



VisionQuest

2017 Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) Annual Report VISIONQUEST NATIONAL, LTD

Introduction

The Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) was enacted in 2003 to eliminate sexual abuse and harassment in confinement settings. PREA's implementing regulations, the "Final National Standards to Prevent, Detect and Respond to Prison Rape," were published by the Department of Justice (DOJ) and became effective on June 20, 2012. This federal act became mandated upon juvenile programs and recognized August 20, 2012 as the start date for compliance.

Agencies that had multiple programs were to get all programs audited within a three year period. The programs would then be subject to a review every three years from their last audit. In 2014, Pennsylvania recognized that PREA implementation was a slow starter and that the Bureau of Human Services Licensing should not penalize programs for being out of compliance in the first year cycle. VisionQuest contracted and started working with an auditor in January 2016 and with a committed and accelerated effort, completed the first PREA audit in May 2016. Historically, VisionQuest already reported and kept records of all abuse allegations and exercised much of the PREA practices prior to the inception and imposing of PREA as a federal mandate. This practice assisted in the gathering and assessment of data prescribed by PREA standards.

Agency Description

VisionQuest currently offers residential, community, and in-home programs to youth and their families in Arizona, Delaware, Florida, Maryland, Pennsylvania, and Texas. These programs serve youth and their families in both the child welfare and juvenile justice systems; youth with mental health and substance abuse diagnoses; and families experiencing varying levels of dysfunction. In Pennsylvania, VisionQuest is licensed to operate a 50 bed facility and 45 bed facility for males in Franklin, 32 bed facility for males in Gouldsboro, 19 bed facility for males in Saylorsburg, 32 bed and 112 bed facilities in Philadelphia that provide services for both males and females. In Delaware, VisionQuest opened two 10-bed Residential Alternative to Detention (RAD) programs for both males and females. The RAD programs have begun the PREA implementation process and are on track to have a PREA audit conducted in the fall of 2018. Currently, residential programs in Pennsylvania and Delaware are the only ones that are subject to being audited based on state adoption of PREA and clientele representation. In order to demonstrate compliance with PREA, juvenile residential facilities such as those operated by VisionQuest must be audited every three years. The VisionQuest Lee Preparatory Academy at South Penn and Hudmont were audited by a U.S Department of Justice (DOJ) certified PREA auditor on May 16-18, 2016. This audit disclosed that these two programs met 29 out of 36 areas of standards to prevent, detect and respond to prison rape. Programs are given 180 days from the date of the written audit to formulate a plan of correction for their deficiencies. VisionQuest submitted the last of its plan of correction in October 2016 and was deemed compliant with all PREA standards. Standing Timbers Academy and Blue Ridge Academy were audited on March 22-23, 2017. They received no deficiencies and were deemed compliant with all PREA standards.

VisionQuest collects data on every allegation of sexual abuse and sexual harassment at the facility, regardless of the resulting outcome of the investigation. Each allegation of abuse is reported to the specific state's child abuse

hotline and law enforcement. Upon completion of the investigation by the state and/or the appropriate law enforcement agency, a review is conducted by VisionQuest facility administration and assigned corporate members. The objective of this review is to identify, evaluate and direct any determined changes to policy or practice at that specific facility or agency wide that are needed to prevent future incidents. A report with its findings and recommendations is produced at the completion of the review and kept on file.

Definitions (As prescribed by PREA and the Survey for Sexual Victims):

Youth on youth non-consensual sexual acts – Sexual contact of any person without his or her consent, or of a person who is unable to consent or refuse; and sexual contact between the penis and the vulva or the penis and the anus including penetration, however slight; or contact between the mouth and the 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.

Youth on youth 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 the clothing, of the genitalia, anus, groin, breast, inner thigh, or buttocks of any person (this excludes any incidents in which the contact was incidental to a physical altercation).

Youth on youth sexual harassment – Repeated and unwelcome sexual advances and requests for sexual favors, or verbal comments, gestures, or actions of a derogatory or offensive sexual nature by one youth directed toward another.

Staff sexual misconduct – Any behavior or act of a sexual nature directed toward a youth by an employee, volunteer, contractor, official visitor or other agency representative (excluding family, friends or other visitors). Sexual relationships of a romantic nature between staff and youths are included in this definition. Consensual or non-consensual sexual acts include: Intentional touching, either directly or through the 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 sexual harassment – Repeated verbal statements, comments or gestures of a sexual nature to a youth by an employee, volunteer, contractor, official visitor, or other agency representative (excluding family, friends, or other visitors). This includes: Demeaning references to gender, or sexually suggestive or derogatory comments about body or clothing; or Repeated profane or obscene language or gestures.

Substantiated allegation – An allegation that was investigated and determined to have occurred.

Unsubstantiated allegation – An allegation that was investigated and produced insufficient evidence to make a final determination as to whether or not the event occurred.

Unfounded allegation – An allegation that was investigated and determined not to have occurred.

