

PREA AUDIT REPORT INTERIM FINAL

COMMUNITY CONFINEMENT FACILITIES

NATIONAL
PREA
RESOURCE
CENTER



BJA
Bureau of Justice Assistance
U.S. Department of Justice

Auditor Information			
Auditor name: Walter Sipple			
Address: Post Office Box 2502, Mount Pleasant, South Carolina 29465			
Email: waltersipple@comcast.net			
Telephone number: 843-323-8851			
Date of facility visit: May 4, 2015			
Facility Information			
Facility name: Metro Transitional Center			
Facility physical address: 1303 Constitutional Road, Atlanta, Georgia 30316			
Facility mailing address: (if different from above)			
Facility telephone number: 404-624-2380			
The facility is:	<input type="checkbox"/> Federal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State	<input type="checkbox"/> County
	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Municipal	<input type="checkbox"/> Private for profit
	<input type="checkbox"/> Private not for profit		
Facility type:	<input type="checkbox"/> Community treatment center	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Community-based confinement facility	<input type="checkbox"/> Other
	<input type="checkbox"/> Halfway house	<input type="checkbox"/> Mental health facility	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Alcohol or drug rehabilitation center		
Name of facility's Chief Executive Officer: Pamela Wiggins			
Number of staff assigned to the facility in the last 12 months: 41			
Designed facility capacity: 234			
Current population of facility: 227			
Facility security levels/inmate custody levels: Minimum, Medium, Close			
Age range of the population: 20-68			
Name of PREA Compliance Manager: Susan Smith		Title:	PREA Compliance
Email address: Susan.Smith2@gdc.ga.gov		Telephone number:	404-624-2621
Agency Information			
Name of agency: Georgia Department of Corrections			
Governing authority or parent agency: (if applicable)			
Physical address: State Office South, 300 Patrol Road, Forsyth, Georgia 31029			
Mailing address: (if different from above)			
Telephone number: 478-992-5101			
Agency Chief Executive Officer			
Name: Greg Dozier		Title:	Asst. Comm.
Email address: Dozieg00@dcor.state.ga.us		Telephone number:	478-992-5101
Agency-Wide PREA Coordinator			
Name: Sharon Shaver		Title:	PREA Coordinator
Email address: Shaves01@dcor.state.ga.us		Telephone number:	678-628-3128

AUDIT FINDINGS

NARRATIVE:

The Metro Transitional Center is a community confinement facility, operated by the Georgia Department of Corrections. The facility houses female residents only, at 1303 Constitution Road, Southeast, Atlanta, Georgia. The Metro Transitional Center is considered a community confinement facility where inmates are allowed to be employed in the local community. The agency policies and procedures somewhat mirror the written language of the Prison Rape Elimination Act standards. The on-site visit and tour portion of the Prison Rape Elimination Act audit was performed on May 4, 2015, by Walter Sipple, United States Department of Justice Certified Auditor. An entrance meeting was held with senior level facility staff. Following the entrance meeting, the auditor toured and observed operations at the facility. Staff and resident interviews were conducted. Outside agencies were interviewed, to include but not limited to, The Grady Rape Crisis Center of Atlanta and Just Detention International. Residents that were released from community-based supervision were also interviewed. The auditor also visited Metro Transitional Center after normal working hours to observe operations and interview night shift staff. The Metro Transitional Center staff was very cooperative and helpful throughout the audit process.

The Metro Transitional Center's mission statement is as follows, "To assist residents in making successful transitions back into the community by providing therapeutic counseling and social and employment skills". The Georgia Department of Corrections mission statement is as follows: "The department of corrections creates a safer Georgia by effectively managing offenders and providing opportunities for positive change". The Metro Transitional Center provides work release throughout the Atlanta metropolitan area. Long term maintenance residents are assigned as permanent workers for other confinement facilities such as Helms Correctional facility as well as other government facilities. Programs offered include, but not limited to, general education diploma, adult basic education, remedial literacy, alcoholics anonymous, narcotics anonymous, moral recognition therapy, motivation for change, relapse prevention, family violence, battered women, intensive individual counseling, therapeutic counseling, work release, community pass, job readiness, health education, parenting, grief loss and healing, relationships group, career development, goal setting and achievement, wise money management, art appreciation, matrix, fatherhood program, and basic world of works. Metro Transitional Center also offers various recreation and religious programs.

An objective random sampling of staff, volunteer, resident, and contractor interviews was selected from a series of lists provided to the auditor by the facility. Last names were randomly selected from an alphabetically ordered list. A total of 23 residents were interviewed per random sampling from the

auditor, along with special category residents and selected resident sampling identified during the intake screening process. A total of 14 agency and facility staff were interviewed per random sampling from the auditor along with position held within the organizational chart from by the agency and facility.

An exit interview was conducted at the end of the on-site portion of the audit and both the auditor and agency agreed upon corrective actions to be completed within the next thirty days. The exit interview consisted of the Superintendent, Auditor, facility Prison Rape Elimination Act Compliance Manager, and Prison Rape Elimination Act Coordinator.

DESCRIPTION OF FACILITY CHARACTERISTICS:

The Metro Transitional Center is a single story building located near a residential neighborhood at 1303 Constitution Road Southeast, in Atlanta, Georgia. It was constructed in 1981 and was last renovated in 1989. The facility is classified as a security level minimum with a total capacity of 235 adult female inmates. The housing areas consist of three buildings with rooms containing three to four beds. Building A and B accommodate all advanced phases of classified residents and long term maintenance residents. Building C accommodates all resident orientation, initial phase classified residents, and guide dog handler residents. The average daily population of the Metro Transitional Center is 222 residents. During the past 12 month period, 287 residents were housed at the facility with an average length of stay of 9-12 months. The facility has a total of 41 staff that may have contact with residents.

SUMMARY OF AUDIT FINDINGS:

The Metro Transitional Center was audited on May 4, 2015. During the past 12 months, the facility reports one allegation of sexual misconduct. The case was handled at an administrative level and not criminal. The auditor was impressed with the re-entry and transition mission of the facility along with the positive feedback from staff and residents. The auditor was impressed with the large amount of experienced staff with some uniform staff having more than one decades experience working in corrections. The majority of staff interviewed were motivated about working at the Metro Transitional Center and committed to ensuring that the facility is Prison Rape Elimination Act compliant. Based on the auditor's individualized review of agency and facility policies, procedures, practice, staff interviews, resident interviews, released resident interviews, and feedback from outside agencies, the facility is in compliance with 100%, or all 39, Prison Rape Elimination Act standards.

Number of standards exceeded: 0.

Number of standards met: 39.

Number of standards not met: 0.

Number of standards not applicable: 0.

