

**JUVENILE JUSTICE CENTER
16TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
COURT SERVICES
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT/PREA COORDINATOR**



**PRISON RAPE ELIMINATION ACT (PREA)
ANNUAL REPORT 2024**

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Facility Introduction

The Kane County Juvenile Justice Center (JJC) is a detention facility for juveniles between the ages of 10 through 20. The facility was opened in 1997 and has a rated capacity of 80 beds. The facility was constructed to allow for a future expansion of 80 additional beds. The Kane County JJC is a regional detention facility and currently has intergovernmental agreements with the eleven counties of DuPage, Kendall, McHenry, Ogle, Lee, Whiteside, Stephenson, Carroll, Mason, Montgomery and Shelby. The facility is composed of four living units, educational classrooms, a medical unit, indoor and outdoor physical recreation, intake and administration areas. The facility provides secure detention services for both male and female juveniles who have been accused of serious crimes or who have been sentenced to the facility for a period of time in accordance with the Juvenile Court Act.

The function of the JJC is to provide safe, humane and secure temporary custody for juveniles pending court proceedings or those who have been adjudicated on delinquent charges. Juveniles are detained through court orders, warrants and at the request of local police departments if deemed appropriate via a screening tool.

JJC Youth Counselors are court-appointed officers with a minimum education of a bachelor's degree. They are responsible for maintaining the security of the facility and ensuring the safe and secure custody of each resident. Youth Counselors also monitor the behavior of residents and provide for their physical and emotional well-being.

The JJC uses a Cognitive Behavioral Training (CBT) program which is an evidence-based model for describing, understanding and changing thinking and behavior. It operates on the fundamental assumption that thinking and attitudes influence our behavior and therefore, we can change behavior by changing thought patterns and attitudes.

Facility Mission

The mission of the Kane County JJC is to provide an educationally conducive environment, which is secure, based on legal standards and community values.

Facility PREA Mission

The Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003 requires all confinement institutions to create safer environments for all persons in confinement. The final National Standards to prevent, detect, and respond to prison rape were released by the United States Department of Justice on May 17, 2012.

The Kane County JJC has a zero-tolerance policy for sexual misconduct involving residents and seeks to provide a safe, humane, secure environment, free from sexual violence, misconduct, harassment or retaliation. The JJC is committed to responding to all allegations of sexual abuse and sexual harassment. Newly-admitted residents are provided with information about PREA, including several different ways to report abuse and harassment. Sexual misconduct is prohibited and subject to administrative discipline and/or criminal sanctions. The JJC's policy is intended to prevent, detect and respond to allegations in a thorough and timely manner. The JJC will protect all residents, employees and third parties who report sexual abuse or harassment from retaliation by other inmates or employees.

Purpose

The Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) is a federal law that prohibits sexual abuse and sexual harassment within correctional settings, including juvenile detention centers. PREA promotes best practices for prevention, detection and response to sexual misconduct within the facility. The PREA Act requires that our facility collect and analyzes data in order to assess and improve the effectiveness of its sexual abuse and harassment prevention, detection and response policies, practices and training. (Standard 115.388)

This report is completed in order to identify problem areas in order to take corrective action, compare data with preceding years and to assess our facility's progress in addressing sexual misconduct. (Standard 115.388)

Resident Reporting

Residents may report sexual abuse or sexual harassment in several ways while in the JJC's custody:

1. Tell any staff member, contractor or volunteer
2. Submit a grievance or emergency grievance to management
3. Report directly to the PREA Coordinator or PREA Compliance Supervisor
4. Use an Ameelio tablet to contact Family Service Association (FSA)
5. Tell a parent, guardian, attorney, caseworker or probation officer for third-party reporting

Third-Party Reporting (note: All contact numbers are posted in all housing units and on the JJC's website)

1. Report directly to the JJC PREA Coordinator (phone or email)
2. Call Family Service Association (FSA) at 847-695-3680

3. Submit a Third-Party Grievance Reporting Form (English and Spanish versions available) through the link on the JJC's website at:
<http://courtservices.countyofkane.org/Pages/JJC/PREA-Compliance.aspx>
4. Complete a grievance form available in the JJC's lobby and place it in the secure "Comments" lockbox

The Kane County Sheriff's Office investigates all allegations of sexual abuse.

