



## Kentucky Department of Corrections

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### Kentucky State Reformatory Passes PREA Audit

**FRANKFORT, Ky. (Feb. 28, 2019)** – Kentucky State Reformatory (KSR) recently passed its Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) audit. Signed into law Sept. 4, 2003, PREA is intended to address the detection, prevention, reduction and prosecution of sexual harassment and abuse in correctional facilities throughout the country.

“KSR being designated as PREA compliant affirms the ongoing and outstanding work being performed by staff despite operational challenges and an aging physical plant,” said Deputy Commissioner Randy White.

The audit team consisted of two PREA auditors, Diane Lee and James McClelland, both employed by the American Correctional Association in Florida. Through formal and informal interviews with staff, contractors, volunteers and inmates, and the review of policy and documentation, the auditors stated it was evident that Kentucky State Reformatory has effectively educated all concerned in the zero-tolerance policy against sexual abuse. The auditors found both the staff and inmates to be very aware of PREA.

“The staff were very knowledgeable about their responsibilities to ensure a safe facility,” said audit chairperson Diane Lee. “They have all had extensive training on how to identify signs of sexual assault and harassment, and how to treat victims of sexual assault and harassment.”

The auditors spoke highly of the systems in place to deal with PREA incidents. They acknowledged that intake, classification assessment, and medical and mental health processes were efficient and seamless in addressing referrals based on victimization or abusiveness screening data. They also praised the facility for the adaptive measures taken to ensure PREA accessibility for inmates with disabilities and for having appropriate victim advocacy networks and reporting mechanisms in place.

“I would like to commend all our staff who have proven our commitment in ensuring the Reformatory is in compliance with PREA standards,” said Warden Anna Valentine. “This was the institution’s second PREA audit and the auditors noted that we had exceeded three standards. That is a clear testament that the facility is not only dedicated in meeting all standards but strive to go beyond what is required.”

PREA audits consist of 43 national standards that ensure compliance with all facets of this federal legislation. The last PREA audit conducted at KSR was in 2016, which also resulted in a passing score.

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