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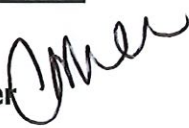


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MEMO

TO: Carol A. Mici, Commissioner 
THRU: Robert Higgins, Deputy Commissioner of Field Services 
FROM: Russell S. Caissie, Chief of PREA Audits, Operations & Investigations 
DATE: May 18, 2023
RE: DOC 2022 Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) Annual Report

PREA standards 115.88 & 115.89 and the Department of Correction (DOC) policy 103 doc 519.09 require the DOC to prepare an annual report relative to our agency's efforts to assess and improve the effectiveness of sexual abuse prevention, detection, and response policies during the previous calendar year. Additionally, both the standards and the policy require that the enclosed report be posted on the DOC'S website for public access. The attached report meets the requirements of the aforementioned standards and policy. Upon your review and approval, this report will be posted on the DOC's Internet and Intranet pages.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions and or concerns you may have with the information I have provided you.

cc: All Facility Superintendents
All Facility PREA Managers
All Facility Policy Coordinators



MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION

**PRISON RAPE
ELIMINATION ACT (PREA)**

2022 ANNUAL REPORT

CAROL A. MICI, COMMISSIONER

ROBERT P. HIGGINS, DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OF PRISONS

RUSSELL CAISSIE, CHIEF OF PREA, AUDITS, OPERATIONS, & INVESTIGATIONS

**The Massachusetts Department of Correction
Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA)
Annual Report
2022**

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Background

The Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) was signed into federal law in September 2003 following unanimous support from both parties in the United States Congress. The purpose of the law was to provide information, resources, recommendations, and funding to protect individuals from sexual abuse and sexual harassment in confinement facilities. PREA seeks to establish a “zero tolerance” policy regarding rape, sexually abusive behavior, and sexual harassment in federal, state, and local correctional systems. PREA also mandated the publication of standards to ensure compliance and to improve prevention, detection, and response strategies in addressing rape, sexually abusive behavior, and sexual harassment.

In August 2012, the United States Department of Justice (DOJ) issued the final PREA standards for: Prisons and Jails, Lockups, Community Confinement Facilities and Juvenile Facilities. These standards required DOJ audits of all facilities under the agency’s operational control of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts’ Executive Branch, to include private facilities operating on behalf of the Executive Branch to house inmates. The first 3-year audit cycle began in August 2013. Failure to comply with the standards would result in a loss of 5 percent of identified federal grant funding.

The Massachusetts Department of Correction (DOC) was an early adopter of PREA and these standards. As a result, the DOC is in the forefront in meeting the standards (Prisons and Jails) set-forth by DOJ, and in fact is looked to and sought-out by many other agencies, not only across the Commonwealth, but across the county, as a model for implementing and meeting these standards.

The DOC made history in 2016 when the last of its 14 prisons underwent and successfully completed their respective DOJ PREA audit. It should be noted that all facilities audited achieved 100% compliance rating, without any corrective action plans needed. This accomplishment made the Massachusetts DOC one of few correctional agencies across the country which has all its facilities accredited by PREA, through the DOJ, and accredited by the American Correctional Association (ACA). The DOC continued to thrive in 2019, by successfully completing 4 facility DOJ PREA Audits with final reports indicating 100% compliance rating after corrective action taken on DOJ Standards 115.51 Inmate Reporting and 115.65 Coordinated Response.

Agency Achievements in 2022

In keeping with the MADOC PREA Division’s mission to train, assist, and advise staff of the adoption of the DOJ PREA standards, the following actions were taken in 2022:

Trainings:

1. In February 2022, a Pre-Service PREA Basic class was conducted for RTC 329 at Milford HQ.
2. In May off 2022, The PREA Division hosted a three-day Sexual Assault Investigator Training for DOC, State Police and County Correctional Staff at the Milford, MA Headquarters.

