**PREA AUDIT: AUDITOR’S SUMMARY REPORT**

**JUVENILE FACILITIES**

**INTERIM** **FINAL**

****

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **AUDITOR INFORMATION** | | |
| **Certified Auditor:** | **Kurt Pfisterer** | |
| **Address:** | **98 Fox Hollow, Rensselaer, NY 12144** | |
| **Email:** | [**kurtpfisterer@gmail.com**](mailto:kurtpfisterer@gmail.com) | |
| **Telephone:** | **(518) 860-5764** | |
| **Dates of on-site audit:** | **May 12, 2015** | |
| **FACILITY INFORMATION** | | |
| **Name of Facility:** | **Carbone Hall** | |
| **AGENCY CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER** | | |
| **Name:** | Peter Forbes | Title: Commissioner |
| **Email Address: peter.j.forbes@state.ma.us** | | **Telephone: (617) 727-7575** |
| **AGENCY WIDE PREA COORDINATOR** | | |
| **Name:** | **Monica King** | Title: State-wide PREA Coordinator |
| **Email Address: monica.l.king@state.ma.us** | | **Telephone: (617) 727-7575** |

**NARRATIVE:** The Carbone Hall is a staff-secure 18 bed detention facility for male adolescents operated by the Massachusetts Department of Youth Services (DYS). The on-site portion of the PREA Audit took place May 12, 2015 and covered the audit period of May 12, 2014 to May 12, 2015. On the morning of May 12, 2015 this auditor entered the facility for purposes of conducting an on sight tour of the facility and interviewing youth, staff, volunteers and contractors. The facility provided a list of all staff by shift and employee job categories and a list of all youth by housing unit. Prior to arrival this auditor reviewed pertinent agency policies, procedures, and related documentation used to demonstrate compliance with the Juvenile Facility PREA Standards. The pre-audit review of documents contained in the Pre-Audit Questionnaire submitted by the facility prompted few questions. Answers to those questions were submitted to this auditor by the facility staff and any additional remaining questions were resolved during the audit. This auditor interviewed ten of the current 18 youth. The youth interviewed were a representative sample from each of the two housing units. Length of stay for those interviewed ranged from one day to two months. There were no youth who identified themselves as lesbian, bisexual, gay, transgender or intersex and no youth who needed translation services. No youth had specifically requested to speak with this auditor nor had this auditor received any written correspondence from youth or staff. There were no youth currently in the program who made an allegation of sexual abuse or sexual harassment at the program.

During the tour, additional questions were answered by executive and upper-level management staff. Staff and youth interviews followed and were conducted privately in a room with a large observation window. There are no SANE or SAFE staff employed at the facility. These services are available at the local hospital through a state-wide Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). This auditor reviewed the MOU to provide SANE and SAFE services, and crisis counseling. This auditor interviewed members of the incident review team and the staff member charged with monitoring retaliation. Administrative investigations (sexual harassment only) are conducted by trained DYS staff and criminal investigations are conducted exclusively by the Massachusetts State Police. There were no volunteers or contractors interviewed as none were at the facility or available during the audit. The agency Executive Director had been previously interviewed by this auditor.

**DESCRIPTION OF FACILITY CHARACTERISTICS:** Carbone Hall Detention is a staff secure program for adolescent males between the ages of 12-20 who are temporarily held in the custody of the Department of Youth Services. The goal of the Carbone Hall, an 18 bed staff secure detention, is to provide youth awaiting their remand date with a safe and secure environment that promotes the 5 C’s of Positive Youth Development. The program will focus on monitoring educational progress, and providing cognitive behavioral groups that address a wide range of behaviors and issues. A youth’s length of stay is undetermined at intake and is dictated by the court system. The average length of stay is approximately 17 days. The program does not have a right of refusal if the youth meets established guidelines and criteria. The program provides services to the Northeast, Metro and Central regions of DYS.

All residents of Carbone Hall shall be referred by the Department of Youth Services for placement. Up to 18 youth between the ages of twelve and twenty may be placed in the facility at any one time. Carbone Hall is prepared to accept youth with a variety of intellectual abilities and grade levels as well as those who have a history of difficult behaviors.

Services provided include, but are not limited to:

* Carbone Hall shall be staffed and the youth supervised on a 24-hour basis.
* Cognitive behavioral groups are facilitated by staff on topics which include Dialectical Behavior Therapy and Substance Abuse.
* Individual and group therapies are offered.
* The milieu provides structure and safety including a predictable schedule.
* The norm includes frequent staff and peer reinforcement of positive behaviors.

With the capacity for 18 youth, Carbone Hall provides living space for residents on the second and third floors. The first floor houses the school, cafeteria, recreation room and offices. The residential floors operate independently, keeping separate logs with staff designated to a specific floor. Youth on each floor wear a shirt color specific to their floor assisting staff with client counts. Each floor has its own staff office, medication closet, cleaning supplies, linens, and hygiene. Each floor has a bathroom and showering area.

