

## The Connection's Community Justice Service Area PREA Annual Report 2017

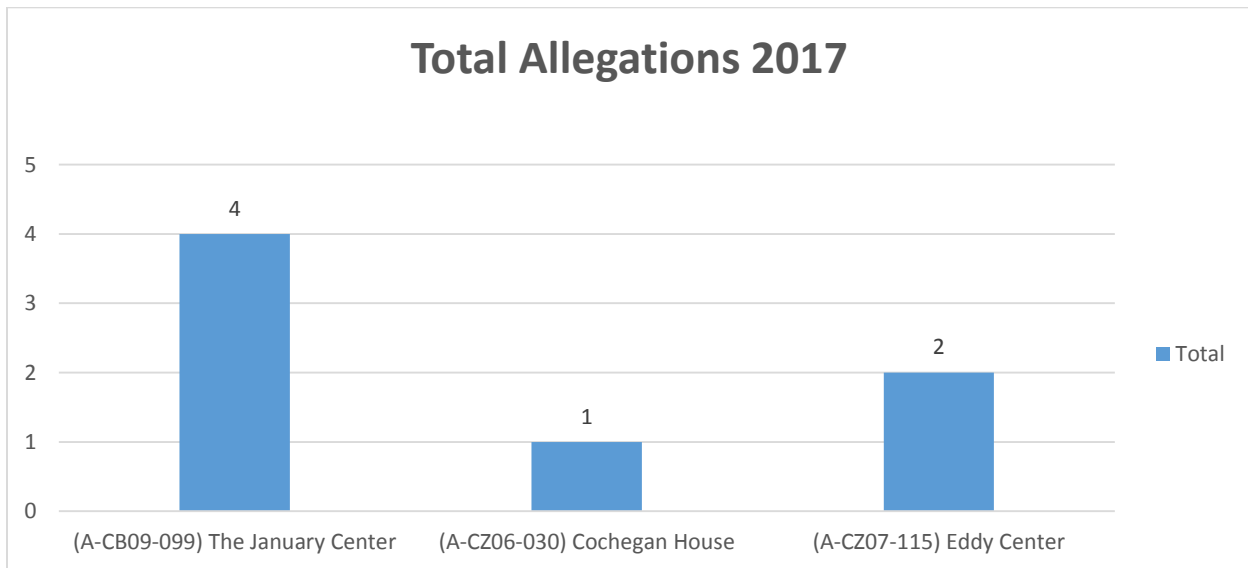
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### Year in Review: 2017

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In 2017, there were 2 PREA Audits conducted at the Roger Sherman House and Sierra Center Work Release programs. Each program was found compliant with the PREA standards and successfully passed their audits. Additionally, a PREA On-Call number was created to allow for relief of the PREA Coordinator and ease for staff to know what number to call for reporting.

In 2017, there were a total of seven (7) PREA allegations in the Community Justice Residential programs. Of those 7, four (4) were at The January Center, 1 was at Cochegan House, and 2 were at the Eddy Center. The January Center allegations included two (2) client on client sexual harassment allegations resulting in two (2) being substantiated. The other two allegations included one (1) staff on client sexual misconduct which was unsubstantiated and one (1) staff on client sexual harassment which was unsubstantiated. There was one (1) allegation at the Cochegan House which included one (1) client on client nonconsensual sexual abuse which was unsubstantiated. There were two (2) allegations at the Eddy Center which included one (1) client on client abusive sexual contact which was substantiated and one (1) staff on client sexual misconduct which was unfounded.



### **Background**

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 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 a policy to establish zero-tolerance for sexual abuse and sexual harassment and additional policies addressing the response and reporting of all allegations. These