3. In June of 2022, a Pre-Service PREA Basic training was held for State Police RTT87 Class in New Braintree, MA. In July of 2022, a Pre-Service PREA Basic class was conducted for RTC330 at Milford HQ.
4. In June of 2022, the DOC conducted a divisional reorganization in which as a result, the PREA Division was reassigned to the Office of Field Services.
5. In 2022, as part of the DOC's annual Operational Audits which are overseen by the Policy Development and Compliance Unit, apart from MCI Shirley, the PREA Division conducted site visits and tours at all DOC facilities that are subject to DOJ audits to ensure full compliance of the PREA standards.
6. In 2022, the DOC had five of its institutions audited by a certified Department of Justice (DOJ) auditor. Facilities audited were MCI Shirley, MCI Concord, Northeast Correctional Center, MCI Framingham, and North Central Correctional Center (NCCI).
7. The DOC once again received federal grant funding for FY21 and FY22 which provided funding for Victim Services Advocate responsibilities, PREA Audits, statistical data software, and camera installations at chosen institutions. Funding was received through the following grant programs: Federal PREA Grant (JAG), Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) STOP Grant.
8. As part of the effort to keep the agency up to date and informed with PREA, quarterly meetings were held with each of the institution's PREA Compliance Managers in attendance and meeting minutes documented.
9. In October 2022, in collaboration with the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (EOPSS), the DOC General Counsel's Office, and the Governor's Legal Counsel, the PREA Division assisted in preparing and providing documentation for the Governor's Assurance for PREA compliance.
10. In November of 2022, the PREA Division Coordinator and Assistant completed and submitted the Survey of Sexual Victimization to the Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Statistics.

Purpose

The DOJ PREA standards require our agency to collect a defined set of data for every allegation of sexual abuse and sexual harassment. These standards further require the DOC to aggregate and review that data to assess and improve our effectiveness as an agency at preventing, detecting, and responding to PREA allegations. Standards related to the collection of data include: § 115.87 Data Collection, § 115.88 Data Review for Corrective Action and § 115.89 Data Storage, Publication, and Destruction.

For reference purposes, they are included within this report.

§ 115.87 Data Collection

- (a) The agency shall collect accurate, uniform data for every allegation of sexual abuse at facilities under its direct control using a standardized instrument and set of definitions.
- (b) The agency shall aggregate the incident-based sexual abuse data at least annually.
- (c) The incident-based data collected shall include, at a minimum, the data necessary to answer all questions from the most recent version of the Survey of Sexual Violence conducted by the Department of Justice.
- (d) The agency shall maintain, review, and collect data as needed from all available incident-based documents, including reports, investigation files, and sexual abuse incident reviews.
- (e) The agency also shall obtain incident-based and aggregated data from every private facility with which it contracts for the confinement of its inmates.
- (f) Upon request, the agency shall provide all such data from the previous calendar year to the Department of Justice no later than June 30.

§ 115.88 Data Review for Corrective Action

- (a) The agency shall review data collected and aggregated pursuant to § 115.87 in order to assess and improve the effectiveness of its sexual abuse prevention, detection, and response policies, practices, and training, including by:
 - (1) Identifying problem areas.
 - (2) Taking corrective action on an ongoing basis; and,
 - (3) Preparing an annual report of its findings and corrective actions for each facility, as well as the agency.
- (b) Such report shall include a comparison of the current year's data and corrective actions with those from prior years and shall provide an assessment of the agency's progress in addressing sexual abuse.
- (c) The agency's report shall be approved by the agency head and made readily available to the public through its website or, if it does not have one, through other means.
- (d) The agency may redact specific material from the reports when publication would present a clear and specific threat to the safety and security of a facility but must indicate the nature of the material redacted.

§ 115.89 Data Storage, Publication, and Destruction

- (a) The agency shall ensure that data collected pursuant to § 115.87 are securely retained.
- (b) The agency shall make all aggregated sexual abuse data, from facilities under its direct control and private facilities with which it contracts, readily available to the public at least annually through its website or, if it does not have one, through other means.
- (c) Before making aggregated sexual abuse data publicly available, the agency shall remove all personal identifiers.

