



Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Annual PREA Report

Prepared by: Pat Drake, VOA PREA Coordinator

Reviewed and approved by: Lynn Sullivan, President & CEO

Completed for the time period of July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021

Volunteers of America of Western New York, Inc. (VOA) is committed to meeting the requirements of the Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003 (PREA) and ensuring the safety and security of residents/inmates and staff in our facilities. This report is a summary of our PREA compliance efforts throughout the fiscal year 2020-2021.

Following is a summary of the reports received during the period of July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021.

Inmate – on - Inmate Sexual Harassment Allegations			
<i>Substantiated</i>	<i>Unsubstantiated</i>	<i>Unfounded</i>	<i>Under Investigation</i>
0	2	0	0

Inmate – on - Inmate Sexual Abuse Allegations			
<i>Substantiated</i>	<i>Unsubstantiated</i>	<i>Unfounded</i>	<i>Under Investigation</i>
0	0	0	0

Staff, Volunteer, Contractor–on-Inmate Sexual Harassment Allegations			
<i>Substantiated</i>	<i>Unsubstantiated</i>	<i>Unfounded</i>	<i>Under Investigation</i>
0	1	1	0

Staff, Volunteer, Contractor-on-Inmate Sexual Abuse Allegations			
<i>Substantiated</i>	<i>Unsubstantiated</i>	<i>Unfounded</i>	<i>Under Investigation</i>
0	0	0	0

There were four incidents reported during the time period. Two incidents were reported at VOA’s Community Based Residential Program (CBRP) for parolees in Binghamton, and two incidents were reported at VOA’s Residential Reentry Center (RRC) in Rochester, New York. Two allegations were made by residents about other residents. One situation was at the CBRP and the other was at the RRC. Investigations determined that both of the allegations were unsubstantiated. The third report was made by a resident at the RRC about a staff member, and the allegation determined it was unsubstantiated. The fourth report was made by a staff member who observed a possible situation involving a resident and a staff member at the CBRP. An investigation was conducted and a determination of unfounded was made.



These four allegations are an increase over the prior year, when only one allegation was made. However, it is consistent with the number of allegations reported in prior years and is not a significant increase. In our 2018-2019 operating year, we had three PREA reports. No trends have been identified in looking at the situations during the past several years.

VOA attributes the low number of reports as well as the unsubstantiated and unfounded determinations to our focus on staff training, prevention efforts, and our zero-tolerance stance towards all forms of sexual abuse and sexual harassment. Both residents and staff are aware about how to report any concerns.

VOA has comprehensive policies and procedures in place to prevent sexual harassment and abuse, and we respond to reports/incidents immediately. Both staff and residents receive on-going education on how to identify sexual abuse and harassment and how to report suspected or observed incidents. VOA will continue an ongoing monitoring of complaints and will ensure appropriate action is taken if any trends are identified. In addition, VOA conducts a review of every situation once the investigation is completed and a determination is made, including those situations that are determined to be unfounded or unsubstantiated. The review identifies any improvements that can be made to reduce the possibility of a similar situation from occurring in the future in an effort to prevent any type of sexual abuse or harassment and ensure the safety and well-being of residents.