



NORTHERN MAINE REGIONAL REENTRY CENTER



**Prison Rape Elimination Act
2016 Annual Report**

Northern Maine Regional Reentry Center Prevention of Rape in Prison Annual Report (2016)

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Introduction

The NMRRRC Program

The Northern Maine Regional Reentry Center (NMRRRC), located in Bangor, Maine, is a program of Volunteers of America Northern New England. It was opened in September of 2013, in partnership with the Federal Bureau of Prisons to provide a safe and secure environment for up to 31 adult men and women who are within the last 12 months of their incarceration.

Under close supervision and monitoring, the NMRRRC staff provides residents with treatment (including mental health and drug and alcohol counseling), educational and vocational opportunities that are focused on reducing recidivism. Our programming provides counseling, life-skills development, workforce skills development, community service projects and support.

It is our goal to remain gender-responsive and evidence-based, while providing men and women with opportunities to practice newly acquired living skills, without recidivism, as they prepare to reenter into the community and build a better life.

PREA and the NMRRRC

The Northern Maine Regional Reentry Center is committed to providing a safe environment for all its residents. As such, we exercise zero tolerance relating to sexual misconduct, including sexual abuse, harassment, assault/rape of residents, and we recognize these residents as crime victims. NMRRRC will immediately respond to allegations, conduct administrative investigations of reported incidents, refer incidents for criminal investigation when appropriate, pursue

disciplinary action against all perpetrators, and assist in the prosecution of those who perpetrate criminal acts.

Since its opening, the NMRRRC has utilized techniques, strategies, and tools to insure the safety of residents from sexual misconduct, and has continued to evaluate and improve its efforts for the good of its residents. Some of those efforts include:

- Insuring that staff and volunteers remain diligent in identifying possible violations of this policy, and be assertive in reporting violations or possible violations so as to protect the residents;
- Remaining alert to signs of potential situations in which sexual misconduct might occur;
- Requiring staff to always act with professionalism and, whenever possible, respect the physical privacy of residents;
- Providing initial and on-going PREA training to all staff members;
- Educating residents to their rights and responsibilities; how to avoid becoming a victim; and, how to seek help if they are victimized.
- Utilizing continuous real-time video observation via security cameras;
- Conducting frequent and random review of recorded video data, and direct visual observations by staff to insure compliance of gender separation;
- Requiring male staff members and volunteers to loudly announce their presence onto the female wing upon entering;
- Insuring that all residents adhere to the six foot (6') separation rule between genders;
- Prohibiting the entry of any male residents onto the locked female wing;
- Prohibiting cross gender entry into resident rooms is allowed;
- Utilizing screening tools and information to identify, assess, and manage residents with special needs, including those who are potentially vulnerable and potentially dangerous, to provide safe housing, adequate protection, and programmatic resources to meet their needs.

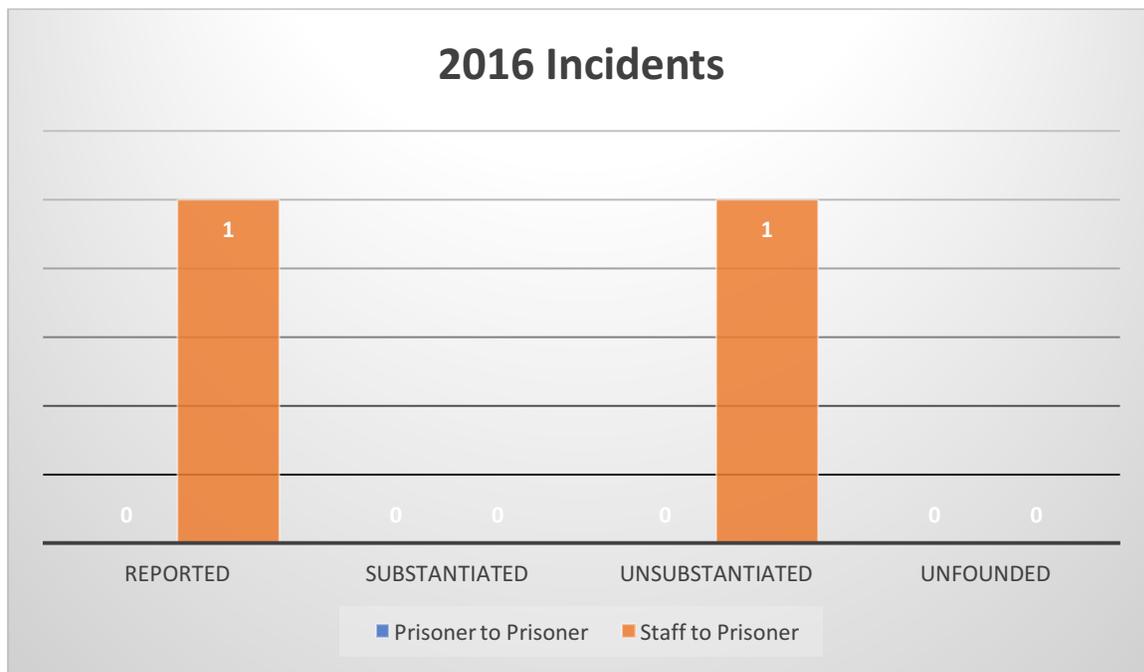
In 2016, Volunteers of America Northern New England employed the service of a PREA auditor for the purpose of attaining PREA certification. At the end of 2016, the certification process remained in progress with an anticipated date of certification in early 2017.

Background of PREA

In 2003, the U.S Congress unanimously passed the Prison Rape Elimination Act. On May 12, 2012 the Attorney General announced the adoption of standards to comply with the Prison Rape Elimination Act. Most standards went into effect on August 20, 2013.

Data 2016

The primary mission of the Northern Maine Regional Reentry Center is to provide residents with a safe, secure and learning environment that focuses on responsibility, counseling, treatment, life skill-building, family reunification, employment, and appropriate decision-making skills, all while maintaining accountability to insure the safety of the public and the residents. Men and women who are deemed to be a current risk to the community are not accepted at the NMRRC. All reported and suspected incidents of sexual misconduct, either resident to resident or staff to resident are investigated. The following are the results of all known incidents for 2016.



In

Disposition Type	Resident to Resident	Staff to Resident
Substantiated	0	0
Unsubstantiated	0	1
Unfounded	0	0