

## The Connection's Community Justice Service Area PREA Annual Report 2018

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### Background

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The Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) was unanimously passed in 2003 by the United States Congress and signed into federal law in September, 2014. The purpose of the law is to provide a set of standards to prevent, detect, and eliminate prison rape. These standards apply to The Connection's community confinement facilities within the Community Justice Service Area. In response to these standards, The Connection developed core policy establishing zero-tolerance for sexual abuse and sexual harassment and additional policies addressing the response to and reporting of all such allegations. These policies apply to the following programs: Sierra Center Pre-Trial, Sierra Center Work Release, Roger Sherman House, Cochegan House, Connection House, Eddy Center, and The January Center.

The PREA Coordinator works closely with the Department of Corrections, Community Supervision Support Services, and the Connecticut State Police to respond to all allegations involving client sexual abuse, client sexual harassment, staff sexual misconduct, and staff sexual harassment. Staff and clients are educated on the agency's zero tolerance policy, the multiple avenues for reporting allegations, the appropriate response to allegations, and the agency's zero tolerance policy on retaliation. Additionally, these programs, with the exception of The January Center, have a Memorandum of Understanding with the Connecticut Alliance to End Sexual Violence to provide services, support, advocacy, and counseling for clients who report that they have experienced sexual harassment or sexual abuse regardless of the outcome of any investigation. The services provided by the Alliance are of no charge to the client.

As an annual requirement, the PREA Coordinator reports all allegations and findings to the Department of Justice. Below you will find the definitions for the results of allegations. Additionally, the following pages include the Department of Justice's definitions of the allegation category with tables including totals of reported allegations by category.

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### Year in Review: 2018

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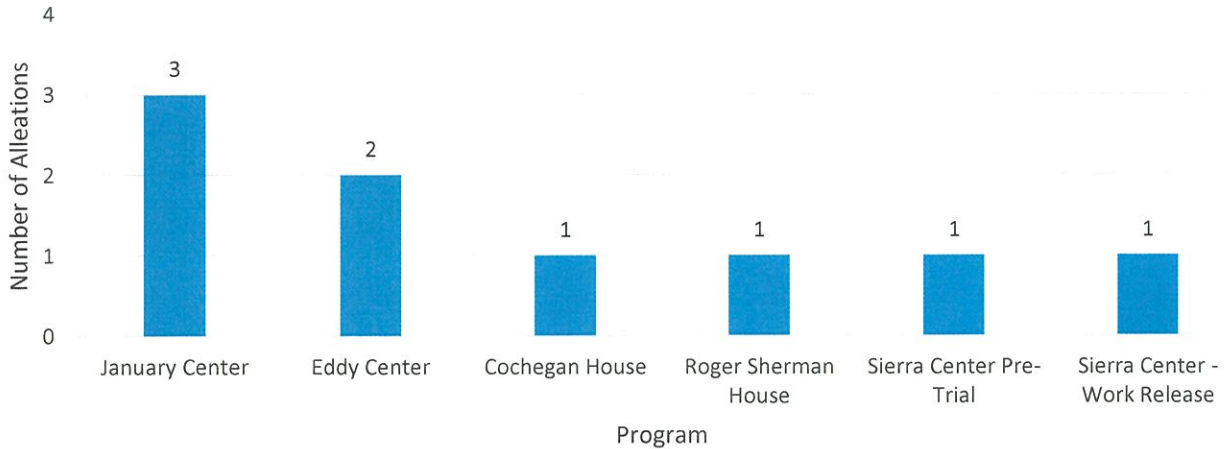
In 2018, there were 2 PREA Audits conducted, one at the January Center and one at the Sierra Pre-Trial program. Each program was found compliant with the PREA standards and successfully passed the audit.

In 2018, there were a total of nine (9) PREA allegations in the Community Justice Residential programs. Of those nine, three (3) were at The January Center, two (2) were at the Eddy Center, one (1) was at Cochegan House, one (1) was at the Roger Sherman House, one (1) was at Sierra Center Pre-Trial, and one (1) was at Sierra Center Work Release. The nature of the allegations and findings are summarized in the tables below.