Carbone Hall maintains 24 hour supervisory coverage as well as an On-Call Administrator.

**SUMMARY OF AUDIT FINDINGS:** Auditor arrived at the facility the morning of May 12, 2015. An entrance meeting was held with the Facility Administrator, Program Director (who also serves as the PREA Compliance Manager), Clinical Director and the DYS PREA Coordinator.

A complete tour of the facility took approximately 30 minutes. All areas were well maintained. The facility has a video surveillance system which provides coverage for 50% of the facility. The system provides coverage of the both housing units and the exterior doors. There are no cameras in the youths’ rooms. Observed staffing (3 : 1), while this auditor was on site exceeds the standards requirement of 8: 1. Both housing units have multi-stall showers and toilets which are appropriately partitioned for privacy and properly supervised when more than one youth is in the room. Youth are permitted to shower and use the bathroom alone if requested. This was confirmed by all staff and youth interviewed, and observation of practice. Sight lines are good in all housing areas (there are no unmitigated blind spots on the housing units).

Youth were observed during recreation, in school, during movement, and at meals. Observations of staff supervision practices were consistent with the agencies policies.

The PREA screening for risk is conducted by the clinical staff on the date of admission, and documented. All youth interviewed acknowledged being screened on the date of admission as well as being seen by medical staff within 24 hours of admission.

Administrative investigations regarding allegations of sexual harassment are conducted by trained DYS investigators. A review of investigators’ reports confirmed an aggressive response to all allegations of harassment. Criminal investigations of sexual abuse and assault are conducted by the Massachusetts State Police. Telephone and email contact with the DYS General Counsel confirm that there were no incidents of sexual abuse or assault during this audit period. Forensic examinations and evidence collection are performed at the Bay State Medical Center. A state-wide MOU is in place to provide forensic examinations and victims’ services.

This auditor interviewed the following staff titles (number in parentheses indicates more than one staff in that title was interviewed):

* Facility Administrator
* Clinical Director
* Clinician
* Program Director
* Assistant Program Director
* DYS PREA Coordinator
* Nurse Practioner
* Group Worker I and II (6)
* Facility PREA Compliance Manager

Random direct-care staff were selected for interviews to include staff from all housing units and all areas of program. Experience levels ranged from one to over 10 years. All presented as very knowledgeable about their jobs and highly dedicated to keeping youth safe. The agency’s commitment to PREA was also very evident during interviews. Staff members were not only aware of their agency’s policies and procedures, but were able to discuss PREA and how it related to the overall mission of the program and the agency’s mission as a whole.

All staff members knew their obligations as mandated reporters and first responders. All felt well supported by facility management, and had no fear regarding retaliation for reporting abuse. All staff have received PREA specific training as first responders and all knew what to do if they were a first responder. All felt empowered to proactively address issues related to sexual violence and were able to describe actions they would take to prevent and/or deter potential and/or imminent threats of sexual violence.

A total of ten (out of 18) youth at the facility were interviewed, and included youth from all housing units. Ages ranged from 14 to 18 years. There were no youth currently at the facility that had made an allegation of abuse that occurred at the facility. There were no youth currently at the facility who had reported an allegation of sexual harassment that occurred at the facility. There were no youth at the program who identified as LGBTI or had been identified as gender non-conforming in appearance. All youth acknowledged being asked about sexual orientation upon admission. All youth interviewed had extensive knowledge of the right to be free from sexual abuse, assault or harassment. All youth were aware of multiple methods for reporting abuse. All youth acknowledged being screened upon admission (screening actually occurs on date of admission, which far exceeds the standard) and receiving information upon admission on their right to be free from abuse in any form. No youth reported ever having fear for their safety while at the facility or at any time during commitment with DYS. All said they currently felt safe at the facility. All said that they felt safer at the facility than on the streets.

The quality and organization of the documentation provided to this auditor was outstanding. The pre-audit questionnaire completed by the DYS State-Wide PREA Coordinator is one of the better ones I have ever received. The referenced documents in the questionnaire were provided electronically.

The organized manner in which the interviews were facilitated by the PREA Compliance Manager and the DYS State-Wide PREA Coordinator made the process go very smoothly and allowed for lengthy interviews with no wasted time in between.

The Carbone Hall Center is an excellent detention facility. The scope of this audit (PREA compliance) does not afford the opportunity to go into all the positive aspects of the program.

**STANDARDS DETERMINATION TOTALS:**

**Exceeds Standard – 2 (Two) Standards or approximately 4% of total standards.**

**Meets Standard - 40 (Forty) Standards or approximately 96% of total standards.**

**Does Not Meet Standard – 0 (Zero) Standards or 0% of total standards**

**AUDITOR CERTIFICATION**

This auditor certifies that no conflict of interest exists with respect to his ability to conduct an audit of the Massachusetts Department of Youth Services or the Carbone Hall Center.

\_\_**Kurt Pfisterer/s/**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_ May 20, 2015

Kurt Pfisterer, Dual Certified PREA Auditor Date