Victim Services

Any resident who has been a victim of sexual abuse or sexual harassment may use an Amealio tablet to report sexual misconduct perpetrated against them or any other resident of the JJC, or they may notify any staff member to receive sexual abuse crisis counseling services from a therapist at the Community Crisis Center. In addition, there is a full-time Mental Health Coordinator and two full-time mental health clinicians at the JJC.

This report is intended to provide information for calendar year 2024.

Facility Achievements in 2023

- Kane County JJC successfully completed its third PREA audit in February 2023. Audit services were provided by a DOJ-certified auditor from the John Howard Association. The JJC continues to enjoy its PREA-compliant certification and is currently one of only 3 PREA-certified county-operated juvenile detention facilities in Illinois.
- The JJC continues to use the Relias online training platform that contains numerous training opportunities, including PREA training. We also continue to conduct new staff PREA training and annual in-house training for all staff members, including volunteers and contractors.
- With the approval of Court Services Executive Director Lisa Aust and Superintendent Mike Davis, PREA Coordinator Amy Sierra reorganized the PREA team at the JJC by designating Crystal Zynda as the JJC PREA Compliance Supervisor, who assists the PREA Coordinator with monthly/annual PREA duties, investigations and assumes PREA responsibilities when the PREA Coordinator is not available. Mental Health Coordinator Pamela Ely was designated as the Back-Up PREA Investigator and assists when Ms. Sierra or Ms. Zynda are unavailable.
- Ms. Sierra and Ms. Zynda joined the National PREA Coordinators Working Group and attended the National PREA Coordinators Conference in Washington D.C. in July of 2023.
- The JJC continues to contract with the Community Crisis Center (CCC) to provide residents with access to outside victim advocates to make third-party reports and/or receive emotional support services.

- The JJC continues to contract with the Kane County Sheriff's Office to conduct criminal investigations if an allegation of sexual abuse or sexual assault is made. The JJC PREA team established PREA investigation protocols with the Special Victims Unit to ensure that all investigations are processed by the same group of officers who are trained on the JJC's protocols.
- The JJC continues to contract with Northwestern Delnor Hospital to provide SANE exams as needed.
- The JJC entered into a contract with Ameelio Connect to create a web-based format for residents to place anonymous, untracked and unmonitored PREA reports to our external reporting agency.
- The JJC entered into a contract with Family Service Association to serve as our external reporting agency and established protocols to ensure that the JJC is immediately notified when reports of sexual abuse or harassment are received.
- The JJC enrolled Ms. Zynda and three (3) senior youth counselors in a Sexual Assault Advocate Training program through CCC so they may serve as sexual assault victim advocates.

Facility Achievements in 2024

- The JJC continues to use the Relias online training platform that contains PREA training. We also continue to conduct new-staff PREA training and annual in-house training for all JJC staff members, including volunteers and contractors.
- Ms. Sierra and Ms. Zynda continue to be members in good standing the National PREA Coordinators Working Group and attended the National PREA Coordinators Conference in Buffalo, NY in July of 2024.
- Ms. Sierra and Ms. Zynda continue to be members of the Illinois Statewide PREA Coordinators Group. PREA Coordinators from the participating county-operated juvenile detention facilities in Illinois provide support and share their knowledge, experiences and expertise with each other. In 2024, this group revived the pre-COVID practice of meeting in person in a host facility, this year meeting at the Peoria County Juvenile Detention Center.
- The JJC continues to contract with the Community Crisis Center (CCC) to provide residents with access to outside victim advocates to make third-party reports and/or receive emotional support services.
- The JJC continues to contract with the Kane County Sheriff's Office to conduct criminal investigations if an allegation of sexual abuse or sexual assault is made. The JJC PREA Team established PREA investigation protocols with the Special Victims Unit to ensure that all investigations are processed by the same group of officers who are trained on the JJC's protocols.
- The JJC continues to contract with Northwestern Delnor Hospital to provide SANE exams as needed.