- (d) The agency shall maintain sexual abuse data collected pursuant to § 115.87 for at least 10 years after the date of the initial collection unless Federal, State, or local law requires otherwise.

PREA Data Collection Capabilities

Through use of our agency's intranet, a PREA database was designed to collect and record a uniformed set of data (and definitions) for each allegation investigated at every facility. PREA standard § 115.87 requires collecting, at a minimum, the data necessary to answer questions contained in annual "Survey of Sexual Violence" reports conducted by the DOJ. The DOC's PREA database was, in part, designed to provide the agency with that capability.

Aggregated Data on Sexual Abuse Allegations and Comparison to Prior Years

The DOC has a zero-tolerance policy for sexual abuse which is covered in detail in our 103 DOC 519 Sexually Harassment/Abuse Response Prevention Policy (SHARPP). As such, all reported allegations of sexual harassment and or abusive behaviors are fully investigated. Only after a full investigation is completed is an event defined as a PREA violation or otherwise. It should be noted that unauthorized, but consensual sexual activity between inmates does not qualify as a PREA incident. The PREA Prison & Jails standards provide definitions that guide the DOC in determining the outcome of allegations investigated. The following are a few of those key definitions:

<u>Definitions</u>	
Evidentiary Standard:	The agency shall impose no standard higher than a preponderance of the evidence in determining whether allegations of sexual abuse or sexual harassment are substantiated.
Substantiated:	Substantiated allegation means an allegation that was investigated and determined to have occurred.
Unsubstantiated:	An allegation that was investigated and the investigation produced insufficient evidence to make a final determination as to whether or not the event occurred.
Unfounded:	An allegation that was investigated and determined not to have occurred.

The following charts reflect aggregated data from 2021 absent any allegations investigated and were determined not to constitute a PREA violation by definitions as outline in the Prisons and Jail Standards, 115.6.

Agency Overview for 2022

Category	Investigative Outcome				
	Substantiated	Unsubstantiated	Unfounded	Pending	Line Total
Inmate-Inmate Sex Acts	1	15	10	1	27
Inmate-Inmate Sexual Abuse	4	8	5	0	17
Inmate-Inmate Sexual Harassment	3	11	4	0	18
Staff Sexual Misconduct	0	10	32	5	47
Staff-Inmate Sexual Harassment	0	9	20	3	32
Total	8	53	71	9	141

*Note: There were a total, of 163 allegations made in 2022 (any), of which 23 cases were determined to be inmate unauthorized. Therefore, the allegations were determined not to constitute a PREA violation by the definitions outlined in the Prisons and Jail Standards put forth by the DOJ.

Agency Overview for 2021

Category	Investigative Outcome				
	Substantiated	Unsubstantiated	Unfounded	Pending	Line Total
Inmate-Inmate Sex Acts	1	4	3	0	8
Inmate-Inmate Sexual Abuse	3	9	6	0	18
Inmate-Inmate Sexual Harassment	4	9	11	1	25
Staff Sexual Misconduct	2	6	23	0	31
Staff-Inmate Sexual Harassment	1	7	10	0	18
Total	11	35	53	1	100

Comparison of PREA Cases - 2021 and 2022

The number of PREA investigations for 2022 increased by 41 cases from 2021. The number of Substantiated allegations decreased from 11 in 2021 to 8 in 2022. The number of Unsubstantiated cases increased by 18, from 35 in 2021 to 53 in 2022. In the category of Unfounded, the number of allegations in 2021 was noted to be 53, which increased by 22 in 2022 to 71.

