



BRIDGES OF NEW YORK

Restoring Families Through Trauma Sensitive Therapeutic Communities®

PREA ANNUAL REPORT - FREEPORT 2023

To: William Best, State Executive Director

From: Paula Hinton, Clinical Director, PREA Coordinator

Date: January 23, 2024

Re: Prison Rape Elimination Act Coordinator's Annual Report for Freeport - 2023

This report has been prepared in accordance with §115.87 in order to assess and improve the effectiveness of its sexual abuse prevention, detection, and response policies, practices, and training. The information collected for this report is used to identify problem areas and to take corrective action on an ongoing basis.

Bridges of Greater New York, Inc., is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for staff and offenders. This Agency has zero tolerance for sexual misconduct of any kind and will impose discipline for such misconduct, up to and including dismissal of staff. Residents will be reported to the Freeport Police Dept. and the New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision. Incidents of sexual misconduct shall be investigated and offenders will be disciplined, based on the findings of criminal justice entities. The policies and procedures of Bridges of Greater New York regarding sexual misconduct apply to all residents, employees, contractors, and any civilian volunteers.

This report summarizes the actions by this company to comply with the Prison Rape Elimination Act.

Training

All employees of this company and its residents have received ongoing training specific to PREA. A PREA audit was conducted in 2021 to review our compliance with national standards. We were assessed as being in full compliance. Our next audit is expected to be conducted in 2024. In addition to the New York State mandated Sexual Harassment/Sexual Misconduct course for new hires, training is conducted as follows:

- PREA standards and zero tolerance for sexual abuse and harassment, staff member's

responsibilities, reporting procedures and resident rights;

- Appropriate staff/resident relationships;
- The Dynamics of Sexual Abuse and Harassment in Confinement;
- Personal Awareness Sensitivity;
- Cross Gender Pat Searches (this training was conducted but is not applied in this setting);

Furthermore, contractors have also received PREA specific training based on their level of contact with residents.

Resident Education

Residents receive a PREA brochure, upon enrollment, that explains the federal law and provides telephone numbers and addresses of federal, state, and local agencies they can contact for information and assistance. All residents are also given a short refresher course on PREA regulations on a monthly basis. Posters are placed in various locations throughout the residence, reminding residents of their rights. Information regarding Sexual Assault Examination and the assistance from the Mental Health Association of Nassau County is also available.

Resident Screening

A Department of Corrections questionnaire is given to residents at the time of their admission. Responses are reviewed by the PREA Coordinator. Any residents who acknowledge sexual assault or misconduct in a previous setting, are offered referrals for medical services and/or a Rape Crisis Program.

Cooperative Agreements

The Nassau County Mental Health Association, in conjunction with The Nassau County Medical Center, and the Nassau County District Attorney's Office have formed a Rape Crisis Organization, which provides 24 hours/7day per week service via the Rape Crisis Hotline **(800) 832-1000** . SANE/SAFE nurse examiners and victim advocate services are available for victims. The Safe Center of Long Island has also formulated a Memorandum of Agreement with Bridges of Greater New York.

Reportable Events

There were no reportable incidents of sexual abuse or misconduct in the facility in 2023.

Respectfully submitted,

Paula Hinton, LCSW-R, CASAC, BCD | Clinical Director