

**PASSAGES TO RECOVERY, INC.**  
**Prison Rape Elimination Act Annual Report for 2024**

## **Introduction**

The Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) was passed by Congress in 2003 to establish national standards for the detection, prevention, and reduction of sexual assault in confinement settings. It establishes a zero-tolerance culture for institutional sexual assault and makes prevention a priority in the US prison and jail system.

To comply with PREA standards, Passages to Recovery, Inc. provides a safe, secure and humane environment for residents, which includes the right to be free from all forms of sexual abuse, sexual harassment and sexual misconduct. The facility has a zero-tolerance policy for resident-on-resident sexual assault, staff sexual misconduct and sexual harassment. All allegations of sexual abuse will be investigated. Investigations which reveal criminal conduct will be referred to law enforcement for further investigation and prosecution. The agency also recognizes the right of staff and residents to be free from retaliation for reporting sexual misconduct.

## **Purpose**

The Prison Rape Elimination Act requires that each agency collect data for every allegation of sexual abuse and aggregate the data at least annually. This report is a summary of Passages to Recovery's activities regarding PREA compliance in 2024. This document serves as an annual review to assess the effectiveness of sexual abuse prevention/detection procedures and to initiate process improvement where needed.

## **PREA Activities in 2024**

- Staff training on PREA requirements continued. PREA training was provided to all newly hired employees so that they would be aware of PREA requirements before they were assigned to a duty post.
- Implemented provision of PREA Community Confinement Standard to new employees upon start date.
- Implemented daily Team Huddles to address potential low risk to high-risk client at all levels of care.
- PREA posters and brochures were updated and reposted throughout the facility.

- Institutional response plans were reviewed and updated. The response plans meet the requirements of the PREA federal rule.
- Passages to Recovery continues to provide a PREA orientation to all new residents. All residents receive a PREA orientation within 30 days of reception.
- As part of the intake process, new residents are screened using PREA assessment tools to determine potential predatory behavior and potential victimization. All residents are assessed for predatory behavior/victimization within five days of reception and again a er 20 days. They are also reassessed any time a resident is out of the facility overnight (for example, out to court) and returns.
- A copy of the 2024 agency PREA annual report will be uploaded to the agency's website.
- Data collection continued. Audit files were updated with 2024 data, as necessary. Monthly data reports regarding PREA activities in Passages facility were recorded.
- PREA audit was conducted by a certified DOJ & DHS PREA auditor October 2024. The audit conducted at West Homestead Center was finalized on October 10, 2024, and concluded the facility met and, in some cases, exceeds PREA standards. The next PREA audit is expected to take place in 2027.

**2024 PREA Data**

| <b>Resident on Resident Allegations</b> |                      |                        |                  |
|---|----------------------|------------------------|------------------|
|   | <b>Substantiated</b> | <b>Unsubstantiated</b> | <b>Unfounded</b> |
| <b>Sexual Contact</b>                   | <b>0</b>             | <b>0</b>               | <b>0</b>         |
| <b>Nonconsensual Sex Acts</b>           | <b>0</b>             | <b>0</b>               | <b>0</b>         |
| <b>Sexual Harassment</b>                | <b>1</b>             | <b>4</b>               | <b>2</b>         |
| <b>Staff Sexual Misconduct</b>          |                      |                        |                  |
|   | <b>Substantiated</b> | <b>Unsubstantiated</b> | <b>Unfounded</b> |
| <b>Sexual Contact</b>                   | <b>0</b>             | <b>1</b>               | <b>1</b>         |
| <b>Nonconsensual Sex Acts</b>           | <b>0</b>             | <b>0</b>               | <b>0</b>         |
| <b>Sexual Harassment</b>                | <b>0</b>             | <b>2</b>               | <b>0</b>         |

