



## The Connection's Community Justice Service Area PREA Annual Report 2022 (Amended 6/2/2023)

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### Background

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The Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) was unanimously passed in 2003 by the United States Congress, creating the National Prison Rape Elimination Commission and charging the Commission with researching and drafting standards for eliminating prison rape. The draft standards were published in 2009 and delivered to the Department of Justice, forming the basis for proposed final rules for PREA compliance. The final PREA standards for implementation became effective on August 20, 2012. The purpose of the PREA and its implementing rules is to provide a set of standards to prevent, detect, and eliminate sexual assault and sexual harassment of individuals residing in covered facilities. These standards apply to The Connection's community confinement facilities. In response to these standards, The Connection developed core policy establishing zero-tolerance for sexual abuse and sexual harassment and additional policies addressing the reporting of, and response to, all such allegations. These policies apply to the following programs: Sierra Center Pre-Trial, Sierra Center Work Release, Roger Sherman House, Cohegan House, Connection House, Eddy Center, and The January Center. These policies also apply to Women's RISE which is a women's work release program that was opened in July 2021.

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 potential client sexual abuse, client sexual harassment, staff sexual misconduct, and staff sexual harassment in our community confinement facilities. Staff and clients are educated on the agency's zero tolerance policy, the multiple avenues for reporting allegations, the appropriate 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 who report that they have experienced sexual harassment or sexual abuse regardless of the outcome of any investigation. The services provided by the Alliance are free of 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.

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### Year in Review: 2022

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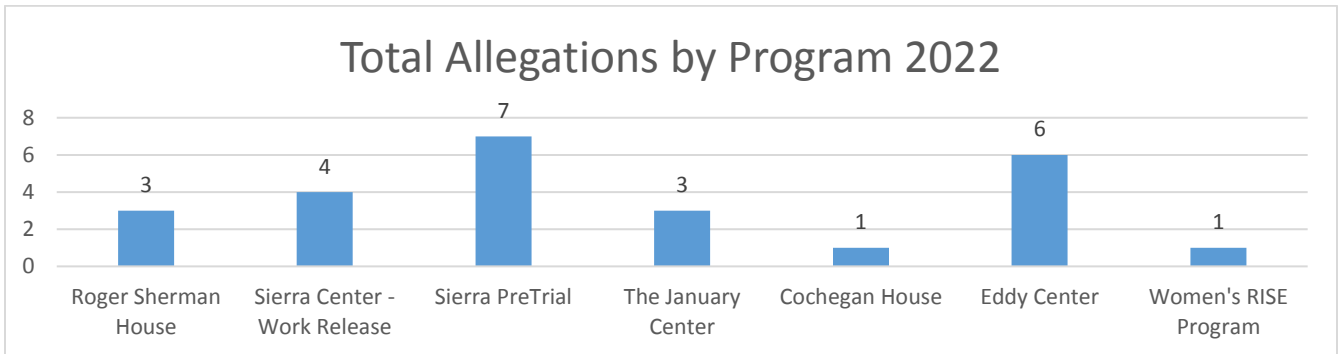
In 2022, there was one (1) PREA Audit completed. The Eddy Center was found compliant with the PREA standards and successfully passed the audit.

In 2022, there were a total of twenty-five (25) PREA allegations in the Community Justice Residential programs listed above. Of those twenty-five, three (3) were at Roger Sherman House, four (4) were at Sierra Center Work Release, seven (7) were at Sierra Pre-Trial, three (3) were at The January Center, one (1) was at