FACILITY STATISTICS 2017

VisionQuest Program	Client Listing on 12/31/17					From 1/1/17 – 12/31/17	
	Number of Males	Number of Females	Age 17 and under	Age 18 to 20	Age 21 or older	# of Admissions	# of Discharges
Lee Prep Hudmont	28	0	16	12	0	51	24
Lee Prep South Penn	0	0	0	0	0	41	68
Standing Timbers Academy	9	0	9	0	0	79	86
Blue Ridge Academy	13	0	11	2	0	15	12
Lee Prep Philadelphia	0	0	0	0	0	3	11
New Directions	0	0	0	0	0	903	956
RAD (Sussex County - Milford)	4	1	5	0	0	99	90
RAD (Kent County - Townsend)	6	2	8	0	0	140	135
TOTAL	60	3	49	14	0	1,331	1,382

STAFF SEXUAL MISCONDUCT 2017

VisionQuest Program	Staff on Youth Sexual Misconduct					Staff on Youth Sexual Harassment				
	Total Allegations	Substantiated	Unsubstantiated	Unfounded	Investigation Ongoing	Total Allegations	Substantiated	Unsubstantiated	Unfounded	Investigation Ongoing
Lee Prep Hudmont	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lee Prep South Penn	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Standing Timbers Academy	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Blue Ridge Academy	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lee Prep Philadelphia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
New Directions	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
RAD (Sussex County - Milford)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
RAD (Kent County - Townsend)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0

Youth on Youth Sexual Victimization 2017

Youth on Youth Nonconsensual

VisionQuest Programs	Total Allegations	Substantiated	Unsubstantiated	Unfounded	Investigation Ongoing
Lee Prep Hudmont	0	0	0	0	0
Lee Prep South Penn	0	0	0	0	0
Standing Timbers Academy	0	0	0	0	0
Blue Ridge Academy	0	0	0	0	0
Lee Prep Philadelphia	0	0	0	0	0
New Directions	1	0	1	0	0
RAD (Sussex/Milford)	0	0	0	0	0
RAD (Kent/Townsend)	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	1	0	1	0	0

Youth on Youth Abusive Sexual Contact

VisionQuest Programs	Total Allegations	Substantiated	Unsubstantiated	Unfounded	Investigation Ongoing
Lee Prep Hudmont	0	0	0	0	0
Lee Prep South Penn	0	0	0	0	0
Standing Timbers Academy	0	0	0	0	0
Blue Ridge Academy	0	0	0	0	0
Lee Prep Philadelphia	0	0	0	0	0
New Directions	2	0	2	0	0
RAD (Sussex/Milford)	0	0	0	0	0
RAD (Kent/Townsend)	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	2	0	2	0	0

Youth on Youth Abusive Sexual Harassment

VisionQuest Programs	Total Allegations	Substantiated	Unsubstantiated	Unfounded	Investigation Ongoing
Lee Prep Hudmont	0	0	0	0	0
Lee Prep South Penn	0	0	0	0	0
Standing Timbers Academy	0	0	0	0	0
Blue Ridge Academy	0	0	0	0	0
Lee Prep Philadelphia	0	0	0	0	0
New Directions	2	0	2	0	0
RAD (Sussex/Milford)	0	0	0	0	0
RAD (Kent/Townsend)	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	2	0	2	0	0

*Please note, Lee Prep South Penn, Lee Prep Philadelphia, and New Directions were all closed during the 2017 calendar year.

Conclusion

During the calendar year of 2017, there were two (2) allegations made concerning staff sexual misconduct and five (5) allegations reported for youth on youth sexual victimization. The first allegation reported as staff sexual misconduct was investigated and determined to be unfounded, and the second allegation reported as staff sexual misconduct was investigated and determined to be unsubstantiated. Of the five (5) allegations reported as youth on youth sexual victimization, all five were investigated and determined to be unsubstantiated.

In 2017, we saw a reduction in staff sexual misconduct as incidents of alleged staff sexual misconduct decreased by 33% from the previous year. In the previous year, there were two (2) allegations reported as youth on youth sexual victimization, and in 2017 there were five (5). Although this is a rise from the previous year, all five incidents were reported from our largest program with the remaining programs reporting zero incidents of youth-on-youth sexual victimization. As a result of these incidents, we have placed an increased emphasis on our Zero Tolerance for Sexual Misconduct policy and re-trained staff on boundaries and “red flags” of abuse/harassment. In addition, we reviewed each facilities cameras and camera systems to determine if an upgrade was needed or if cameras needed to be placed in different areas of the facility. Any upgrades, replacement, or repositioning of cameras was completed according to recommendations. In 2017-2018, we upgraded the video camera systems at the two Delaware RAD programs and installed video cameras at Standing Timbers Academy in an effort to increase our prevention and detection strategies.

VisionQuest strives to place the safety and well-being of our residents as its foremost priority. VisionQuest will continue to thoroughly report and investigate any allegations or incidents of sexual abuse or harassment and pursue quality improvement in meeting or exceeding PREA standards. We remain committed in our efforts to prevent, detect and respond to sexual abuse and sexual harassment within all of our facilities.

Anyone who suspects a resident placed with VisionQuest is being sexually abused or sexually harassed is urged to contact one of the following entities (if it is an emergency and a child is imminent danger, contact 9-1-1):

Delaware:

Child Abuse Hotline
1-800-292-9582

https://kids.delaware.gov/fs/fs_can_report.shtml

Delaware State Police

<https://dsp.delaware.gov/locations/>

Pennsylvania

ChildLine (Child Abuse Hotline)
1-800-932-0313

www.compass.state.pa.us/cwis/public/home

Pennsylvania State Police

<http://www.psp.pa.gov/contact/Pages/Station-Directory.aspx>

VisionQuest Hotline

Third party grievances can be filed through the company website (www.vq.com) using the VQ Report It link or by contacting the program PREA Compliance Manager.

Any questions or concerns regarding the implementation of the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) within the VisionQuest programs should contact the agency PREA Coordinator at 610-486-2280 x 3242.