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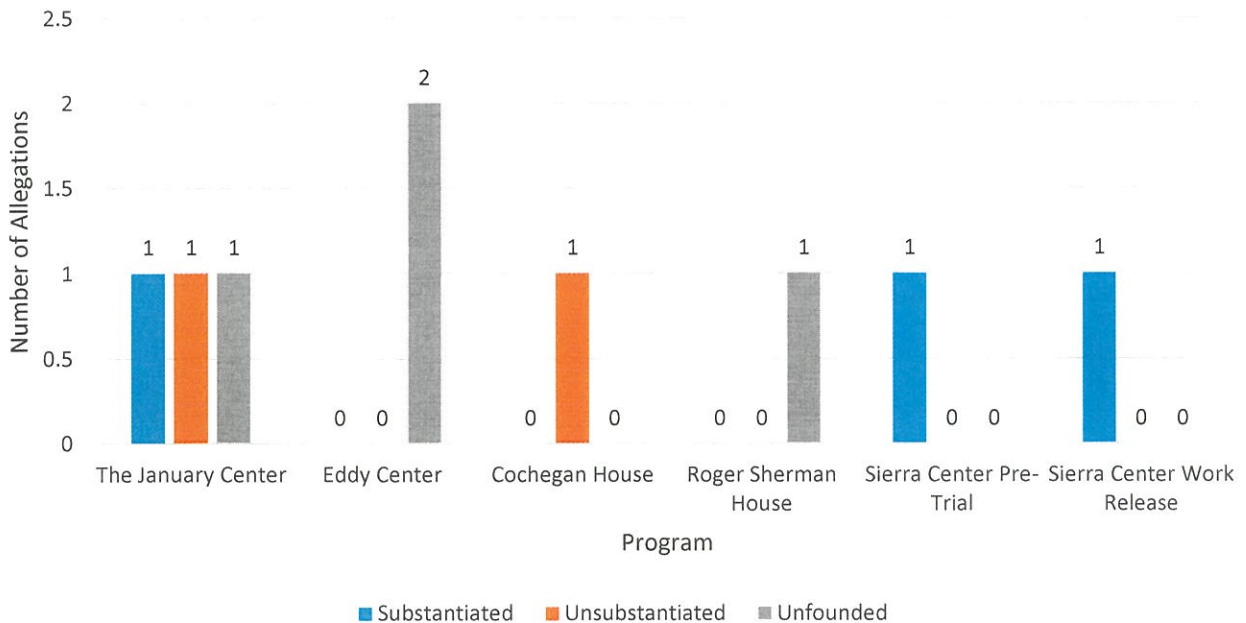
### Total Allegations 2018



### Outcome Definitions

- **Substantiated allegation:** The allegation was determined to have occurred by a preponderance of evidence.
- **Unsubstantiated allegation:** The evidence was insufficient to make a final determination that the allegation was true or false.
- **Unfounded allegation:** The allegation was determined not to have occurred.