PREA Standard 115.211: Zero tolerance of sexual abuse and sexual harassment.

- Exceeds Standard (substantially exceeds requirement of standard)
- Meets Standard (substantial compliance; complies in all material ways with the standard for the relevant review period)
- Does not Meet Standard (requires corrective action)

Auditor comments: The Georgia Department of Corrections has a written policy 208.06 and procedure mandating zero tolerance toward all forms of sexual abuse and sexual harassment and outlining the agency's approach to preventing, detecting, and responding to such conduct. The Georgia Department of Corrections has one upper-level, agency-wide Prison Rape Elimination Act coordinator with sufficient time and authority to develop, implement, and oversee agency efforts to comply with the Prison Rape Elimination Act standards in all of its facilities. The Metro Transitional Center has one Prison Rape Elimination Act compliance manager with sufficient time and authority to coordinate the facility's efforts to comply with the Prison Rape Elimination Act standards. Based on interviews with both the Prison Rape Elimination Act coordinator and compliance manager, they have the knowledge, background, authority, and time to perform their duties. Both are on the agency and facility organizational chart. The auditor was impressed with the expertise of the agency Prison Rape Elimination Act coordinator.

Based on a review of Georgia Department of Corrections policy 208.06, procedures, and practice to include staff, resident, and outside agency interviews, the agency and facility is in compliance with the Prison Rape Elimination Act standard. The agency and facility is in the first year cycle of becoming a Prison Rape Elimination Act compliant facility and the auditor stressed that Prison Rape Elimination Act compliance is a continuum process.

PREA Standard 115.212: Contracting with other entities for the confinement of residents.

- Exceeds Standard (substantially exceeds requirement of standard)
- Meets Standard (substantial compliance; complies in all material ways with the standard for the relevant review period)
- Does Not Meet Standard (requires corrective action)

Auditor comments: The Metro Transitional Center houses only Georgia Department of Corrections inmates. The residents are under the authority of the Georgia Department of Corrections. All agency contracts include the entity's obligation to adopt along with compliance of Prison Rape Elimination Act standards. The auditor reviewed Georgia Department of Corrections policy 208.6 along with procedures. The facility reported no contracts on the pre-audit questionnaire submitted to the auditor. The agency and facility meets the standard and complies with the standard for the relevant review period.

PREA Standard 115.213: Supervision and monitoring.

- Exceeds Standard (substantially exceeds requirement of standard)
- Meets Standard (substantial compliance; complies in all material ways with the standard for the relevant review period)
- Does Not Meet Standard (requires corrective action)

Auditor comments: The Georgia Department of Corrections and facility staffing plan takes the following into consideration:

- 1) The physical layout of each facility;
- 2) The composition of the resident population;
- 3) The prevalence of substantiated and unsubstantiated incidents of sexual abuse; and
- 4) Any other relevant facts.

In circumstance where the staffing plan is not complied with, the facility shall document and justify all deviations from the plan. Whenever necessary, but no less frequently than once each year, the facility shall assess, determine, and document whether adjustments are needed to:

- 1) The staffing plan established pursuant to the standard;
- 2) Prevailing staffing patterns;
- 3) The facility's deployment of video monitoring systems and other monitoring technologies; and
- 4) The resources the facility has available to commit to ensure adequate staffing levels.

The auditor reviewed Georgia Department of Corrections policy 208.6 and observed procedures at the Metro Transitional Center. The auditor interviewed the facility compliance manager to confirm compliance with the standard. The facility forwards a written review to the agency Prison Rape Elimination Act coordinator annually. The agency and facility meets the standard and complies with the standard for the relevant review period.

PREA Standard 115.215: Limits to cross-gender viewing and searches.

- Exceeds Standard (substantially exceeds requirement of standard)
- Meets Standard (substantial compliance; complies in all material ways with the standard for the relevant review period)
- Does Not Meet Standard (requires corrective action)

Auditor comments: The Metro Transitional Center has a rated capacity under 235 residents and does not conduct cross-gender strip searches or cross-gender visual body cavity searches. The facility is single gender with all female residents and majority female staff. The facility reported on the pre-audit questionnaire that no cross-gender strip searches or cross-gender visual body cavity searches have occurred at the Metro Transitional Center.

The facility enables residents to shower, perform bodily functions, and change clothing without nonmedical staff of the opposite gender viewing their breasts, buttocks, or genitalia, except in exigent circumstances or when such viewing is incidental to routine cell checks. Such policies and procedures require staff of the opposite gender to announce their presence when entering a resident housing unit.

The facility does not search or physically examine a transgender or intersex resident for the sole purpose of determining the resident's genital status. If the resident's genital status is unknown, it is determined during conversations with the resident, by reviewing medical records, or, if necessary, by learning that information as part of a broader medical examination conducted in private by a medical practitioner.

The agency and facility trains security staff in how to conduct cross-gender pat-down searches, and searches of transgender and intersex residents, in a professional and respectful manner, and in the least intrusive manner possible, consistent with security needs.

The Georgia Department of Corrections policy 208.06 was reviewed by the auditor along with observing facility procedures to confirm compliance. The agency and facility is in compliance with the Prison Rape Elimination Act standard.

PREA Standard 115.216: Residents with disabilities and residents who are limited English proficient.

- Exceeds Standard (substantially exceeds requirement of standard)
- Meets Standard (substantial compliance; complies in all material ways with the standard for the relevant review period)
- Does Not Meet Standard (requires corrective action)

Auditor comments: The Georgia Department of Corrections takes appropriate steps to ensure that residents with disabilities, including, for example, residents who are deaf or hard of hearing, those who are blind or have low vision, or those who have intellectual, psychiatric, or speech disabilities, have an equal opportunity to participate in or benefit from all aspects of the agency's efforts to prevent, detect, and respond to sexual abuse and sexual harassment.

Based on random resident and staff interviews conducted during the on-site portion of the audit, the agency and facility takes reasonable steps to ensure meaningful access to all aspects of the agency's

efforts to prevent, detect, and respond to sexual abuse and sexual harassment to residents who are limited English proficient. The agency does not rely on resident interpreters, resident readers, or other types of resident assistants except in limited circumstances where an extended delay in obtaining an effective interpreter could compromise the resident's safety. The auditor noted that the facility infrastructure accommodates residents with disabilities.

The auditor reviewed Georgia Department of Corrections policy 208.06 and interviewed residents and staff during the on-site portion of the Prison Rape Elimination Act audit. The Metro Transitional Center reported on the pre-audit questionnaire that no resident interpreters or resident readers have been utilized at the facility within the past twelve months. The agency and facility is in compliance with the Prison Rape Elimination Act standard.

PREA Standard 115.217: Hiring and promotion decisions.

