

**Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA)  
SFY2017 Annual Implementation Report  
July 20, 2017**

Early in State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2017, executive leadership at Onarga Academy entered into conversations with one of our placing agents about becoming certified PREA compliant. As a community based residential treatment center that is not locked for the purpose of confinement, we did not believe that Onarga Academy qualified to be audited and certified for PREA compliance. We compiled evidence of compliance with separate but comparable regulatory standards for licensing, certification, and accreditation. Members of our site leadership team reviewed the 41 standards and 271 sub-standards of the PREA Juvenile Facility Standards for elements in common with our Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) licensing as a Child Care Institution and a Child Welfare Agency, Illinois Medicaid Provider Certification, and accreditation by the Council on Accreditation (COA). This comparison revealed significant compliance with prevention, detection, and reporting standards.

Onarga Academy entered into a contractual agreement with a Certified PREA Auditor to conduct a formal review and provide consultation toward becoming certified as a PREA compliant facility based on the Juvenile Agency Standards. An audit was conducted on site during December, 2016, and the Interim Report was completed during January, 2017. The report indicated the following:

Number of standards exceeded: 1  
Number of standards met: 15  
Number of standards not met: 22  
Number of standards not applicable: 3

In response to the audit findings, leadership at Onarga Academy established a plan for corrective action that included development/implementation of procedural and administrative practices that would bring the agency into full compliance with the PREA standards. Activities and accomplishments included:

- Designated a site PREA Coordinator with authority to develop, implement, and oversee agency efforts to comply with the PREA standards.
- Developed and implemented a comprehensive PREA Policy that addressed all 38 applicable standards.
- Developed and presented information and education about the Onarga Academy zero tolerance policy, PREA practices, and individual rights for all youth in care.
- Conducted PREA generalized and specialized training of employees, contractors, volunteers, and interns.
- Identified elements of our Staffing Plan and formally reviewed implementation of the plan according to the site PREA Policy and Procedure.
- Developed and implemented practices for documenting activities that demonstrate compliance with the PREA standards, including aggregation and dissemination of data to employees, stakeholders, and the public.

Onarga Academy has participated in the United States Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice annual Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement by completing and submitting a survey in 2003 and each year since then. Additionally, the Academy has provided data to the United States Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics via the Survey of Sexual Victimization covering calendar years 2014, 2015, and 2016. The completed surveys are available for review on our website. During SFY 2017, Onarga Academy had zero (0) reported incidents of sexual abuse and zero (0) reported incidents of sexual harassment.

Onarga Academy takes the safety of youth in care very seriously and ensures that everyone who lives or works within our facility understands the signs and symptoms of sexual abuse, how to report suspected abuse, and how to respond to allegations of abuse. Though Onarga Academy is not a locked facility, and youth placed here are not detained, we recognize that the PREA standards for juvenile facilities are applicable to more than just jails and prisons. Onarga Academy is committed to demonstrating compliance with the standards and goals of PREA in order to provide a safe environment for the youth in care, their families, our vendors, our employees, and the surrounding community.

Onarga Academy does not tolerate any form of sexual abuse, sexual harassment, or retaliation against a person who reports.

As the interpretation and accepted practices related to the federal PREA standards continues to evolve, so too will our communication and response. Onarga Academy will continue to focus on a pro-active, transparent, and dynamic process of identifying the best methods to maintain a safe treatment environment that is free from all forms of harassment, abuse, and/or assault.

Respectfully submitted,



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