



1350 Norris Road
Bakersfield, California 93308-2231

February 27, 2020

In 2019, the Kern County Sheriff's Office Justice and Minimum Facilities were audited by an independent auditor to ensure compliance with the standards enacted by the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA). As indicated by the 2019 reports posted on the Sheriff's Office webpage, the two facilities were found compliant and maintained PREA certification with the U.S. Department of Justice.

Several items related to the operational security of the facilities have been redacted from the publicly posted versions of these reports to ensure the safety and security of staff, inmates, and the public.

Additionally, there are several items mentioned in the reports that warrant clarification. These items were primarily the result of miscommunications with the auditor and did not affect the final certification of the facilities as compliant with PREA standards. The auditor was advised of and consulted on these clarifications, but was unable to correct the final report as submitted to the Department of Justice. These items are discussed below:

- The Justice Facility report states on page 74 that "Policy P-500 Sexual Assault or Abuse-Security Response Plan fails to require that, upon learning of an allegation that an inmate was sexually abused, the first security staff member to respond to the report to separate the alleged victim and abuser." Section P-500 of the Detentions Bureau Policies and Procedures Manual (DBPPM), last revised June 4, 2015, states that "*Security Staff notified of allegations of sexual abuse will...separate the victim from any potential suspect(s).*"
- On page 81 of the Justice Facility report, Corrective Action Item #1 refers to DBPPM Section P-450 being amended to meet the PREA standards. This is also stated on pages 67 and 84 of the Minimum Facility report. Section P-450 included the required directives in its most recent revision, dated July 24, 2015, and was not amended during this audit process.
- On page 83 of the Justice Facility report, as well as page 56 of the Minimum Facility report, it states that inmates housed in administrative segregation, "...are provided reviews every seven days." In fact, administratively segregated inmates are reviewed every 10 days. This practice is still compliant with PREA standards 115.43 and 115.68, which require review of an inmate who is in involuntary segregated housing every 30 days to determine whether there is a continuing need for separation from the general population.

- In the Justice Facility Report, on page 92, Corrective Action Item #1 refers to DBPPM Section P-900 being amended to meet the PREA standard. Section P-900 included the required directives in its most recent revision, dated June 4, 2015, and was not amended during this audit process. For reference, the required directive states: *"All terminations for violations of agency sexual abuse or sexual harassment policies, or resignations by staff in lieu of termination, shall be reported to any relevant licensing bodies, unless the activity was clearly not criminal."*
- On page 7 of the Minimum Facility report, there is a warehouse listed as containing two-temporary holding cells. This listing was in error, as the Minimum Facility Warehouse does not contain any holding cells. This appears to have been a misunderstanding on the auditor's part.

The un-redacted reports were submitted to the U.S. Department of Justice and indicated that both facilities were determined to be compliant with PREA standards.

Sincerely,

DONNY YOUNGBLOOD, Sheriff-Coroner

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ian Silva".

By: Lieutenant Ian Silva
Detentions Bureau Compliance Section/PREA Coordinator