- Exceeds Standard (substantially exceeds requirement of standard)
- Meets Standard (substantial compliance; complies in all material ways with the standard for the relevant review period)
- Does Not Meet Standard (requires corrective action)

Auditor comments: Based on a review of Georgia Department of Corrections policy 208.06, procedures, and practice along with staff and resident interviews, the agency does not hire or promote anyone who may have contact with residents, and does not enlist the services of any contractor who may have contact with residents, who has engaged in sexual abuse in a prison, jail, lockup, community confinement facility, juvenile facility, or other institution, has been convicted of engaging or attempting to engage in sexual activity in the community facilitated by force, overt or implied threats of force, or coercion, or if the victim did not consent or was unable to consent or refuse; or has been civilly or administratively adjudicated to have engaged in the activity described.

The agency considers any incidents of sexual harassment in determining whether to hire or promote anyone, or to enlist the services of any contractor, who may have contact with residents. The agency performs a criminal background records check in coordination with the federal Bureau of Prisons before enlisting the services of any contractor who may have contact with residents. A process is in place for criminal background checks at least every five years for current employees and contractors who may have contact with residents.

The Metro Transitional Center reported on the pre-audit questionnaire that eight staff hired within the past twelve months who may have contact with residents received criminal background checks. The Georgia Department of Corrections and facility is in compliance with the Prison Rape Elimination Act standard.

PREA Standard 115.218: Upgrades to facilities and technologies.

- Exceeds Standard (substantially exceeds requirement of standard)
- Meets Standard (substantial compliance; complies in all material ways with the standard for the relevant review period)
- Does Not Meet Standard (requires corrective action)

Auditor comments: When installing or updating a video monitoring system, electronic surveillance system, or other monitoring technology, the agency considers how such technology may enhance the agency's ability to protect residents from sexual abuse.

The auditor reviewed Georgia Department of Corrections policy 208.06. The Metro Transitional Center reported on the pre-audit questionnaire that no upgrades to the facility have occurred since August 20, 2012. The agency and facility is in compliance with the Prison Rape Elimination Act standard.

PREA Standard 115.221: Evidence protocol and forensic medical examinations.

- Exceeds Standard (substantially exceeds requirement of standard)
- Meets Standard (substantial compliance; complies in all material ways with the standard for the relevant review period)
- Does Not Meet Standard (requires corrective action)

Auditor comments: Based on a review of Georgia Department of Corrections policy 208.06, procedure, and practice along with staff and resident interviews, to the extent the agency is responsible for investigating allegations of sexual abuse, the agency follows a uniform evidence protocol that maximizes the potential for obtaining usable physical evidence for administrative proceedings and criminal prosecutions.

The agency offers all victims of sexual abuse access to forensic medical examinations, without financial cost, where evidentiary or medical appropriate in accordance with the standard. Such examinations shall be performed by Sexual Assault Forensic Examiners or Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners where possible. They make available to the victim a victim advocate that accompanies the resident and supports the victim throughout the forensic medical examination process and investigatory interviews and shall provide emotional support, crisis intervention, information, and referrals.

The Metro Transitional Center has a specifically assigned sexual assault response team for immediate response to any Prison Rape Elimination Act type incident. The facility has an agreement with The Grady

Rape Crisis Center of Atlanta to assist all residents and a contract with Global Diagnostics for 24 hour on-call sexual assault nurse examiner response. The facility provided the auditor with a memo to all residents confirming no-cost response for any type of Prison Rape Elimination Act incident. The Metro Transitional Center reported no forensic examinations have occurred during the past twelve months. The agency and facility is in compliance with the Prison Rape Elimination Act standard.

PREA Standard 115.222: Policies to ensure referrals of allegations for investigations.

- Exceeds Standard (substantially exceeds requirement of standard)
- Meets Standard (substantial compliance; complies in all material ways with the standard for the relevant review period)
- Does Not Meet Standard (requires corrective action)

Auditor comments: The Georgia Department of Corrections and facility ensures that an administrative or criminal investigation is completed for all allegations of sexual abuse and sexual harassment. The agency has a policy that ensures allegations of sexual abuse or sexual harassment are referred for investigation to an agency with the legal authority to conduct criminal investigations, unless the allegation does not involve potentially criminal behavior. The agency publishes such policy on its website at www.dcor.state.ga.us. The agency documents all such referrals.

The Georgia Department of Corrections and Metro Transitional Center is in compliance with the Prison Rape Elimination Act standard.

PREA Standard 115.231: Employee training.

- Exceeds Standard (substantially exceeds requirement of standard)
- Meets Standard (substantial compliance; complies in all material ways with the standard for the relevant review period)
- Does Not Meet Standard (requires corrective action)

Auditor comments: The Georgia Department of Corrections trains all employees who have contact with residents on:

- 1) Its zero-tolerance policy for sexual abuse and sexual harassment;
- 2) How to fulfill their responsibilities under agency sexual abuse and sexual harassment; prevention, detection, reporting, and response policies and procedures;
- 3) Resident's right to be free from sexual abuse and sexual harassment;
- 4) The right of residents and employees to be free from retaliation for reporting sexual abuse and sexual harassment;

- 5) The dynamics of sexual abuse and sexual harassment in confinement;
- 6) The common reactions of sexual abuse and sexual harassment victims;
- 7) How to detect and respond to signs of threatened and actual sexual abuse;
- 8) How to avoid inappropriate relationships with residents;
- 9) How to communicate effectively and professionally with residents, including lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, or gender nonconforming residents; and
- 10) How to comply with relevant laws related to mandatory reporting of sexual abuse to outside authorities.

The auditor reviewed training records, PowerPoint presentations, staff acknowledgement sheets for compliance with standard and documentation of staff signatures signifying training. The training is tailored to the residents at the facility. The auditor interviewed both experienced staff as well as the most newly hired staff and both acknowledged an understanding of the training requirements in accordance with the standard.

The auditor reviewed Georgia Department of Corrections policy 208.06. The Georgia Department of Corrections and Metro Transitional Center is in compliance with the Prison Rape Elimination Act standard.

PREA Standard 115.232: Volunteer and contractor training.

- Exceeds Standard (substantially exceeds requirement of standard)
- Meets Standard (substantial compliance; complies in all material ways with the standard for the relevant review period)
- Does Not Meet Standard (requires corrective action)

Auditor comments: The Georgia Department of Corrections ensures all volunteers and contractors who have contact with residents have been trained on their responsibilities under the agency's sexual abuse and sexual harassment prevention, detection, and response policies and procedures.

The level and type of training provided to volunteers and contractors is based on the services they provide and level of contact they have with residents, but all volunteers and contractors who have contact with residents are notified of the agency's zero-tolerance policy regarding sexual abuse and sexual harassment and informed how to report such incidents.