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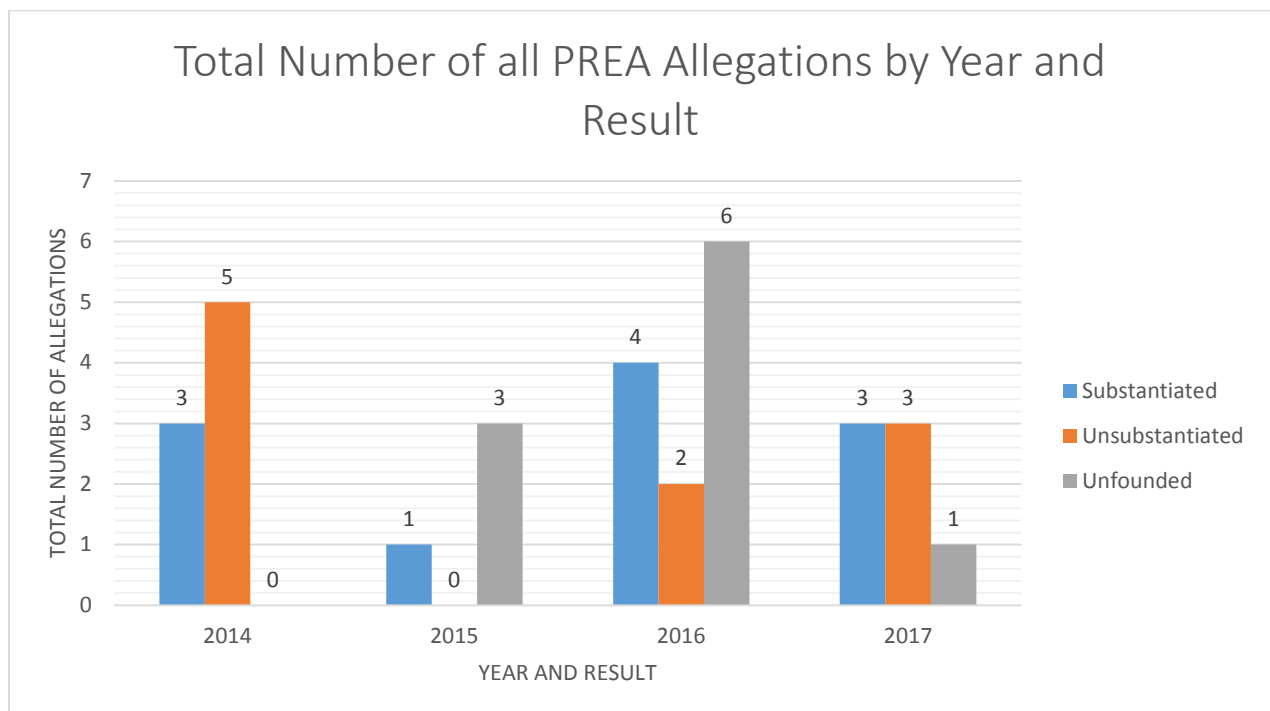
policies apply to the following programs: Sierra Center Pre-Trial, Sierra Center Work Release, Roger Sherman House, Cochegan House, Connection House, Eddy Center, and The January Center.

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 sexual harassment. Staff and clients are educated on the agency’s zero tolerance policy, the multiple avenues for reporting allegations, the 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. 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.

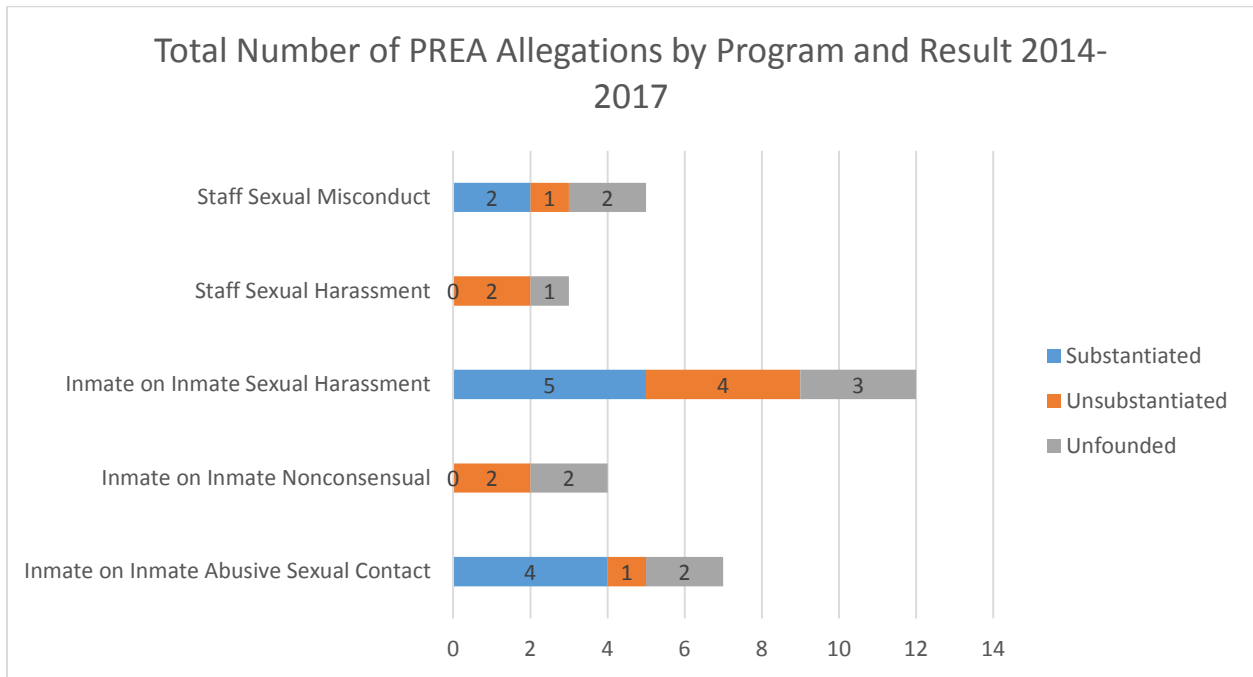
### Definitions

- 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.