Percentage Breakdown for 2022

Category	Investigative Outcome				
	Substantiated	Unsubstantiated	Unfounded	Pending	Line Total
Inmate-Inmate Sex Acts	.70%	10.63%	7.09%	.70%	19.12%
Inmate-Inmate Sexual Abuse	2.83%	5.67%	3.54%	0%	12.06%
Inmate-Inmate Sexual Harassment	2.12%	7.80%	2.83%	0%	12.75%
Staff Sexual Misconduct	0%	7.09%	22.69%	3.64%	33.32%
Staff-Inmate Sexual Harassment	0%	6.38%	14.18%	2.12%	22.66%
Total	5.65%	37.57%	50.38%	6.36%	100%

Percentage Breakdown for 2021

Category	Investigative Outcome				
	Substantiated	Unsubstantiated	Unfounded	Pending	Line Total
Inmate-Inmate Sex Acts	1%	4%	3%	0%	8%
Inmate-Inmate Sexual Abuse	3%	9%	6%	0%	18%
Inmate-Inmate Sexual Harassment	4%	9%	6%	1%	25%
Staff Sexual Misconduct	2%	6%	23%	0%	31%
Staff-Inmate Sexual Harassment	1%	7%	10%	0%	18%
Total	11%	35%	53%	1%	100%

Comparison of Investigative Outcomes - 2022 and 2021

PREA Investigative Outcomes for 2022 demonstrate some variations over the results noted in 2021. From a percentage standpoint, substantiated findings went down from 2021. Unsubstantiated went up minimal from 35% in 2021 to 37.57% in 2022. Unfounded went slightly down percentage wise from 2021 to 2022. Pending showed the most increase from 2021 to 2022, 2021 showed 1% and 2022 showed a percentage of 6.36%. While a definitive explanation for these variations cannot be determined, it is probable that they can be attributed to the agency's continued educational efforts for staff, contractors, volunteers, vendors, and inmates. Additionally, improved investigative techniques, training and a strict adherence to the definitions established under the PREA standards are also possible contributing factors to the noticeable increases from the previous year.

Incident Overview by Facility and Type for 2022

Inmate/Inmate Sex Acts: Sexual abuse of an inmate, detainee, or resident by another inmate, detainee, or resident includes any of the following acts, if the victim does not consent, is coerced into such act by overt or implied threats of violence, or is unable to consent or refuse:

1. Contact between the penis and the vulva or the penis and the anus, including penetration, however slight;
2. Contact between the mouth and the penis, vulva, or anus;
3. Penetration of the anal or genital opening of another person, however slight, by a hand, finger, object, or other instrument.

Facility	Investigative Outcome				Total
	Substantiated	Unsubstantiated	Unfounded	Pending	
BSH*	0	0	0	0	0
BSPRC	0	0	0	0	0
LSH*	0	0	1	0	1
MCI – Concord	0	1	1	0	2
MCI – Norfolk	0	3	0	0	3
MCI – Shirley medium	0	0	1	0	1
MCI Framingham	0	4	1	0	5
MCI-CJ	0	3	2	0	5
MTC	0	0	3	0	3
NCCI medium	1	0	1	0	2
NECC	0	0	0	0	0
Non-DOC	0	0	0	0	0
OCCC medium	0	2	0	0	2
PCC	0	0	0	0	0
SBCC	0	2	0	1	3
State Trans Unit **	0	0	0	0	0
Total	1	15	10	1	27

*Note: These facilities are not subjected to a DOJ audit, but do undergo an agency internal audit by the Policy Development and Compliance Unit (PDCU).

** Note: State Trans Unit, was added to show a case that occurred under the Staff Sexual Misconduct category. There was 1 case that was Unfounded and reflected below.

Inmate/Inmate Sex Abuse: Contact of any person without his or her consent, or of a person who is unable to consent or refuse; and intentional touching, either directly or through the clothing, of genitalia, anus, groin, breast, inner thigh or buttocks of any person.

1. Any other intentional touching, either directly or through the clothing, of the genitalia, anus, groin, breast, inner thigh, or the buttocks of another person, excluding contact incidental to a physical altercation.