### Total Allegations by Program 2018

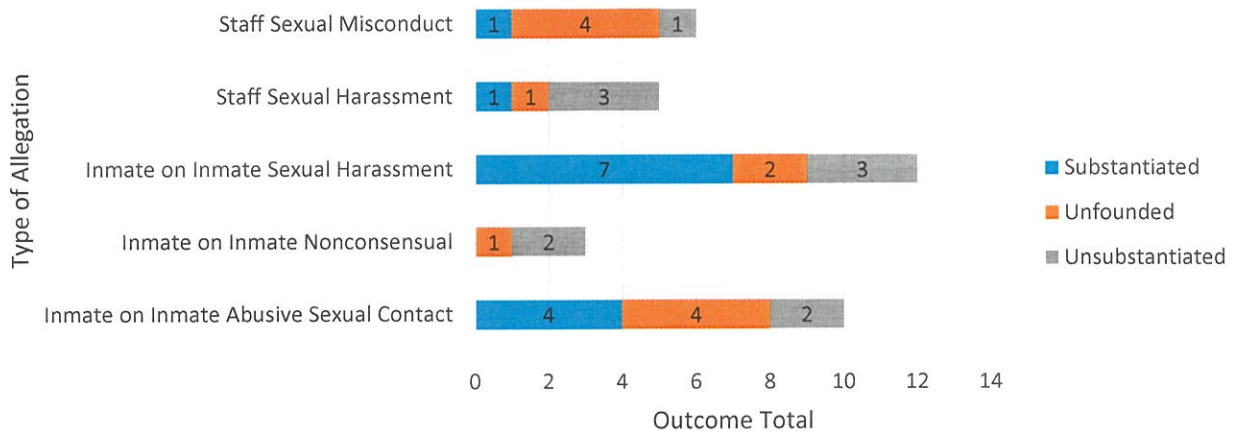




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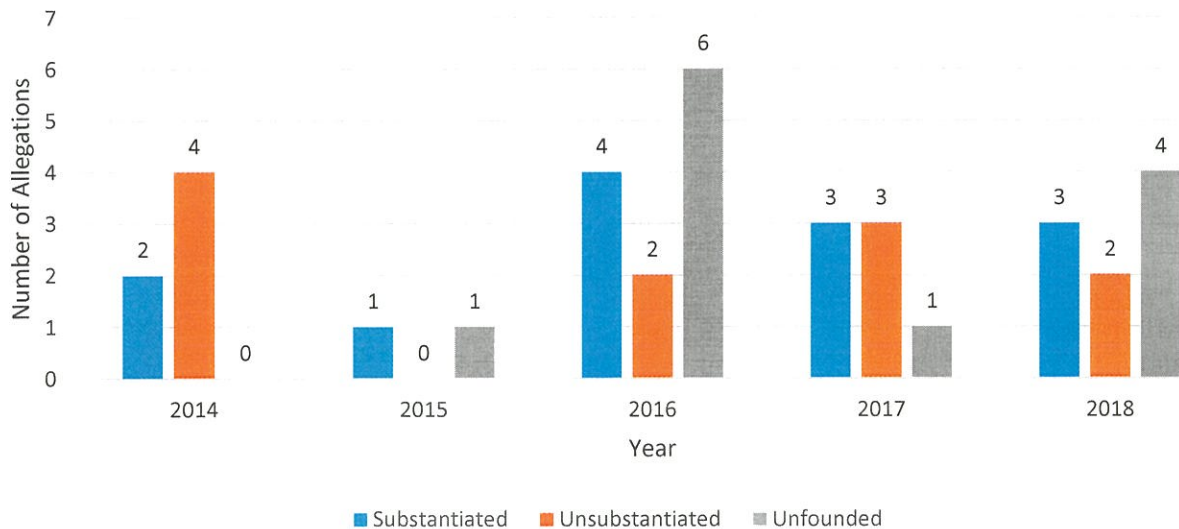
## Total Allegations by Category and Result 2014-2018

### PREA Allegations by Type and Result 2014-2018



The 2018 allegations were almost split 50/50 between client on client (5 allegations) and staff on client (4 allegations). One (1) staff on client allegation was substantiated in 2018. With continued staff training it is hoped that instances of staff on client sexual misconduct and staff on client sexual harassment will decrease and become a smaller percentage of all allegations.

