



Lutheran Social Services of South Dakota
2024 Annual PREA Report

In September of 2003, President Bush signed the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA). Starting in 2012, at the direction of the South Dakota Department of Corrections PREA standards were implemented in three juvenile facilities operated by LSS of SD. Staff in these facilities have taken action to prevent, detect, reduce, and respond to sexual abuse and sexual harassment.

This report summarizes LSS of SD's commitment to protecting youth in our facilities and meeting the national PREA standards. LSS has a zero tolerance policy for sexual assault and harassment of youth.

All staff is trained in how to prevent, identify, and respond to sexual abuse and harassment. All staff attend training in regards to these items during orientation and annually.

LSS PREA Coordinator: The Quality Assurance and Compliance Agency PREA coordinator. This individual is responsible for policies and procedures pertaining to PREA and the associated PREA standards. The Coordinator oversees policy development, implementation, staff training, investigator training, and PREA documentation for the agency.

LSS PREA Compliance Manager: Each of the LSS residential facility Program Directors serve as compliance managers for their program.

LSS PREA investigators: Each facility has at least one PREA investigator assigned – this person manages administrative investigations.

Training:

Orientation for all new staff includes the following training requirements:

- (1) The zero-tolerance policy for sexual abuse and harassment;
- (2) How to fulfill their responsibilities under agency sexual abuse and sexual harassment prevention, detection, reporting, and response policies and procedures;
- (3) Resident's right to be free from sexual abuse and sexual harassment;
- (4) The right of residents and employees to be free from retaliation for reporting cases of sexual abuse and sexual harassment;
- (5) The dynamics of sexual abuse and sexual harassment in juvenile facilities;
- (6) How to detect and respond to signs of threatened and actual sexual abuse;
- (7) How to communicate effectively and professionally with residents, including lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, or gender nonconforming residents;
- (8) The common reactions of victims of sexual abuse and sexual harassment in juvenile victims;
- (9) How to avoid inappropriate relationships with residents; and
- (10) How to comply with relevant laws related to mandatory reporting.

Policies: In this reporting period there were no new PREA policies implemented at LSS.

Supportive Services: Pursuant to PREA standard 115.21 Evidence Protocol and Forensic Examinations and 115.53 Access to outside confidential Support Services; LSS has maintained Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) with the following local victim advocate groups to provide services to LSS of SD residents who were victims of sexual abuse.

- (1) The Compass Center (Sioux Falls)
- (2) Working Against Violence, Inc. (Rapid City)
- (3) Safe Harbor (Aberdeen)

