage in all housing units. An audit of this policy will take place quarterly beginning in March of 2021. The Audit Procedure was delayed from the originally scheduled date of March 2020 because of pandemic restrictions which prevented visitors outside of the everyday staff from entering the secure facility.