- The JJC continues to contract with Ameelio Connect for residents to place anonymous, untracked and unmonitored PREA reports to our external reporting agency.
- The JJC continues to contract with Family Service Association (FSA) to serve as our external reporting agency and established protocols to ensure that Ms. Sierra is immediately notified when reports of sexual abuse or harassment are received. FSA also provides monthly PREA educational groups for JJC residents.
- Ms. Sierra created the JJC PREA Committee, which held its first meeting on September 12, 2024. The committee is broken up into six (6) subcommittees: Unit PREA Boards Maintenance/Updating; Monthly PREA Focus Groups; First Responder Role-Play Activities; Table-Top Training Activities, Quarterly PREA SART Walks and Updating the JJC's VSAB screening tool.
- The JJC PREA Committee implemented Quarterly SART (Sexual Assault Response Team) Walks, and the first round was conducted on October 3, 2024. SART Walks are composed of the PREA Team, an on-duty supervisor, on-duty senior youth counselor and on-duty PREA Committee members. The purpose is to walk the entire facility and check for functionality of camera, intercoms, Ameelio tablets; check for any previously unidentified blind spots; check availability of PREA-related forms, signage and materials (i.e., blinds, blurred shower door paint, etc.); check the security and integrity of locked/restricted doors and performing spot quizzes for residents and staff to ensure that they are knowledgeable about how to report PREA incidents and first-responder duties, respectively.
- The JJC entered into a contract with Tetras Corp. for its PREA Trac software and will utilize the program as a PREA investigations case management system. Since the software was largely tailored to adult confinement facilities, the JJC PREA Team worked with Tetras developers throughout 2024 to create a program that is tailored to juvenile facilities. Tetras intends to market the juvenile program to other facilities when completed.

Facility Sexual Abuse Data

2016 Facility Sexual Abuse Data				
Category	Substantiated	Unsubstantiated	Unfounded	Pending
Resident-Resident Sexual Abuse	0	0	0	0
Staff-Resident Sexual Abuse	0	0	0	0
Resident-Resident Sexual Harassment	0	0	0	0
Staff-Resident Sexual Harassment	1	0	2	0
Total	1	0	2	0

2017 Facility Sexual Abuse Data				
Category	Substantiate	Unsubstantiated	Unfounded	Pending
Resident-Resident Sexual Abuse	0	0	0	0
Staff-Resident Sexual Abuse	0	0	0	0
Resident-Resident Sexual Harassment	0	0	9	0
Staff-Resident Sexual Harassment	0	0	2	0
Total	0	0	11	0

2018 Facility Sexual Abuse Data				
Category	Substantiate	Unsubstantiated	Unfounded	Pending
Resident-Resident Sexual Abuse	0	0	0	0
Staff-Resident Sexual Abuse	0	0	0	0
Resident-Resident Sexual Harassment	0	0	7	0
Staff-Resident Sexual Harassment	0	0	1	0
Total	0	0	8	0

2019 Facility Sexual Abuse Data				
Category	Substantiate	Unsubstantiated	Unfounded	Pending
Resident-Resident Sexual Abuse	0	0	0	0
Staff-Resident Sexual Abuse	0	0	0	0
Resident-Resident Sexual Harassment	0	0	10	0
Staff-Resident Sexual Harassment	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	10	0

2020 Facility Sexual Abuse Data				
Category	Substantiate	Unsubstantiated	Unfounded	Pending
Resident-Resident Sexual Abuse	0	0	0	0
Staff-Resident Sexual Abuse	0	0	0	0
Resident-Resident Sexual Harassment	0	0	0	0
Staff-Resident Sexual Harassment	0	0	1	0
Total	0	0	1	0

2021 Facility Sexual Abuse Data				
Category	Substantiated	Unsubstantiated	Unfounded	Pending
Resident-Resident Sexual Abuse	0	0	0	0
Staff-Resident Sexual Abuse	0	0	0	0
Resident-Resident Sexual Harassment	4	0	0	0
Staff-Resident Sexual Harassment	0	0	0	0
Total	4	0	0	0

2022 Facility Sexual Abuse Data				
Category	Substantiated	Unsubstantiated	Unfounded	Pending
Resident-Resident Sexual Abuse	0	0	0	0
Staff-Resident Sexual Abuse	0	0	0	0
Resident-Resident Sexual Harassment	1	0	0	0
Staff-Resident Sexual Harassment	0	0	0	0
Total	1	0	0	0

2023 JJC PREA Data					
Category	Substantiated	Unsubstantiated	Unfounded	Pending	Outside Agency Invest. (Unknown Finding)
Resident-Resident Sexual Abuse	0	0	5	0	1
Staff-Resident Sexual Abuse	0	0	0	0	2
Unknown Offender Sexual Abuse	0	0	3	0	0
Resident-Resident Sexual Harassment	0	2	12	0	0
Staff-Resident Sexual Harassment	0	1	7	0	1
Unknown Offender Sexual Harassment	0	0	1	0	0
Total	0	3	28	0	4