Facility	Investigative Outcome				Total
	Substantiated	Unsubstantiated	Unfounded	Pending	
BSH*	0	0	0	0	0
BSPRC	0	0	0	0	0
LSH*	0	0	0	0	0
MCI – Concord	0	1	1	0	2
MCI – Norfolk	0	0	0	0	0
MCI – Shirley medium	0	0	1	0	1
MCI Framingham	1	0	0	0	1
MCI-CJ	0	1	1	0	2
MTC	1	0	1	0	2
NCCI medium	2	0	0	0	2
NECC	0	0	0	0	0
Non-DOC	0	0	0	0	0
OCCC medium	0	5	1	0	6
PCC	0	0	0	0	0
SBCC	0	1	0	0	1
State Trans Unit**	0	0	0	0	0
Total	4	8	5	0	17

Inmate-Inmate Sexual Harassment: Sexual Harassment includes— Repeated and unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, or verbal comments, gestures, or actions of a derogatory or offensive sexual nature by one inmate, detainee, or resident directed toward another.

Written or verbal communication, gestures such as simulated acts of a sexual nature.

Facility	Investigative Outcome				Total
	Substantiated	Unsubstantiated	Unfounded	Pending	
BSH*	0	0	0	0	0
BSPRC	0	0	0	0	0
LSH*	0	0	0	0	0
MCI – Concord	0	3	0	0	3
MCI – Norfolk	0	1	0	0	1
MCI – Shirley medium	0	0	0	0	0
MCI Framingham	0	0	1	0	1
MCI-CJ	0	2	0	0	2
MTC	1	1	0	0	2
NCCI medium	1	2	2	0	5
NECC	0	0	0	0	0
Non-DOC	0	0	0	0	0
OCCC medium	1	0	1	0	2
PCC	0	0	0	0	0
SBCC	0	1	0	0	1
State Trans Unit**	0	0	0	0	0
Total	3	10	4	0	17

Staff Sexual Misconduct: Sexual abuse of an inmate, detainee, or resident by a staff member, contractor, or volunteer includes any of the following acts, with or without consent of the inmate, detainee, or resident.

1. Contact between the penis and the vulva or the penis and the anus, including penetration, however slight;
2. Contact between the mouth and the penis, vulva, or anus;
3. Contact between the mouth and any body part where the staff member, contractor, or volunteer has the intent to abuse, arouse, or gratify sexual desire;
4. Penetration of the anal or genital opening, however slight, by a hand, finger, object, or other instrument, that is unrelated to official duties or where the staff member, contractor, or volunteer has the intent to abuse, arouse, or gratify sexual desire;
5. Any other intentional contact, either directly or through the clothing, of or with the genitalia, anus, groin, breast, inner thigh, or the buttocks, that is unrelated to official duties or where the staff member, contractor, or volunteer has the intent to abuse, arouse, or gratify sexual desire;
6. Any attempt, threat, or request by a staff member, contractor, or volunteer to engage in the activities described in paragraphs (1)-(5) of this section;
7. Any display by a staff member, contractor, or volunteer of his or her uncovered genitalia, buttocks, or breast in the presence of an inmate, detainee, or resident, and
8. Voyeurism by a staff member, contractor, or volunteer. Voyeurism by a staff member, contractor, or volunteer means an invasion of privacy of an inmate, detainee, or resident by staff for reasons unrelated to official duties, such as peering at an inmate who is using a toilet in his or her cell to perform bodily functions; requiring an inmate to expose his or her buttocks, genitals, or breasts; or taking images of all or part of an inmate's naked body or of an inmate performing bodily functions.