The auditor reviewed Georgia Department of Corrections policy 208.06. The Metro Transitional Center reported on the pre-audit questionnaire that sixty volunteers and contractors who have contact with residents have been trained. The agency and facility is in compliance with the Prison Rape Elimination Act standard.

PREA Standard 115.233: Resident education.

- Exceeds Standard (substantially exceeds requirement of standard)
- Meets Standard (substantial compliance; complies in all material ways with the standard for the relevant review period)
- Does Not Meet Standard (requires corrective action)

Auditor comments: During the intake process, residents receive information explaining the Georgia Department of Correction's zero-tolerance policy regarding sexual abuse and sexual harassment and how to report incidents or suspicions of sexual abuse or sexual harassment.

The agency provides a comprehensive education to residents either in person or through video regarding their rights to be free from sexual abuse and sexual harassment and to be free from retaliation for reporting such incidents, and regarding agency policies and procedures for responding to such incidents.

The auditor reviewed resident signatures on intake and orientation process check lists originated from agency for the past twelve months. The agency has varied methods of education material such as posters and brochures with relevant Prison Rape Elimination Act information. The format is accessible to residents who are limited English proficient, deaf, visually impaired, otherwise disabled, as well as to residents who have limited reading skills.

The auditor reviewed Georgia Department of Corrections policy 208.06. The Metro Transitional Center reported on the pre-audit questionnaire that 234 residents have received training within the past twelve months. The agency and facility is in compliance with the Prison Rape Elimination Act standard.

PREA Standard 115.234: Specialized training: Investigations.

- Exceeds Standard (substantially exceeds requirement of standard)
- Meets Standard (substantial compliance; complies in all material ways with the standard for the relevant review period)
- Does Not Meet Standard (requires corrective action)

Auditor comments: Specialized training shall include techniques for interviewing sexual abuse victims, proper use of Miranda and Garrity warnings, sexual abuse evidence collection in confinement settings, and the criteria and evidence required to substantiate a case for administrative action or prosecution referral. The agency maintains documentation that agency investigators have completed the required specialized training in conducting sexual abuse investigations.

The auditor reviewed Georgia Department of Corrections policy 208.06. The Georgia Department of Corrections Prison Rape Elimination Act Coordinator confirmed compliance. The agency and facility is in compliance with the standard.

PREA Standard 115.235: Specialized training: Medical and mental health care.

- Exceeds Standard (substantially exceeds requirement of standard)
- Meet Standard (substantial compliance; complies in all material ways with the standard for the relevant review period)
- Does Not Meet Standard (requires corrective action)

Auditor comments: The Georgia Department of Corrections medical and mental health care practitioners have been trained in:

- 1) How to detect and assess signs of sexual abuse and sexual harassment;
- 2) How to preserve physical evidence of sexual abuse;
- 3) How to respond effectively and professionally to victims of sexual abuse and sexual harassment;
and
- 4) How and to whom to report allegations or suspicions of sexual abuse and sexual harassment.

The auditor confirmed that the National Institute of Corrections specialized training is being completed which meets compliance. The agency and facility is in compliance with the Prison Rape Elimination Act standard.

PREA Standard 115.241: Screening for risk of victimization and abusiveness.

- Exceeds Standard (substantially exceeds requirement of standard)
- Meets Standard (substantial compliance; complies in all material ways with the standard for the relevant review period)
- Does Not Meet Standard (requires corrective action)

Auditor comments: Based on interviews with the facility's intake staff and random residents, all

residents are assessed during the intake screening and upon transfer to the facility for their risk of being sexually abused by other residents or sexually abusive toward other residents. Intake screening shall ordinarily take place within 72 hours of arrival and more often is completed within 24 to 48 hours of arrival due to the small size of the facility. Such assessments shall be conducted using an objective screening instrument.

The intake screening shall consider, at a minimum, the following criteria to assess residents for risk of sexual victimization:

- 1) Whether the resident has a mental, physical, or developmental disability;
- 2) The age of the resident;
- 3) The physical build of the resident;
- 4) Whether the resident has previously been incarcerated;
- 5) Whether the resident's criminal history is exclusively nonviolent;
- 6) Whether the resident has prior convictions for sex offenses against an adult or child;
- 7) Whether the resident is or is perceived to be gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, intersex, or gender nonconforming;
- 8) Whether the resident has previously experienced sexual victimization; and
- 9) The resident's own perception of vulnerability.

The initial screening considers prior acts of sexual abuse, prior convictions for violent offenses, and history of prior institutional violence or sexual abuse, as known to the agency, in assessing residents for risk of being sexually abusive. A resident's risk level is reassessed when warranted due to a referral, request, incident of sexual abuse, or receipt of additional information that bears on the resident's risk of sexual victimization or abusiveness. The residents are not to be disciplined for refusing to answer, or for not disclosing complete information in response to questions asked.

The agency implements appropriate controls on the dissemination within the agency of responses to questions asked pursuant to this standard or order to ensure that sensitive information is not exploited to the resident's detriment by staff or other residents. Only limited staff has access to the risk screening form such as medical, mental health, facility director, as well as the Prison Rape Elimination Act coordinator.

The auditor reviewed resident intake records for those admitted with the past twelve months who have been screened within the first seventy-two hours of arrival. Initial assessments and well as reassessments for risk of sexual victimization or abusiveness were reviewed.

The auditor reviewed Georgia Department of Corrections policy 208.06. The agency and Metro Transitional Center is in compliance with the Prison Rape Elimination Act standard.

PREA Standard 115.242: Use of screening information.

- Exceeds Standard (substantially exceeds requirement of standard)
- Meets Standard (substantial compliance; complies in all material ways with the standard for the relevant review period)
- Does Not Meet Standard (requires corrective action)

Auditor comments: Based on interviews with the Metro Transitional Center staff and the Prison Rape Elimination coordinator, the agency could accept a lesbian, bisexual, transgender, or intersex resident without isolating them in a dedicated room. The agency shall use information from the risk screening to inform housing, bed, work, education, and program assignments with the goal of keeping separate those residents at high risk of being sexually victimized from those at high risk of being sexually abusive. The agency shall make individualized determinations about how to ensure the safety of each resident. In deciding whether to assign a transgender or intersex resident to a room for male or female residents, and in making other housing and programming assignments, the agency shall consider on a case-by-case basis whether a placement would ensure the resident's health and safety, and whether the placement would present management or security problems. A transgender or intersex resident's own views with respect to his or her own safety shall be given serious consideration. Transgender and intersex residents shall be given the opportunity to shower separately from other residents.