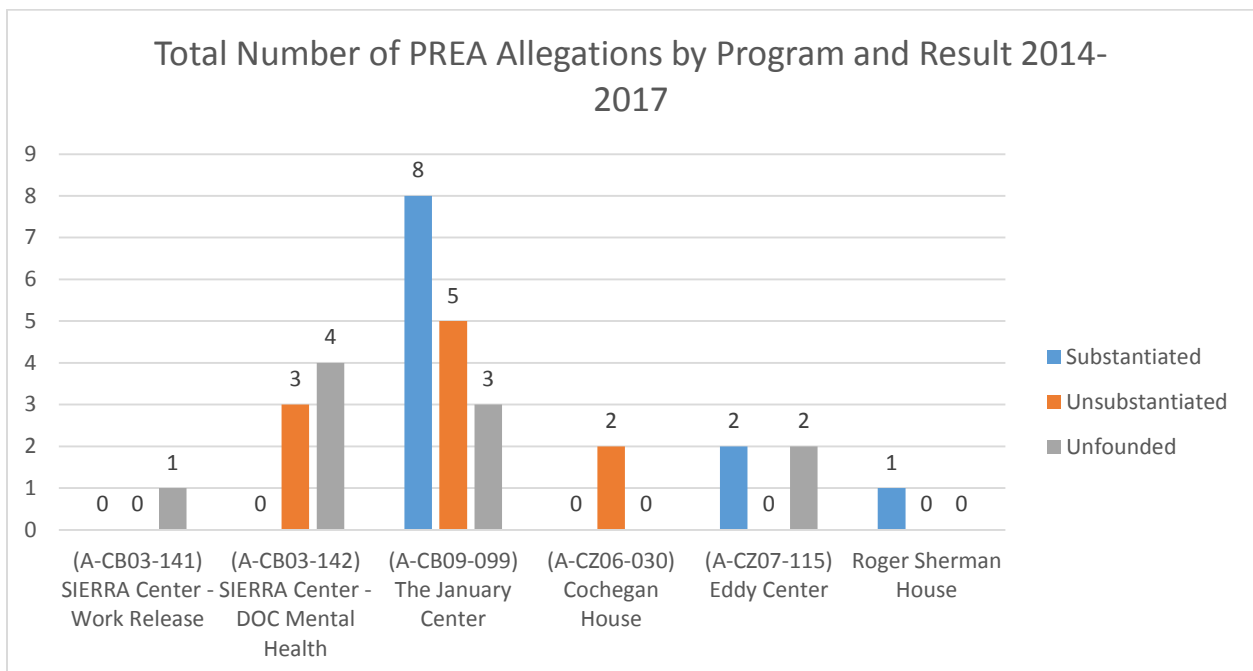


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**Total Allegations by Category 2014-2017**



There are over twice as many allegations of inmate on inmate sexual misconduct as staff on inmate misconduct. With continued staff training it is hoped that instances of staff on inmate sexual misconduct will decrease and become a smaller percentage of all allegations.



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### **Category Definitions**

- **Client on Client Nonconsensual Sexual Acts**

Sexual contact of any person without his or her consent, or of a person who is unable to consent or refuse 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	Total
Substantiated	0	0	0	0	0
Unsubstantiated	0	0	1	1	2
Unfounded	0	1	1	0	2
Total	0	1	2	1	4

- **Client on Client Abusive Sexual Contact**

Sexual contact of any person without his or her consent, or of a person who is unable to consent or refuse AND intentional touching, either directly or through clothing, of the genitalia, anus, groin, breast, inner thigh, or buttocks of any person. Exclude incidents in which the contact was incidental to a physical altercation

Client on Client Abusive Sexual Contact					
Finding	2014	2015	2016	2017	Total
Substantiated	1	1	1	1	4
Unsubstantiated	1	1	0	0	1
Unfounded	0	0	1	0	2
Total	2	2	2	0	7

- **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	Total
Substantiated	1	0	2	2	5
Unsubstantiated	3	0	1	0	4
Unfounded	0	1	2	0	3
Total	4	1	5	2	12

- **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.