2023 Grand Total = 35

2024 JJC PREA Data					
Category	Substantiated	Unsubstantiated	Unfounded	Pending	Outside Agency Invest. (Unknown Finding)
Resident-Resident Sexual Abuse	1	0	3	0	3
Staff-Resident Sexual Abuse	0	0	1	0	1
Unknown Offender Sexual Abuse	0	0	2	0	0
Resident-Resident Sexual Harassment	5	0	12	0	0
Staff-Resident Sexual Harassment	0	0	10	0	0
Unknown Offender Sexual Harassment	0	0	0	0	0
Total	6	0	28	0	4

2024 Grand Total = 38

Definition of Findings

Substantiated: Allegation was investigated and the result indicated that the alleged event DID occur.

Unsubstantiated: Allegation was investigated and the result indicated there was insufficient evidence to make a final determination as to whether or not the event occurred.

Unfounded: Allegation was investigated and the result indicated that the alleged event DID NOT occur.

Outside Agency: Allegation was reported at the JJC, but alleged behavior/offense did not occur at the JJC. The outside agency was notified of the allegation involving their jurisdiction and their responsibility for investigating the allegation. The final finding from the reported incident is unknown to the JJC.

Pending: An allegation was reported, but the investigation has not yet been concluded by either the JJC or the Kane County Sheriff's Office.

Unknown: Allegation did not provide specific information regarding the identity (staff/adult or resident) of the alleged offender.

PREA Sexual Abuse Incident Reviews

A PREA Review Committee was established in 2016 and is tasked with reviewing substantiated or unsubstantiated allegations of sexual abuse as required by PREA standard 115.386. The committee is composed of the Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent/PREA Coordinator, Mental Health Coordinator, Operations Manager,

Supervisors, Mental Health Clinicians, Medical Site Manager and on-duty Supervisors. The committee shall:

- a) Consider whether the allegation or investigation indicates a need to change policy or practice to better prevent, detect or respond to sexual abuse;
- b) Consider whether the incident or allegation was motivated by race, ethnicity, gender identity, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or intersex identification, status or perceived status, or gang affiliation or was motivated or otherwise caused by other group dynamics at the facility;
- c) Examine the area in the facility where the incident allegedly occurred to assess whether physical barriers in the area may enable abuse;
- d) Assess the adequacy of staffing levels in that area during different shifts;
- e) Assess whether monitoring technology should be deployed or augmented to supplement supervision by staff; and
- f) Prepare a report of its findings, including but not necessarily limited to determinations of the above review criteria and any recommendations for improvements and submit such report to the facility head.

There were was one substantiated report of sexual abuse within the JJC in 2024; therefore, the PREA Review Committee convened once on April 22, 2024, after the corresponding criminal investigation concluded.

Analysis/ Corrective Action

The JJC analyzed its PREA data from 2024 and compared it to previous years' data and determined that the total number of PREA reports from 2024 was largely consistent with the 2023 data; however, there was one data point with a significant increase from the 2023 data. The PREA Team investigated five (5) reports of resident-on-resident sexual harassment in 2024 that were substantiated. It should be noted, however, that four (4) of those reports involved a single resident harasser with severe mental health diagnoses and impulsive behavior. As stated above, there was one substantiated resident-on-resident sexual abuse report that resulted in a referral for criminal investigation; the case was eventually closed due to the victim's refusal to cooperate with the investigation. This incident was the result of rules violations that occurred by both staff and residents, and those violations were addressed with the relevant parties.

It should be noted that similar to the 2023 data, the JJC processed four (4) reports in 2024 of sexual abuse or harassment incidents that were alleged to have occurred at facilities that residents were confined in prior to their admission to the JJC, and all of those reports were processed according to PREA standards. The outcomes of those investigations are unknown.

As in 2023, the vast majority of the remaining 2024 PREA reports were unfounded due to no finding no evidence that they occurred, or the report was regarding inappropriate behavior that did not meet the PREA standards definitions of sexual abuse or sexual assault.

The elevated number of 2024 PREA reports remained consistent with the 2023 numbers. The JJC continues to affirm that the increase in reporting from pre-2023 levels is a positive confirmation that the JJC's established PREA reporting policies are working as they were intended, and that residents and staff are clearly comfortable with and knowledgeable of the JJC's reporting protocols.



PREA Coordinator

3/20/25
Date



Executive Director of Court Services

3/20/25
Date