The auditor reviewed Georgia Department of Corrections policy 208.06. The auditor reviewed the agency sexual victim and sexual aggressor classification screening form which is thorough. The Metro Transitional Center staff had a clear understanding of the screening process. The agency and facility is in compliance with the Prison Rape Elimination Act standard.

PREA Standard 115.251: Resident reporting.

- Exceeds Standard (substantially exceeds requirement of standard)
- Meets Standard (substantial compliance; complies in all material ways with the standard for the relevant review period)
- Does Not Meet Standard (requires corrective action)

Auditor comments: The Georgia Department of Corrections has multiple internal ways for residents to privately report per the Prison Rape Elimination Act standard. Agency staff is well trained on accepting resident reports in multiple formats either verbally, in writing, and/or anonymously from third parties.

Agency staff accepts reports made verbally, in writing, anonymously, and from third parties and shall promptly document any verbal reports. The agency provides a method for staff to privately report sexual abuse and sexual harassment of residents.

The auditor reviewed Georgia Department of Corrections policy 208.06. The mission of the Inmate Affairs and Ombudsman Unit is to promote fairness, accountability and integrity by investigating public and offender grievances, appeals, and inquiries regarding unfair practices and non-compliance of policy. They accomplish that task by investigating allegations of violations of Georgia Department of Corrections policies and procedures, monitoring problems in the correctional system in a fair and consistent manner and addressing offender and general public concerns in an unbiased, impartial, and courteous manner. The Ombudsman contact number on the agency website is listed as 478-992-5358. The Georgia Department of Corrections and Metro Transitional Center is in compliance with the Prison Rape Elimination Act standard.

PREA Standard 115.252: Exhaustion of administrative remedies.

- Exceeds Standard (substantially exceeds requirement of standard)
- Meets Standard (substantial compliance; complies in all material ways with the standard for the relevant review period)
- Does Not Meet Standard (requires corrective action)

Auditor comments: The Georgia Department of Corrections does not require a resident to use any informal grievance process, or to otherwise attempt to resolve with staff, an alleged incident of sexual abuse. The agency ensures that a resident who alleges sexual abuse may submit a grievance without submitting it to a staff member who is the subject of the complaint, and such grievance is not referred to a staff member who is the subject of the complaint. A third party report on behalf of any resident is permitted. The auditor confirmed no third party reports received within the past twelve months with the agency Prison Rape Elimination Act coordinator and local outside agency rape crisis center. The agency will respond to any form of emergency grievance alleging that a resident is subject to a substantial risk of imminent sexual abuse.

The Metro Transitional Center reported on the pre-audit questionnaire no resident grievances filed within the past 12 months of the audit. The Georgia Department of Corrections is in compliance with the standard.

PREA Standard 115.253: Resident access to outside confidential support services.

- Exceeds Standard (substantially exceeds requirement of standard)
- Meets Standard (substantial compliance; complies in all material ways with the standard for the relevant review period)
- Does Not Meet Standard (requires corrective action)

Auditor comments: The auditor tested the resident telephone access for this outside confidential support service during the on-site portion of the audit, and interviewed facility staff and residents. The facility has posters and brochures with the contact information and is available to all residents, staff, and public. Staff informs residents of the extent to which such communications will be monitored and the extent to which reports of abuse will be forwarded to authorities in accordance with mandatory reporting laws.

The auditor reviewed Georgia Department of Corrections policy 208.06. The Metro Transitional Center has an agreement with The Grady Rape Crisis organization of Atlanta. The telephone contact number for the rape crisis center is 404-616-4861. The agency and facility is in compliance with the Prison Rape Elimination Act standard.

PREA Standard 115.254: Third-party reporting.

- Exceeds Standard (substantially exceeds requirement of standard)
- Meets Standard (substantial compliance; complies in all material ways with the standard for the relevant review period)
- Does Not Meet Standard (requires corrective action)

Auditor comments: The Georgia Department of Corrections has a method to receive third-party reports of sexual abuse and sexual harassment through its website, www.dcor.state.ga.us, reporting process and local rape crisis center. The agency shall distribute publicly information on how to report sexual abuse and sexual harassment on behalf of a resident. The agency has posters and brochures throughout the facility that are also available to anyone and explain third-party reporting options and processes.

The auditor reviewed Georgia Department of Corrections policy 208.06. The Metro Transitional Center utilizes the agency Ombudsman's Office as a third-party reporting option. The agency and facility is in compliance with the Prison Rape Elimination Act standard.

PREA Standard 115.261: Staff and agency reporting duties.

- Exceeds Standard (substantially exceeds requirement of standard)
- Meets Standard (substantial compliance; complies in all material ways with the standard for the relevant review period)
- Does Not Meet Standard (requires corrective action)

Auditor comments: Based on Georgia Department of Corrections policy 208.06, procedures, and interviews with case managers, intake staff, facility director, Prison Rape Elimination Act coordinator, and random residents the facility is in compliance with the Prison Rape Elimination Act standard. The agency requires all staff to report immediately and according to agency policy any knowledge, suspicion, or information regarding an incident of sexual abuse or sexual harassment that occurred at the facility, whether or not it is part of the agency; retaliation against residents or staff who reported such an incident; and any staff neglect or violation of responsibilities that may have contributed to an incident or retaliation. The agency reports all allegations of sexual abuse and sexual harassment, including third-party and anonymous reports, to the designated investigators.

Apart from reporting to designated personnel, staff shall not reveal any information related to a sexual abuse report to anyone other than to the extent necessary, as specified in the agency policy, to make treatment, investigation, and other security and management decisions. Based on agency staff and resident interviews, the agency is in compliance with the Georgia vulnerable adult statute, Georgia Code of Laws 30-5-1 and 30-5-4, in that staff will report allegations to the designated State agency under applicable mandatory reporting laws. The Georgia Department of Human Services is the designated reporting agency and has a toll free reporting hotline at 1-866-552-4464.

PREA Standard 115.262: Agency protection duties.

- Exceeds Standard (substantially exceeds requirement of standard)
- Meets Standard (substantial compliance; complies in all material ways with the standard for the relevant review period)
- Does Not Meet Standard (requires corrective action)

Auditor comments: Based on a review of Georgia Department of Corrections policy 208.06 and procedures along with agency staff and resident interviews during the on-site portion of the audit, once the agency staff learns that a resident is subject to a substantial risk of imminent sexual abuse, they will take immediate action to protect the resident.

The Metro Transitional Center reported on the pre-audit questionnaire that no residents were determined not to be at substantial risk of imminent sexual abuse within the past 12 months of the audit. The Georgia Department of Corrections is in compliance with the Prison Rape Elimination Act standard.

PREA Standard 115.263: Reporting to other confinement facilities.