Facility	Investigative Outcome				Total
	Substantiated	Unsubstantiated	Unfounded	Pending	
BSH*	0	0	0	0	0
BSPRC	0	0	1	0	1
LSH*	0	0	0	0	0
MCI – Concord	0	0	4	1	5
MCI – Norfolk	0	0	0	0	0
MCI – Shirley medium	0	0	2	0	2
MCI Framingham	0	2	3	0	5
MCI-CJ	0	2	5	0	7
MTC	0	0	1	0	1
NCCI medium	0	0	2	0	2
NECC	0	0	1	0	1
Non-DOC	0	0	0	0	0
OCCC medium	0	4	2	1	7
PCC	0	0	0	0	0
SBCC	0	2	11	3	16
State Trans Unit	0	0	1	0	1
Total	0	10	33	5	48

Staff-Inmate Sexual Harassment:

Repeated verbal comments or gestures of a sexual nature to an inmate, detainee, or resident by a staff member, contractor, or volunteer, including demeaning references to gender, sexually suggestive or derogatory comments about body or clothing, or obscene language or gestures.

Written or verbal communication, gestures such as simulated acts of a sexual nature.

Facility	Investigative Outcome				Total
	Substantiated	Unsubstantiated	Unfounded	Pending	
BSH*	0	0	0	0	0
BSPRC	0	0	0	0	0
LSH*	0	1	0	0	1
MCI – Concord	0	0	5	3	8
MCI – Norfolk	0	0	0	0	0
MCI – Shirley medium	1	0	0	0	1
MCI Framingham	0	0	1	0	1
MCI-CJ	0	2	0	0	2
MTC	0	0	0	0	0
NCCI medium	0	0	1	0	1
NECC	0	0	0	0	0
Non-DOC	0	0	0	0	0
OCCC medium	0	3	5	0	8
PCC	0	0	0	0	0
SBCC	0	2	2	0	4
SMCC	0	0	0	0	0
State Trans Unit	0	0	0	0	0
Total	1	7	10	0	18

Trends

Over a five-year period, the DOC averaged approximately 169.6 PREA allegations investigated. A review of the data from the PREA database revealed the number of PREA allegations investigated during 2022 was higher the number recorded in the previous year of 2021 however, below the numbers recorded in 2020, 2019 and 2018. A increased difference of 41 allegations investigated from 2021. These numbers should also reflect the decrease in our inmate population. Over the past 5 years our inmate population has had a significant decreased. In 2018 the MADOC had a population of 8,859 in 2022 the population was noted as 5,975. As a reminder, all allegations are investigated, and only through the course of the investigation process was a determination of finding made.

Department of Correction PREA Database Tracking History and Analysis

Total number of cases investigated per year	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Five Year Average
	254	201	152	100	141	169.6

Statistical data over the past five years regarding the DOC's BJS/SSV reports demonstrate a variety of trends over the past 5 years. With a peak in numbers of annual cases reported from 2018 and 2019 from 2017 and then a steady and sharp decline over the past two years. This may be attributed to continuous education and training promoted by the agency and its approach to zero tolerance.

BJS – SSV Reports submitted by the Massachusetts DOC and Analysis

Total number of SUBSTANTIATED cases per year*	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Five Year Average
Inmate-on-inmate nonconsensual sexual acts	2	2	1	1	1	1.4
Inmate-on-inmate abusive sexual contacts	3	6	1	3	4	3.4
Inmate-on-inmate sexual harassment**	9	5	3	4	3	4.8
Staff sexual misconduct	1	2	3	2	0	1.6
Staff sexual harassment	6	0	0	1	0	1.4
Total	21	15	8	11	8	12.6

*Note: These figures may vary from data reported in other areas of this/previous reports because it reflects a "snap-shot" of resolved cases when those reports were generated. Cases still pending and/or allegations not reported to DOC at the time of the incident may not be reflected in the data.

Identified Problem Areas and Corrective Action for 2021

PREA standards require a review of collected data to identify problem areas and establish plans of corrective action where warranted. Based upon statistical data alone, the Substantiated victimization rate within the DOC is relatively low compared to a review of available national data.