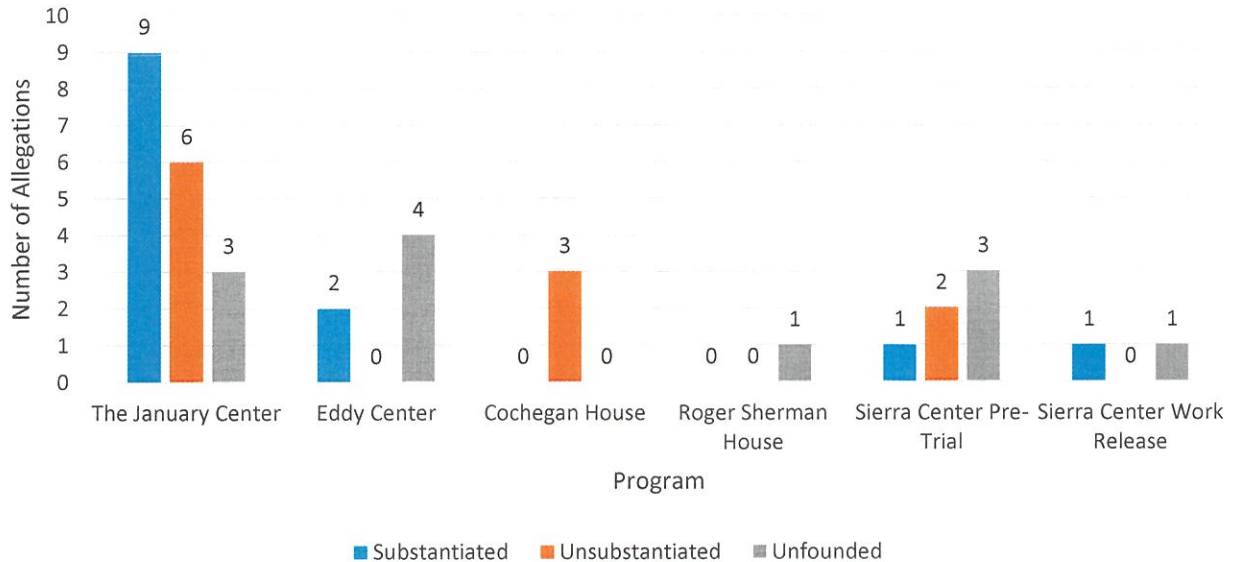
### PREA Allegations by Year and Result 2014-2018





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PREA Allegations by Program and Result 2014-2018



**Category Definitions**

- Client on Client Nonconsensual Sexual Acts**

Sexual contact with any person without his or her consent, or with a person who is unable to consent AND contact between the penis and the vulva or penis and the anus including penetration, however slight OR contact between the mouth and penis, vulva, or anus OR penetration of the anal or genital opening of another person, however slight, by a hand, finger, object, or other instrument.

Client on Client Nonconsensual Sexual Acts						
Finding	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Total
Substantiated	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unsubstantiated	0	0	1	1	0	2
Unfounded	0	1	1	0	0	2
<b>Total</b>	0	1	2	1	0	4

- Client on Client Abusive Sexual Contact**

Sexual contact with any person without his or her consent, or with a person who is unable to consent AND intentional touching, either directly or through clothing, of the genitalia, anus, groin, breast, inner thigh, or buttocks of any person. Does not include any incident in which the sexual contact was incidental to a physical altercation.

Client on Client Abusive Sexual Contact						
Finding	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Total
Substantiated	1	1	1	1	0	4
Unsubstantiated	1	1	0	0	1	3
Unfounded	0	0	1	0	2	3
<b>Total</b>	2	2	2	0	3	9

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- **Client on Client Sexual Harassment**

Repeated and unwelcome sexual advances, request for sexual favors, or verbal comments, gestures, or actions of a derogatory or offensive sexual nature by one client directed toward another.

Client on Client Sexual Harassment						
Finding	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Total
Substantiated	1	0	2	2	2	8
Unsubstantiated	3	0	1	0	0	4
Unfounded	0	1	2	0	0	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>13</b>

- **Staff on Client Sexual Misconduct**

Any behavior or act of a sexual nature directed toward a client by an employee, volunteer, contractor, official visitor or other agency representative (exclude family, friend, or other visitors). Consensual and nonconsensual sexual acts include - Intentional touching, either directly or through clothing, of the genitalia, anus, groin, breast, inner thigh, or buttocks that is unrelated to official duties or with the intent to abuse, arouse, or gratify sexual desire OR completed, attempted, threatened, or requested sexual acts OR occurrences of indecent exposure, invasion of privacy, or staff voyeurism for reasons unrelated to official duties or for sexual gratification.