- Exceeds Standard (substantially exceeds requirement of standard)
- Meets Standard (substantial compliance; complies in all material ways with the standard for the relevant review period)
- Does Not Meet Standard (requires corrective action)

Auditor comments: Based on a review of Georgia Department of Corrections policy 208.06 and procedures along with agency staff interviews the facility director will notify and take action as soon as possible, but no later than seventy-two hours after receiving an allegation that a resident was sexually abused while confined at another facility. The agency documents such notification and informs the head of the facility and head of the agency where the alleged abuse occurred. Based on staff and resident interviews, the facility director has not had any allegations of abuse at another facility within the past twelve month period. The agency will document that it has provided such notification and ensure that the allegation is investigated in accordance with the Prison Rape Elimination Act standard.

The Metro Transitional Center reported on the pre-audit questionnaire that no allegations of sexual abuse were received from other facilities during the past 12 months of the audit. The Georgia Department of Corrections and Metro Transitional Center is in compliance with the Prison Rape Elimination Act standard.

PREA Standard 115.264: Staff first responder duties.

- Exceeds Standard (substantially exceeds requirement of standard)
- Meets Standard (substantial compliance; complies in all material ways with the standard for the relevant review period)
- Does Not Meet Standard (requires corrective action)

Auditor comments: Based on Georgia Department of Corrections policy 208.06 and procedures along with agency staff and resident interviews during the on-site portion of the audit, upon learning of an allegation that a resident was sexually abused, the first staff member to respond to the report shall: separate the alleged victim and abuser; preserve and protect any crime scene until appropriate steps

can be taken to collect any evidence; if the abuse occurred within a time period that still allows for the collection of physical evidence, request that the alleged victim not take any actions that could destroy physical evidence, including, as appropriate, washing, brushing teeth, changing clothes, urinating, defecating, smoking, drinking, or eating; and if the abuse occurred within a time period that still allows for the collection of physical evidence, ensure that the alleged abuser does not take any actions that could destroy physical evidence, including, as appropriate, washing, brushing teeth, changing clothes, urinating, defecating, smoking, drinking, or eating.

If the first responder is not a security staff member, the responder shall be required to request that the alleged victim not take any actions that could destroy physical evidence, and then notify security staff. The Metro Transitional Center reported on the pre-audit questionnaire no receipt of allegations that a resident was sexually abused in the past 12 months of the audit. The Georgia Department of Corrections and facility is in compliance with the Prison Rape Elimination Act standard.

PREA Standard 115.265: Coordinated response.

- Exceeds Standard (substantially exceeds requirement of standard)
- Meets Standard (substantial compliance; complies in all material ways with the standard for the relevant review period)
- Does Not Meet Standard (requires corrective action)

Auditor comments: Based on Georgia Department of Corrections policy 208.06 and procedures along with the agency staff and resident interviews during the on-site portion of the audit, the facility has a written institutional plan to coordinate actions taken in response to an incident of sexual abuse, among staff first responders, contract agencies, facility leadership, and agency executive leadership. The auditor received a coordinated response check list from the Metro Transitional Center staff. The Georgia Department of Corrections and Metro Transitional Center is in compliance with the Prison Rape Elimination Act standard.

PREA Standard 115.266: Preservation of ability to protect residents from contact with abusers.

- Exceeds Standard (substantially exceeds requirement of standard)
- Meets Standard (substantial compliance; complies in all material ways with the standard for the relevant review period)
- Does Not Meet Standard (requires corrective action)

Auditor comments: Based on Georgia Department of Corrections policy and procedures along with interviews with agency staff and residents, the agency is not bound by any form of collective bargaining in order to remove alleged staff sexual abusers from contact with any residents pending the outcome of an investigation or of a determination of whether and to what extent discipline is warranted. The Georgia Department of Corrections does not have collective bargaining.

The Georgian Department of Corrections and Metro Transitional Center is in compliance with the Prison Rape Elimination Act standard.

PREA Standard 115.267: Agency protection against retaliation.

- Exceeds Standard (substantially exceeds requirement of standard)
- Meets Standard (substantial compliance; complies in all material ways with the standard for the relevant review period)
- Does Not Meet Standard (requires corrective action)

Auditor comments: Based on Georgia Department of Corrections policy 208.06 and procedure along with agency staff and resident interviews, the agency protects all residents and staff who report sexual abuse or sexual harassment or cooperate with sexual abuse or sexual harassment investigations from retaliation by other residents or staff.

The agency has multiple protection measures, such as transfers for resident victims or abusers, removal of alleged staff or resident abusers from contact with victims, and emotional support services for residents or staff that fear retaliation for reporting sexual abuse or sexual harassment or for cooperating with investigations.

For at least 90 days following a report of sexual abuse, the facility monitors the conduct and treatment of residents or staff who reported the sexual abuse and of residents who were reported to have suffered sexual abuse to see if there are changes that may suggest possible retaliation by residents or staff, and shall act promptly to remedy any such retaliation. For example, the facility will monitor any resident disciplinary actions, program changes, or negative reviews or reassignment recommendations from staff. The facility continues such monitoring beyond 90 days if the initial monitoring indicates a continuing need. If any other individual who cooperates with an investigation expresses a fear of retaliation, the agency shall take appropriate measures to protect that individual against retaliation.

The Metro Transitional Center reported on the pre-audit questionnaire that no incidents of retaliation have occurred within the past 12 months of the audit. The Georgia Department of Corrections and Metro Transitional Center is in compliance the Prison Rape Elimination Act standard.

PREA Standard 115.271: Criminal and administrative agency investigations.

- Exceeds Standard (substantially exceeds requirement of standard)
- ✓ Meets Standard (substantial compliance; complies in all material ways with the standard for the relevant review period)
- Does Not Meet Standard (requires corrective action)

Auditor comments: Based on Georgia Department of Corrections policy 208.06 and procedures along with agency staff and residents, when the agency conducts its own administrative investigations on staff of sexual abuse and sexual harassment, it does so promptly, thoroughly, and objectively for all allegations, including third-party and anonymous reports. The auditor reviewed the staff investigations during the on-site portion of the audit. The Georgia Department of Corrections has an Internal Affairs Division which performs investigations not handled at the facility level.

Criminal investigations are handled by the Georgia Department of Corrections. Some cases may be referred to another agency, Georgia Bureau of Investigations. The Georgia Bureau of Investigation is an independent, statewide agency that provides assistance to the state's criminal justice system. They have a 24 hour, toll free, hotline at 1-800-597-8477.

