



News Release

FROM: Chambers of the Chief Judge
19th Judicial Circuit
Lake County
Waukegan, Illinois 60085-4359

Date of Release: February 14, 2018
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Waukegan, Illinois

DEPKE JUVENILE JUSTICE COMPLEX PASSES PRISON RAPE ELIMINATION ACT AUDIT

The Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) was passed in 2003 to provide for the analysis of the incidence and effects of prison rape in Federal, State, and local institutions; and to provide information, resources, recommendations, and funding to protect individuals from prison rape. In 2010, the Bureau of Justice Assistance funded the National PREA Resource Center to provide federally funded training and technical assistance to states and localities, as well as to serve as a single-stop resource for all those in the field working to come into compliance with federal standards.

From November 14th through 17th, 2017 the Hulse Detention Center and Families and Community Engaged in Treatment (FACE-IT), both part of the larger facility known as the Depke Juvenile Justice Complex of the 19th Judicial Circuit, were involved in their first PREA audit. The audit was conducted by Wayne R. Liddell, M.S, a Department of Justice Certified Auditor for Juvenile Facilities who randomly selected 11 residents, 12 direct care staff, and 19 specialized staff for interviews.

Based upon a thorough review of all audit related documents, interviews, and observations during the three phases of the process, the auditor has determined that the Hulse Detention Center and FACE-IT Program have achieved full compliance with the PREA Standards for Juvenile Facilities. "The Facility's policies, procedures, and practices meet the requirements of these PREA standards and effectively mandate a zero-tolerance threshold regarding the sexual abuse or sexual harassment of the residents in the facility," said Wayne Liddell.

"Our Juvenile Counselors, Juvenile Administration, and PREA Coordinator Jennifer Zakaras worked extremely hard in ensuring that our Facility gained compliance with the Act. From the start, we established an excellent working relationship with the PREA Auditor and the audit moved forward with few accommodations. This was an exhaustive but valuable process. Our mandate is to continue to provide the requisite training and regulatory standards to maintain our ongoing compliance with PREA," said James Edwards, Director of the Division of Juvenile Probation and Detention Services.

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The Hulse Detention Center provides secure detention services to high-risk youth who are pending delinquent or criminal court. Services provided regularly include: education, recreation, medical, and mental healthcare. Youth receive programming outside of their designated room throughout the day and have access to their families through visitation, mail, and phone calls. The Hulse Detention Center houses up to 48 residents, with 8 beds dedicated to female residents. The age range at this facility is 13 to 20 years old, however it is possible to house residents as young as 10, if there is no suitable community alternative.

The FACE-IT Residential Program's focus is to meet the needs of high-risk delinquent youth and provide them with resources and tools to become productive members of society, while learning how to communicate and express themselves in an appropriate manner. This includes a vigorous family component to ensure the youth have continued support upon release. The FACE-IT Residential Program houses up to 12 male participants. The age range of the participants is 13 to 18 years old. There are six bedrooms, with two participants assigned to each room. The unit consists of a classroom, therapy area, cafeteria, and a media room.

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