Some problem area(s) identified through the 2021 DOJ audits were addressed prior to the auditor issuing the interim report (45 days after onsite visit). After the interim report was issued, there were areas in need of corrective action for the following standards:

115.33 Inmate Education:

Corrective Action taken: The PREA Division worked with the facility (MCI Norfolk) to identify all inmates who have not received comprehensive PREA education after 2013. Once identified, the inmates were provided the PREA video, and it was documented that the education was received. Additionally, all Limited English Proficiency (LEP) inmates were identified at the facility. Once identified, these inmates were given PREA education in their primary language. For Spanish speaking inmates, shown the PREA video in Spanish. For all other languages the facility utilized Lionsbridge or staff translators to go over the PREA education in person.

115.81 Medical and Mental Health Screenings: History of Sexual Abuse:

Corrective Action Taken: The PREA Division, through the Office of the Deputy Commissioner of Clinical Services provided education to the Medical/Mental Health Staff at the facility on the requirements under this provision of informed consent (115.81(a) to ensure any future inmate who discloses any prior sexual victimization, whether it occurred in an institutional setting or not, receive a mental health follow-up.

Resolved Problem Areas from 2022

S problem area(s) identified through the 2022 DOJ audits were addressed prior to the auditor issuing the interim report (45 days after onsite visit). After the interim report was issued, there were areas in need of corrective action for the following standards:

- 115.13 - Supervision and monitoring
- 115.15 - Limits to cross-gender viewing and searches
- 115.32 - Volunteer and contractor training
- 115.33 - Inmate education
- 115.35 - Specialized training: Medical and mental health care
- 115.51 - Inmate reporting
- 115.52 - Exhaustion of administrative remedies
- 115.53 - Inmate access to outside confidential support services
- 115.54 - Third-party reporting
- 115.81 - Medical and mental health screenings; history of sexual abuse
- 115.83 - Ongoing medical and mental health care for sexual abuse victims and abusers

All corrective action was completed within the six-month time limit, resulting in the issuance reports reflecting full compliance with all DOJ PREA Standards.

2022 Assessment of the Massachusetts Department of Correction's Progress in Addressing Inmate Sexual Harassment/Abuse Allegations:

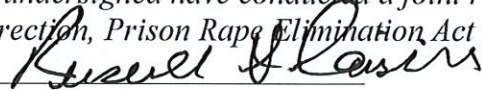
The MADOC continues its mission, through the PREA Division, to train, assist and advise all staff of the zero-tolerance approach, to continue its work in improving on all aspects of the adoption and commitment to the standards laid out by the Department of Justice, and continuously focuses on prevention, detection and response to inmate sexual assaults, abusive behaviors, and sexual harassment. With continued communication and networking within the agency and with our stakeholders by sharing information at quarterly meetings. The DOC continues to lead the way with specialized training for

sexual assault investigators, welcoming law enforcement agencies within the Commonwealth. DOC's PREA Division continues to work closely with other Divisions and disciplines within the agency to ensure a successful and effective PREA Program.

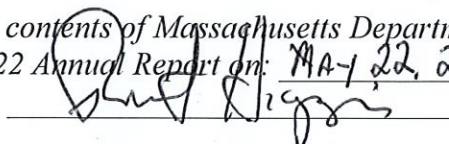
We are proud of our staff at all levels throughout the Department as we have consistently demonstrated our agency's commitment to the PREA process by having all our facilities accredited through the DOJ PREA audit process. This accomplishment means that the DOC will be one of few correctional agencies across the country which has all its facilities accredited through the American Correctional Association (ACA) and the DOJ PREA audit process. In 2022, the facilities that had audits, received reports of full compliance. All forty-eight DOJ standards were either met or exceeded compliance levels after corrective action.

The DOC is preparing to undergo its next cycle of PREA audits in April of 2023 at Massachusetts Treatment Center, Old Colony Correctional Center, and Pondville Correctional Center. The PREA Division remains confident that the agency will be successful in passing these audits and meeting all standards set forth by the DOJ.

The undersigned have conducted a joint review of the contents of Massachusetts Department of Correction, Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA), 2022 Annual Report on: MAY 22, 2023



Russell S. Caissie
Chief of PREA Audits, Operations, and
Investigations



Robert Higgins,
Deputy Commissioner of Field Services