The agency coordinates with other outside agencies in determining further action and prosecution. The agency does not compel residents to a polygraph examination or other truth-telling device as a condition for proceeding with an investigation. Investigations are documented in a written report that contains a thorough description of physical, testimonial, and documentary evidence and attaches copies of all documentary evidence where feasible. The agency retains all written reports for as long as the alleged abuser is housed at the facility or employed by the agency, plus five years. The departure of the alleged abuser or victim from the employment or control of the agency shall not provide a basis for terminating an investigation. The Georgia Department of Corrections retains all written reports for as long as the alleged abuser is incarcerated or employed by the Georgia Department of Corrections, plus five years.

The Georgia Department of Corrections and Metro Transitional Center is in compliance with the Prison Rape Elimination Act standard.

PREA Standard 115.272: Evidentiary standard for administrative investigations.

- Exceeds Standard (substantially exceeds requirement of standard)
- ✓ Meets Standard (substantial compliance; complies in all material ways with the standard for the relevant period)

- Does Not Meet Standard (requires corrective action)

Auditor comments: Based on Georgia Department of Corrections policy 208.06 and staff interviews, the agency imposes no standard higher than a preponderance of the evident in determining whether allegations of sexual abuse or sexual harassment are substantiated.

The Georgia Department of Corrections and Metro Transitional Center is in compliance with the Prison Rape Elimination Act standard.

PREA Standard 115.273: Reporting to residents.

- Exceeds Standard (substantially exceeds requirement of standard)
- ✓ Meets Standard (substantial compliance; complies in all material ways with the standard for the relevant review period)
- Does Not Meet Standard (requires corrective action)

Auditor comments: Based on the Georgia Department of Corrections policy 208.06, following a resident allegation that a staff member has committed sexual abuse against a resident, the agency shall subsequently inform the resident (exception being if the allegation is determined to be unfounded):

- 1) The staff member is no longer employed by the agency;
- 2) The agency learns that the staff member has been indicted on a charge related to sexual abuse within the agency; or
- 3) The agency learns that the staff member has been convicted on a charge related to sexual abuse within the agency.

Following a resident's allegation that he or she has been sexually abused by another resident, the agency shall subsequently inform the alleged victim whenever: The agency learns that the alleged abuser has been indicted on a charge related to sexual abuse within the agency; or the agency learns that the alleged abuse has been convicted on a charge related to sexual abuse within the agency.

All such notification to the residents or attempted notifications are documented. The Georgia Department of Corrections and Metro Transitional Center is in compliance with the Prison Rape Elimination Act standard.

PREA Standard 115.276: Disciplinary sanctions for staff.

- Exceeds Standard (substantially exceeds requirement of standard)
- ✓ Meets Standard (substantial compliance; complies in all material ways with the standard for the relevant review period)

- Does Not Meet Standard (requires corrective action)

Auditor comments: Based on Georgia Department of Corrections policy 208.06 and procedures along with staff and resident interviews, the facility had no staff related sexual harassment incident this past twelve month review period. Disciplinary sanctions for violations of agency policies relating to sexual abuse or sexual harassment are commensurate with the nature and circumstances of the acts committed, the staff member's disciplinary history, and the sanctions imposed for comparable offenses by other staff with similar histories.

All terminations for violations of agency sexual abuse or sexual harassment policies, or resignations by staff who would have been terminated if not for their resignation, shall be reported to law enforcement agencies, unless the activity was clearly not criminal, and to any relevant licensing bodies.

The Metro Transitional Center reported on the pre-audit questionnaire that no staff has been disciplined, short of termination, for violation of agency sexual abuse or sexual harassment policies. The Georgia Department of Corrections is in compliance with the Prison Rape Elimination Act standard.

PREA Standard 115.277: Corrective action for contractors and volunteers.

- Exceeds Standard (substantially exceeds requirement of standard)
- Meets Standard (substantial compliance; complies in all material ways with the standard for the relevant review period)
- Does Not Meet Standard (requires corrective action)

Auditor comments: Based on Georgia Department of Corrections policy 208.06 and procedure along with the staff and resident interviews, any contractor or volunteer who engages in sexual abuse shall be prohibited from contact with residents and shall be reported to law enforcement agencies, unless the activity was clearly not criminal, and to relevant licensing bodies.

The agency takes appropriate remedial measures, and shall consider whether to prohibit further contact with residents, in the case of any other violation of agency sexual abuse or sexual harassment policies by a contractor or volunteer.

The Georgia Department of Corrections and Metro Transitional Center is in compliance with the Prison Rape Elimination Act standard.

PREA Standard 115.278: Disciplinary sanctions for residents.

- Exceeds Standard (substantially exceeds requirement of standard)
- Meets Standard (substantial compliance; complies in all material ways with the standard for the relevant review period)
- Does Not Meet Standard (requires corrective action)

Auditor comments: Residents are subject to disciplinary sanctions in accordance with Georgia Department of Corrections policy 208.06. Residents may be subject to disciplinary sanctions following an administrative finding that the resident engaged in resident-on-resident sexual abuse, or following a criminal finding of guilt for resident-on-resident sexual abuse.

Sanctions are commensurate with the nature and circumstances of the abuse committed, the resident's disciplinary history, and the sanctions imposed for comparable offenses by other residents with similar histories. The disciplinary process considers whether a resident's mental disabilities or mental illness contributed to their behavior when determining what type of sanction, if any, should be imposed.

The agency disciplines a resident for sexual contact with staff only upon a finding that the staff member did not consent to such contact. A report of sexual abuse made in good faith based upon a reasonable belief that the alleged conduct occurred shall not constitute falsely reporting an incident or lying, even if an investigation does not establish evidence sufficient to substantiate the allegation. The agency prohibits all sexual activity between residents and may discipline residents for such activity.

The Metro Transitional Center reported on the pre-audit questionnaire no findings of guilt for resident-on-resident criminal sexual abuse within the past 12 months of the audit. Based on review of Georgia Department of Corrections policy 208.06 and procedure along with staff and resident interviews, the agency and facility is in compliance with the Prison Rape Elimination Act standard.

PREA Standard 115.282: Access to emergency medical and mental health services.

- Exceeds Standard (substantially exceeds requirement of standard)
- Meets Standard (substantial compliance; complies in all material ways with the standard for the relevant review period)
- Does Not Meet Standard (requires corrective action)

Auditor comments: Resident victims of sexual abuse receive timely, unimpeded access to emergency medical treatment and crisis intervention services, the nature and scope of which are determined by

medical and mental health practitioners according to their professional judgment. If no qualified medical or mental health practitioners are available at the time a report of recent abuse is made, security staff first responders take preliminary steps to protect the victim and shall immediately notify the appropriate medical and mental health practitioners.

Resident victims of sexual abuse while housed are offered timely information about and timely access to emergency contraception and sexually transmitted infections prophylaxis, in accordance with professionally accepted standards of care, where medically appropriate. Treatment services are provided to the victim without financial cost and regardless of whether the victim names the abuser or cooperates with any investigation arising out of the incident.