Staff on Client Sexual Misconduct						
Finding	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Total
Substantiated	2	0	1	0	0	3
Unsubstantiated	0	0	0	1	0	1
Unfounded	0	0	1	1	2	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>8</b>

- **Staff on Client Sexual Harassment**

Repeated verbal statements, comments, or gestures of a sexual nature to a client by an employee, volunteer, contractor, official visitor, or other agency representative (exclude family, friends, or other visitors) Include - Demeaning references to gender; or sexually suggestive or derogatory comments about body of clothing OR repeated profane or obscene language or gestures.

Staff on Client Sexual Harassment						
Finding	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Total
Substantiated	0	0	0	0	1	1
Unsubstantiated	1	0	0	1	1	3
Unfounded	0	0	1	0	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>

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### Total Allegations by Program 2014-2018

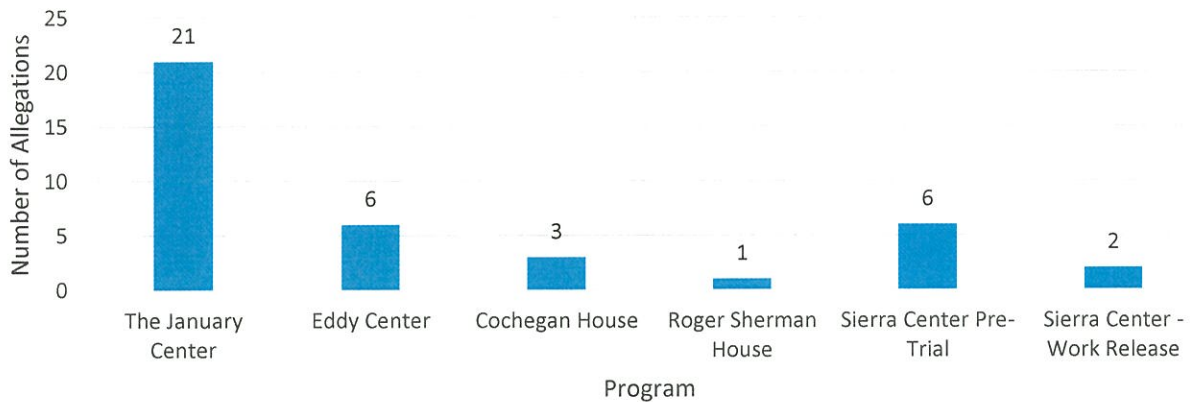
It is not surprising that the majority of PREA allegations arise at the January Center, as that program is intended to serve only individuals who have been convicted of crimes of a sexual nature. The program tied with the second highest number of PREA allegations is the Sierra Center DOC Mental Health unit,



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which houses clients with very complicated psychiatric and criminal justice histories. The other program with the second highest number of allegations, Eddy Center, has a high turnover rate of clients as they are a Transitional Housing program. Overall, the fact that there have been PREA allegations at each of The Connection’s community release programs is also indicative of the development of systems and processes that facilitate reporting.

### Total Allegations by Program 2014-2018



The January Center		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
<b>Category</b>	Client on Client Nonconsensual Sexual Abuse	0	0	1	0	0
	Client on Client Abusive Sexual Contact	2	2	1	0	1
	Client on Client Sexual Harassment	2	1	3	2	1
	Staff on Client Sexual Misconduct	0	0	0	1	1
	Staff on Client Sexual Harassment	0	0	0	1	0
<b>Result</b>	Substantiated	2	1	3	2	1
	Unsubstantiated	2	0	1	2	1
	Unfounded	0	2	1	0	1
<b>Total</b>		4	3	5	4	3

Eddy Center		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
<b>Category</b>	Client on Client Nonconsensual Sexual Abuse	0	0	0	0	0
	Client on Client Abusive Sexual Contact	0	0	0	1	2
	Client on Client Sexual Harassment	0	0	1	0	0
	Staff on Client Sexual Misconduct	0	0	1	1	0
	Staff on Client Sexual Harassment	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Result</b>	Substantiated	0	0	1	1	0
	Unsubstantiated	0	0	0	0	0
	Unfounded	0	0	1	1	2
<b>Total</b>		0	0	2	2	2