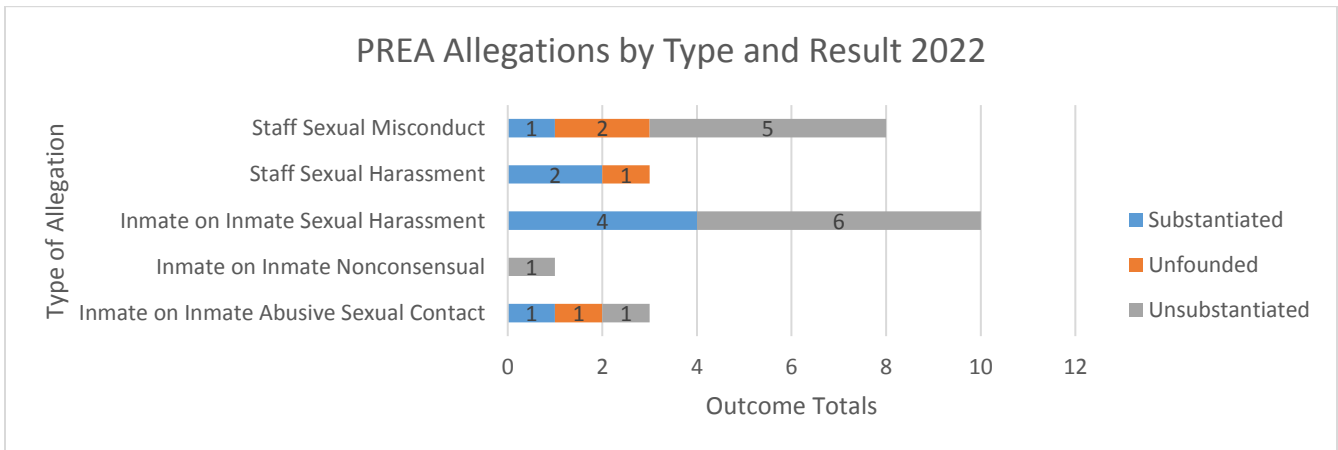
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Cochegan House, six (6) were at Eddy Center and one (1) was at Women’s RISE. Two additional incidents occurred that did not meet the definitions of sexual abuse or sexual harassment per the PREA standards, but which were reviewed and reported to the funder. No PREA allegations arose at the Connection House program. The nature of the allegations and findings are summarized in the tables below.



### Outcome 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 whether the allegation was true or false.
- **Unfounded allegation:** The allegation was determined not to have occurred.



The 2022 allegations included fourteen (14) client-on-client allegations and eleven (11) staff-on-client allegations. Two additional allegations did not meet the legal definition of sexual abuse or sexual harassment per the PREA standards but were reviewed and reported to the funder (1 involving a staff-on-client and 1 involving a client-on-client).



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### Category Definitions

- **Client on Client Nonconsensual Sexual Acts**

Sexual contact with any person without his or her consent, or with a person who is unable to consent 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	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Total
Substantiated	0	1	0	0	0	1
Unsubstantiated	0	0	0	0	1	1
Unfounded	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>

- **Client on Client Abusive Sexual Contact**

Sexual contact with any person without his or her consent, or with a person who is unable to consent AND intentional touching, either directly or through clothing, of the genitalia, anus, groin, breast, inner thigh, or buttocks of any person. Does not include any incident in which the sexual contact was incidental to a physical altercation.

Client on Client Abusive Sexual Contact						
Finding	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Total
Substantiated	0	0	0	0	1	1
Unsubstantiated	1	0	1	0	1	3
Unfounded	2	0	1	0	1	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>8</b>

- **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	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Total
Substantiated	2	3	0	1	4	10
Unsubstantiated	0	2	2	3	6	13
Unfounded	0	2	1	0	0	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>26</b>



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- **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.

Staff on Client Sexual Misconduct						
Finding	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Total
Substantiated	0	1	1	1	1	4
Unsubstantiated	0	0	1	1	5	7
Unfounded	2	2	0	1	2	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>18</b>

- **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	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Total
Substantiated	1	0	0	0	2	3
Unsubstantiated	1	0	0	0	0	1
Unfounded	1	4	0	0	1	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>10</b>

### **Total Allegations by Program 2018-2022**

The January Center		2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
<b>Category</b>	Client on Client Nonconsensual Sexual Abuse	0	0	0	0	0
	Client on Client Abusive Sexual Contact	1	0	1	0	0
	Client on Client Sexual Harassment	1	6	2	0	2
	Staff on Client Sexual Misconduct	1	1	0	1	0
	Staff on Client Sexual Harassment	0	1	0	0	1
<b>Result</b>	Substantiated	1	4	0	0	1
	Unsubstantiated	1	2	2	1	2
	Unfounded	1	2	1	0	0
<b>Total</b>		<b>3</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>



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Eddy Center		2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
<b>Category</b>	Client on Client Nonconsensual Sexual Abuse	0	0	0	0	1
	Client on Client Abusive Sexual Contact	2	0	0	0	1
	Client on Client Sexual Harassment	0	0	0	1	1
	Staff on Client Sexual Misconduct	1	2	0	0	3
	Staff on Client Sexual Harassment	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Result</b>	Substantiated	0	0	0	0	1
	Unsubstantiated	0	0	0	1	2
	Unfounded	3	2	0	0	3
<b>Total</b>		<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>

Cochegan House		2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Client on Client Nonconsensual Sexual Abuse		0	0	0	0	0
Client on Client Abusive Sexual Contact		0	0	0	0	0
Client on Client Sexual Harassment		0	0	0	0	0
Staff on Client Sexual Misconduct		0	0	1	1	0
Staff on Client Sexual Harassment		1	0	0	0	1
Substantiated		0	0	1	0	0
Unsubstantiated		1	0	0	0	0
Unfounded		0	0	0	1	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>