The auditor received medical assessment and check list forms from the Metro Transitional Center along with Georgia Department of Corrections policy VH85-0002 and YG01-0001. Based on a review of agency and facility policy and procedures along with staff and resident interviews, the agency and facility is in compliance with the Prison Rape Elimination Act standard.

PREA Standard 115.283: Ongoing medical and mental health care for sexual abuse victims and abusers.

- Exceeds Standard (substantially exceeds requirement of standard)
- Meets Standard (substantial compliance; complies in all material ways with the standard for the relevant review period)
- Does Not Meet Standard (requires corrective action)

Auditor comments: The Georgia Department of Corrections offers medical and mental health evaluations and, as appropriate, treatment to all residents who have been victimized by sexual abuse in the facility. The evaluation and treatment of such victims include, as appropriate, follow-up services, treatment plans, and, when necessary, referrals for continued care following their transfer, or placement in, other facilities, or their release from custody. The treatment provides such victims with medical and mental health services consistent with the community level of care. Resident victims of sexual abuse while housed are offered tests for sexually transmitted infections as medically appropriate. Resident victims of sexually abusive vaginal penetration while incarcerated shall be offered pregnancy tests. Treatment services are provided to the victim without financial cost and regardless of whether the victim names the abuse or cooperates with any investigation arising out of the incident.

The auditor received medical and mental health care response forms from the Metro Transitional Center along with a letter to residents confirming access to services. Based on a review of agency and facility policy (VH85-0002 and VG01-0001) and procedures, along with staff and resident interviews, the agency and facility is in compliance with the Prison Rape Elimination Act standard. The agency offers 24 hour unimpeded access to medical and mental health care.

PREA Standard 115.286: Sexual abuse incident reviews.

- Exceeds Standard (substantially exceeds requirement of standard)
- Meets Standard (substantial compliance; complies in all material ways with the standard for the relevant review period)
- Does Not Meet Standard (requires corrective action)

Auditor comments: The facility shall conduct a sexual abuse incident review at the conclusion of every sexual abuse investigation, including where the allegation has not been substantiated, unless the allegation has been determined to be unfounded. The review team reviews the following:

- 1) Consider whether the allegation or investigation indicates a need to change policy or practice to better prevent, detect, or respond to sexual abuse;
- 2) Consider whether the incident or allegation was motivated by race; ethnicity; gender identity; lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or intersex identification, status, or perceived status; or gang affiliation; or was motivated or otherwise caused by other group dynamics at the facility;
- 3) Examine the area in the facility where the incident allegedly occurred to assess whether physical barriers in the area may enable abuse;
- 4) Assess the adequacy of staffing levels in that area during different shifts;
- 5) Assess whether monitoring technology should be deployed or augmented to supplement supervision by staff; and
- 6) Prepare a report of its findings, including but not necessarily limited to determinations made pursuant to above paragraph numbers 1 to 5, and any recommendations for improvement, and submit such report to the facility head and Prison Rape Elimination Act compliance manager.

The Metro Transitional Center reported on the pre-audit questionnaire no investigations requiring a sexual abuse incident review team within the past 12 months of the audit. Based on a review of Georgia Department of Corrections policy and procedures, along with interviews from staff and residents, the agency and facility is in compliance with the Prison Rape Elimination Act standard.

PREA Standard 115.287: Data collection.

- Exceeds Standard (substantially exceeds requirement of standard)
- Meets Standard (substantial compliance; complies in all material ways with the standard for the relevant review period)
- Does Not Meet Standard (requires corrective action)

Auditor comments: The Georgia Department of Corrections collects accurate, uniform data for every allegation of sexual abuse at the facilities under its direct control using a standardized instrument and set of definitions. The agency aggregates the incident-based sexual abuse data at least annually, although the agency is in its first year of data collection. The incident-based data collected shall include, at a minimum, the data necessary to answer all questions from the most recent version of the Survey of Sexual Violence conducted by the Department of Justice. The agency maintains, reviews, and collects data from every facility. Upon request, the agency shall provide all such data from the previous calendar year to the Department of Justice no later than June 30.

Based on a review of documented allegation logs, data collection documentation, policy, and procedures along with agency staff interviews, the agency and facility is in compliance with the Prison Rape Elimination Act standard.

PREA Standard 115.288: Data review for corrective action.

- Exceeds Standard (substantially exceeds requirement of standard)
- Meets Standard (substantial compliance; complies in all material ways with the standard for the relevant review period)
- Does Not Meet Standard (requires corrective action)

Auditor comments: Based on Georgia Department of Corrections policy and procedure review along with agency staff interviews, the agency reviews data collected and aggregated in order to assess and improve the effectiveness of its sexual abuse prevention, detection, and response policies, practices, and training, by:

- 1) Identifying problem areas;
- 2) Taking corrective action on an ongoing basis; and
- 3) Preparing an annual report of its findings and corrective actions for each facility, as well as the agency as a whole.

The agency is in its first year of data review and will compare the current year's data and corrective action with those from next years and shall provide an assessment of the agency's progress in addressing sexual abuse. The agency's report is approved by the director of the agency and made readily available to the public through its website. The agency website is www.dcor.state.ga.us. The agency redacts specific material from the reports when publication would present a clear and specific threat to the safety and security of a facility, but must indicate the nature of the material redacted.

The Georgia Department of Corrections is in compliance with the Prison Rape Elimination Act standard.

PREA Standard 115.289: Data storage, publication, and destruction.

- Exceeds Standard (substantially exceeds requirement of standard)
- Meets Standard (substantial compliance; complies in all material ways with the standard for the relevant review period)
- Does Not Meet Standard (requires corrective action)


Auditor comments: Based on a review of documents, policy, and procedure along with agency Prison Rape Elimination Act compliance manager and coordinator, the agency ensures that data is collected and securely retained. The agency makes all aggregated sexual abuse data, from facilities under its direct control, readily available to the public at least annually through its website. Before making aggregated sexual abuse data publicly available, the agency removes all personal identifiers. The agency maintains sexual abuse data collected for at least 10 years after the date of the initial collection.

The agency website is www.dcor.state.ga.us. The Georgia Department of Corrections is in compliance with the Prison Rape Elimination Act standard.

AUDITOR CERTIFICATION:

I certify that:

- The contents of this report are accurate to the best of my knowledge.
- No conflict of interest exists with respect to my ability to conduct an audit of the Georgia Department of Corrections or Metro Transitional Center under review.
- I have not included in the final report any personally identifiable information (PII) about any resident or staff member, except where the names of administrative personnel are specifically requested in the report template.

Walter Sipple  June 1, 2015

Auditor Signature

Date