## **2023 PREA Data**

| <b>Resident on Resident Allegations</b> |                      |                        |                  |
|---|----------------------|------------------------|------------------|
|   | <b>Substantiated</b> | <b>Unsubstantiated</b> | <b>Unfounded</b> |
| <b>Sexual Contact</b>                   | <b>4</b>             | <b>1</b>               | <b>0</b>         |
| <b>Nonconsensual Sex Acts</b>           | <b>0</b>             | <b>0</b>               | <b>0</b>         |
| <b>Sexual Harassment</b>                | <b>0</b>             | <b>0</b>               | <b>0</b>         |
| <b>Staff Sexual Misconduct</b>          |                      |                        |                  |
|   | <b>Substantiated</b> | <b>Unsubstantiated</b> | <b>Unfounded</b> |
| <b>Sexual Contact</b>                   | <b>0</b>             | <b>0</b>               | <b>1</b>         |
| <b>Nonconsensual Sex Acts</b>           | <b>0</b>             | <b>0</b>               | <b>3</b>         |
| <b>Sexual Harassment</b>                | <b>0</b>             | <b>1</b>               | <b>0</b>         |

## **Comparative Analysis 2023-2024**

Passages to Recovery had 5 Resident on Resident PREA allegation and 5 allegations of staff sexual misconduct or harassment in 2023. Passage to Recovery had 7 Resident on Resident PREA Allegations and 4 allegations of staff sexual misconduct or harassment in 2024.

### **The Resident on Resident allegations are detailed as follows:**

On January 7, 2024, a resident on resident PREA allegation was investigated at Passages to Recovery West Homestead. The alleged sexual misconduct allegation was determined to be unsubstantiated.

On January 8, 2024, a resident on resident PREA allegation was investigated at Passages to Recovery West Homestead. The alleged sexual misconduct allegation was determined to be unsubstantiated.

On June 14, 2024, a resident on resident PREA allegation was investigated at Passages to Recovery West Homestead. The alleged sexual misconduct allegation was determined to be substantiated.

On August 17, 2024, a resident on resident PREA allegation was investigated at Passages to Recovery West Homestead. The alleged sexual misconduct allegation was determined to be unfounded.

On October 25, 2024, a resident on resident PREA allegation was investigated at Passages to Recovery West Homestead. The alleged sexual misconduct allegation was determined to be unsubstantiated.

On October 28, 2024, a resident on resident PREA allegation was investigated at Passages to Recovery West Homestead. The alleged sexual misconduct allegation was determined to be substantiated.

On November 19, 2024, a resident on resident PREA allegation was investigated at Passages to Recovery West Homestead. The alleged sexual misconduct allegation was determined to be unfounded; the perpetrator(s) were returned to the Allegheny County Jail.

**The Staff on Resident allegations are detailed as follows:**

On April 29, 2024, a staff on resident PREA allegation was investigated at Passages to Recovery West Homestead. The alleged sexual misconduct allegation was determined to be unsubstantiated.

On October 7, 2024, a staff on resident PREA allegation was investigated at Passages to Recovery West Homestead. The alleged sexual misconduct allegation was determined to be unsubstantiated.

On October 23, 2024, a staff on resident PREA allegation was investigated at Passages to Recovery West Homestead. The alleged sexual misconduct allegation was determined to be unsubstantiated.

On October 25, 2024, a staff on resident PREA allegation was investigated at Passages to Recovery West Homestead. The alleged sexual misconduct allegation was determined to be unfounded.

**PREA Deficit Analysis / 2027 Goals**

Passages to Recovery, Inc. has established the following goals regarding PREA for 2027:

- Provide PREA training to all employees during 2027
- Continue to provide internal training as well as seek external source for training regarding transgender and LGBTI issues.
- Ensure that employees meet 100% of PREA training requirements for 2027.
- Ensure that all residents receive PREA orientation within the prescribes timeframes
- Ensure that all residents are screened for potential predatory behavior and victimizations within the prescribed timeframes.
- Have additional individuals trained as certified PREA investigators.
- Have an additional individuals trained as PREA coordinator.
- Periodically review PREA audit files to ensure continued compliance with PREA standards.
- Implement PREA wallet cards for employees.

**Conclusions**

Passages to Recovery, Inc. had three unfounded, six unsubstantiated, and two substantiated PREA complaint during 2024. The increase in PREA complaints from

2023 to 2024 is due to the change to a co-ed environment. Consequently, there is some indication of increased predatory sexual behavior. There is no indication of an increase in staff sexual misconduct at Passages to Recovery, Inc.

Both staff and clients continue to be trained regarding the requirements of the PREA policy, how to report PREA violations and how to respond to PREA violations.

Through continued staff/client education and the advancement of a zero-tolerance culture, it is hoped that Passages to Recovery, Inc. will improve its ability to prevent, detect and respond to sexual abuse.