



# BLUE RIDGE REGIONAL JAIL AUTHORITY

## Sexual Violence 2015 Annual Report for Blue Ridge Regional Jail Authority

Data included in this report is from January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2015

Inmates confined in the BRRJA on December 31, 2015 were 870 males and 166 females. During 2015, new admissions to the jail were 7,909 males and 2,620 females. The average daily population at BRRJA in 2015 was 995 males and 182 females.

### Inmate on Inmate Sexual Violence

The categories of inmate on inmate sexual violence are reported separately and are:

#### **Non-consensual acts:**

- Contact of any person without his or her consent, or of a person who is unable to consent or refuse; and
- Contact between the penis and the vagina or the penis and the anus including penetration; or
- Contact between the mouth and the penis, vagina, or anus; or
- Penetration of the anal or genital opening of another person by hand, finger, or other object.

#### **Abusive Sexual Contacts:**

- Contact of any person without 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, excluding contact incidental to a physical altercation.

The Blue Ridge Regional Jail Authority records all allegations of inmate on inmate sexual violence.

There were zero (0) allegations of inmate on inmate non-consensual acts during this period.

There were three (3) allegations of inmate on inmate abusive sexual contact during this period. The three allegations were investigated thoroughly and objectively and were documented as unfounded, which means upon conclusion of the investigations the allegations were determined not to have occurred.

### Staff Sexual Misconduct and Harassment

Staff sexual misconduct and harassment includes any behavior or act of a sexual nature directed toward an inmate by an employee, volunteer, contractor, official visitor, or other agency representative, and includes two categories which are reported separately and defined as follows:

**Staff Sexual Misconduct / consensual or non-consensual acts including:**

- Intentional touching of the genitalia, anus, groin, breast, inner thigh, or buttocks with the intent to 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 sexual gratification.

**Staff Sexual Harassment includes:**

- Repeated verbal statements or comments of a sexual nature to an inmate by an employee, volunteer, contractor, official visitor, or other agency representative;
- Demeaning references to gender or derogatory comments about body or clothing; or
- Repeated profane or obscene language or gestures.

The Blue Ridge Regional Jail Authority records all allegations of staff sexual misconduct and sexual harassment.

There were five (5) allegations of staff sexual misconduct during this period. Of the five allegations, four allegations all were thoroughly investigated and all were determined to be unfounded. This means the allegations were investigated and upon completion of the investigation process it was determined that the incidents did not occur. One of the allegations was investigated and deemed to have some validity; this case was turned over to an outside law enforcement agency and was further investigated by detectives unaffiliated with the Authority. This case has moved to criminal prosecution with the final results pending.

There was one (1) allegation of staff sexual harassment during this period. This allegation was turned over for investigation and upon a thorough and objective examination of the incident it was determined to be unfounded. This result means that there was no evidence that could prove the allegation occurred.

**Corrected History (To Accurately Reflect Information From Prior Annual Reports):**

Between January 1, 2013 and December 31, 2014 there were two (2) allegations of inmate on inmate non-consensual acts.

Between January 1, 2013 and December 31, 2014 there were three (3) allegations of inmate on inmate abusive sexual contact.

Between January 1, 2013 and December 31, 2014 there were six (6) allegations of staff sexual misconduct.

Between January 1, 2013 and December 31, 2014 there were two (2) allegations of staff sexual harassment.

The BRRJA has implemented PREA standards to enhance our current standard operating procedures and to further prevent and detect any form of sexual abuse, sexual misconduct, or sexual harassment. Our staff is very proactive when assessing any potential issue and suggesting and implementing corrective actions if appropriate. We have extensive and ongoing training for all employees on these issues, and all inmates are educated on PREA related information upon entering any BRRJA facility.

Supplemental: As it pertains to the one allegation of Staff Sexual Misconduct forwarded for criminal prosecution, the former Staff member involved was acquitted in 2016 although the agency considered the allegation to be substantiated.