Roger Sherman House		2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
<b>Category</b>	Client on Client Nonconsensual Sexual Abuse	0	0	0	0	0
	Client on Client Abusive Sexual Contact	0	0	0	0	0
	Client on Client Sexual Harassment	0	1	0	0	1
	Staff on Client Sexual Misconduct	1	1	1	0	2
	Staff on Client Sexual Harassment	0	1	0	0	0
<b>Result</b>	Substantiated	0	0	0	0	0
	Unsubstantiated	0	0	1	0	3
	Unfounded	1	3	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>

Sierra Center Pre - Trial		2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
<b>Category</b>	Client on Client Nonconsensual Sexual Abuse	0	0	0	0	0
	Client on Client Abusive Sexual Contact	0	0	0	0	2
	Client on Client Sexual Harassment	1	0	0	2	5
	Staff on Client Sexual Misconduct	0	0	0	0	0
	Staff on Client Sexual Harassment	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Result</b>	Substantiated	1	0	0	0	4
	Unsubstantiated	0	0	0	2	3
	Unfounded	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>7</b>



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Sierra Center Work Release		2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
<b>Category</b>	Client on Client Nonconsensual Sexual Abuse	0	1	0	0	0
	Client on Client Abusive Sexual Contact	0	0	1	0	0
	Client on Client Sexual Harassment	0	0	1	1	0
	Staff on Client Sexual Misconduct	0	1	0	1	3
	Staff on Client Sexual Harassment	1	0	0	0	1
<b>Result</b>	Substantiated	1	1	0	2	2
	Unsubstantiated	0	0	1	0	2
	Unfounded	0	1	1	0	0
<b>Total</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>

Connection House		2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
<b>Category</b>	Client on Client Nonconsensual Sexual Abuse	0	0	0	0	0
	Client on Client Abusive Sexual Contact	0	0	0	0	0
	Client on Client Sexual Harassment	0	0	0	0	0
	Staff on Client Sexual Misconduct	0	0	0	0	0
	Staff on Client Sexual Harassment	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Result</b>	Substantiated	0	0	0	0	0
	Unsubstantiated	0	0	0	0	0
	Unfounded	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

Women's RISE - Program opened on 7/1/2021.		2021	2022
<b>Category</b>	Client on Client Nonconsensual Sexual Abuse	0	0
	Client on Client Abusive Sexual Contact	0	0
	Client on Client Sexual Harassment	0	1
	Staff on Client Sexual Misconduct	0	0
	Staff on Client Sexual Harassment	0	0
<b>Result</b>	Substantiated	0	0
	Unsubstantiated	0	1
	Unfounded	0	0
<b>Total</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>

### Identified Problem Areas and Corrective Actions

The PREA standards require a "Sexual Abuse Incident Review" to be conducted within 30 days of the determination of the outcome of all substantiated and unsubstantiated allegations. Of the twenty-five (25) allegations in 2022, four (4) were unfounded and no review was required. Of the remaining twenty-one allegations, thirteen (13) were unsubstantiated and eight (8) were substantiated. Reviews of these twenty-one (21) incidents resulted in one (1) corrective action plan and multiple recommendations. Recommendations regarding the physical environment included:



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- for two programs to update cameras and install additional cameras in the program when the funding was available to do so; and
- to remove any window coverings from staff offices that did not already have cameras, so that there was no expectation of privacy/invisibility during one-on-one meetings between staff and clients.

There were also recommendations related to staff training and supervision:

- enhancement of boundary training for all community confinement program staff
- for program leadership to regularly review boundaries and ethical behaviors in one-on-one supervisions and staff meetings; and
- to revise the current annual PREA training content to include more information on boundaries between staff and clients, ethical behavior generally, and various ways in which clients might attempt groom staff for purposes of the client being able to exploit staff for the client’s personal advantage.

### Assessment of Progress

As of January 2023, the PREA Coordinator is actively working on updates to the yearly refresher training for all staff working in this agency’s community confinement facilities. Once these revisions are complete, the PREA Coordinator will continue to periodically update both the yearly refresher training and the training at orientation for new staff. All community confinement program staff will continue to adhere to the agency’s PREA Policies and Procedures and remain compliant with the PREA standards. At least one (1) PREA Audit will be scheduled for 2023 for the new women’s work release program, Women’s RISE.

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6/2/2023

Elissa Viglione, PREA Coordinator

Date

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*Lisa DeMatteis*

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6/2/2023

Lisa DeMatteis, Chief Executive Officer

Date