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Cochegan House		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
<b>Category</b>	Client on Client Nonconsensual Sexual Abuse	0	0	0	1	0
	Client on Client Abusive Sexual Contact	0	0	0	0	0
	Client on Client Sexual Harassment	0	0	0	0	0
	Staff on Client Sexual Misconduct	0	0	0	0	0
	Staff on Client Sexual Harassment	1	0	0	0	1
<b>Result</b>	Substantiated	0	0	0	0	0
	Unsubstantiated	1	0	0	1	1
	Unfounded	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>

Roger Sherman House		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
<b>Category</b>	Client on Client Nonconsensual Sexual Abuse	0	0	0	0	0
	Client on Client Abusive Sexual Contact	0	0	0	0	0
	Client on Client Sexual Harassment	0	0	0	0	0
	Staff on Client Sexual Misconduct	1	0	0	0	1
	Staff on Client Sexual Harassment	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Result</b>	Substantiated	1	0	0	0	0
	Unsubstantiated	0	0	0	0	0
	Unfounded	0	0	0	0	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>

Sierra Center Pre - Trial		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
<b>Category</b>	Client on Client Nonconsensual Sexual Abuse	0	1	1	0	0
	Client on Client Abusive Sexual Contact	0	0	1	0	0
	Client on Client Sexual Harassment	2	0	1	0	1
	Staff on Client Sexual Misconduct	0	0	1	0	0
	Staff on Client Sexual Harassment	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Result</b>	Substantiated	0	0	0	0	1
	Unsubstantiated	2	0	1	0	0
	Unfounded	0	1	3	0	0
<b>Total</b>		<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>

Sierra Center Work Release		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
<b>Category</b>	Client on Client Nonconsensual Sexual Abuse	0	0	0	0	0
	Client on Client Abusive Sexual Contact	0	0	0	0	0
	Client on Client Sexual Harassment	0	0	0	0	0
	Staff on Client Sexual Misconduct	0	0	0	0	0
	Staff on Client Sexual Harassment	0	0	1	0	1
<b>Result</b>	Substantiated	0	0	0	0	1
	Unsubstantiated	0	0	0	0	0
	Unfounded	0	0	1	0	0
<b>Total</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>



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Connection House		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Category	Client on Client Nonconsensual Sexual Abuse	0	0	0	0	0
	Client on Client Abusive Sexual Contact	0	0	0	0	0
	Client on Client Sexual Harassment	0	0	0	0	0
	Staff on Client Sexual Misconduct	1	0	0	0	0
	Staff on Client Sexual Harassment	0	0	0	0	0
Result	Substantiated	1	0	0	0	0
	Unsubstantiated	0	0	0	0	0
	Unfounded	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<i>Connection House was closed on January 2, 2018 as a male Substance Abuse Treatment Program and re-opened on February 1, 2018 as a female Work Release Program.</i>						

**Identified Problem Areas and Corrective Actions for 2018**

The PREA standards require a “Sexual Abuse Incident Review” to be conducted within 30 days of the determination of the outcome of all substantiated and unsubstantiated allegations. Of the nine (9) allegations this year, three (3) were substantiated and two (2) were unsubstantiated. The five (5) Sexual Abuse Incident Reviews did not result in any corrective action plans. A few recommendations were made at the time of the review to include appropriate communication and response procedures for staff reporting allegations.

**Assessment of Progress**

The PREA Coordinator will continue providing training at orientation for new staff and yearly refresher trainings for all staff working in this agency’s community confinement facilities. Additionally, staff will continue to adhere to the agency’s PREA Policies and Procedures and remain compliant with the PREA standards. Three (3) PREA Audits will be conducted in 2019, one each at Cohegan House, Eddy Center, and Connection House. Cohegan House’s audit was scheduled to be completed in 2018, however, the program remained in a temporary location until the first quarter of 2019. The funder and the PREA Auditor both approved delaying the Cohegan House audit until the program is in its permanent space by April 2019.

  
PREA Coordinator

1/14/2019  
Date

  
Chief Executive Officer Signature

1.14.19  
Date