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Staff on Client Sexual Misconduct					
Finding	2014	2015	2016	2017	Total
Substantiated	2	0	1	0	3
Unsubstantiated	0	0	0	1	1
Unfounded	0	0	1	1	2
Total	2	0	2	2	6

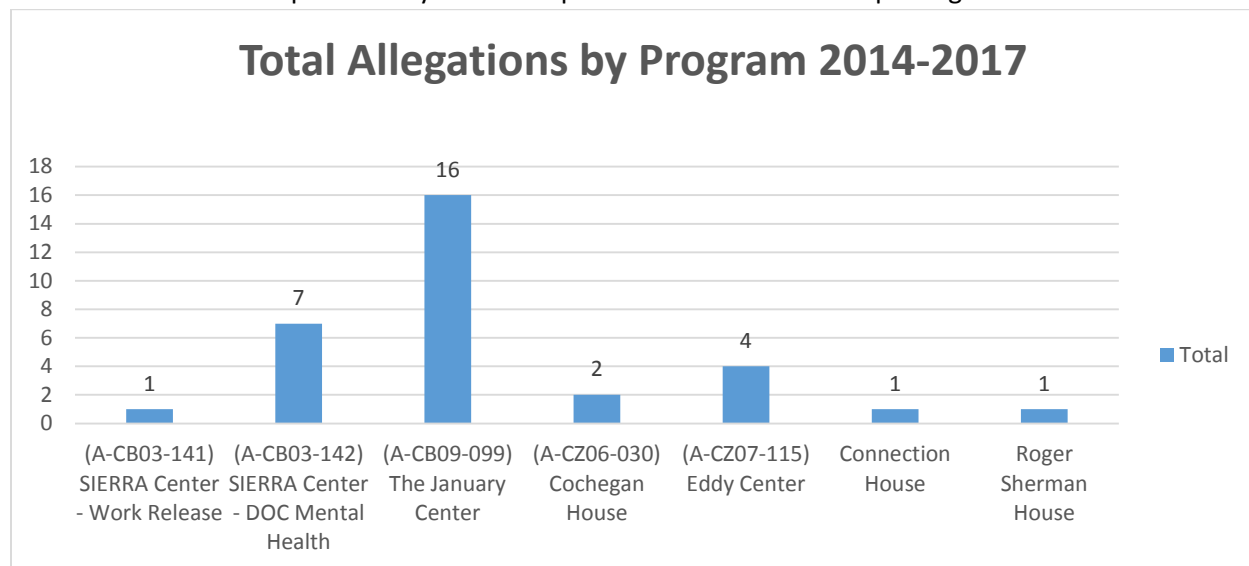
- **Staff on Client Sexual Harassment**

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	Total
Substantiated	0	0	0	0	0
Unsubstantiated	1	0	0	1	2
Unfounded	0	0	1	0	1
Total	1	0	1	1	3

### Total Allegations by Program 2014-2017

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 with the second highest number of PREA allegations is the Sierra Center DOC Mental Health unit, which houses clients with very complicated psychiatric and criminal justice histories. 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.



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

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

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

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

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

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

**Closed Program/Non PREA Program**

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

Elm City (Closed 6/30/2016)		2014	2015	2016	2017
<b>Category</b>	Client on Client Nonconsensual Sexual Abuse	0	0	N/A	N/A
	Client on Client Abusive Sexual Contact	1	1	N/A	N/A
	Client on Client Sexual Harassment	0	0	N/A	N/A
	Staff on Client Sexual Misconduct	0	0	N/A	N/A
	Staff on Client Sexual Harassment	0	0	N/A	N/A
<b>Result</b>	Substantiated	0	1	N/A	N/A
	Unsubstantiated	0	0	N/A	N/A
	Unfounded	1	0	N/A	N/A
<b>Total</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>



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**Identified Problem Areas and Correction Actions for 2017**

The PREA standards require a "Sexual Abuse Incident Review" to be conducted within 30 days of the outcome of all substantiated and unsubstantiated allegations. Of the seven (7) allegations this year, three (3) were substantiated and three (3) were unsubstantiated. The six (6) Sexual Abuse Incident Reviews did not result in any corrective action plans. A few recommendations will be made include review of the communication and response procedures for staff reporting allegations and compliance check training for The January Center staff.

**Assessment of Progress**

The PREA Coordinator will continue providing training at orientation for new staff and yearly refresher trainings for all staff. Additionally, staff will continue to adhere to the agency's PREA Policies and Procedures and remain compliant with the PREA standards. There will be three (3) PREA Audits conducted in 2018 at Sierra Center Pre-Trial, The January Center, and Cochegan House.

  
Chief Executive Officer Signature

1-11-18

Date