

PREA AUDIT REPORT Interim Final
ADULT PRISONS & JAILS

Date of report: 2/24/2016

Auditor Information			
Auditor name: Lead Auditor: Timothy M. Evinger and Auditor: Christy Wyler from Evinger & Associates, LLC.			
Address: Post Office Box One, Klamath Falls OR 97601-0001			
Email: tim@evinger.us			
Telephone number: 541-708-1765			
Date of facility visit: July 7-8, 2016			
Facility Information			
Facility name: Lincoln County Detention Center			
Facility physical address: 302 N Jeffers St., North Platte NE 69101			
Facility mailing address: <i>(if different from above)</i> Click here to enter text.			
Facility telephone number: 308-535-9567			
The facility is:	<input type="checkbox"/> Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> State	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> County
	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Municipal	<input type="checkbox"/> Private for profit
	<input type="checkbox"/> Private not for profit		
Facility type:	<input type="checkbox"/> Prison	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jail	
Name of facility's Chief Executive Officer: Sheriff Jerome Kramer			
Number of staff assigned to the facility in the last 12 months: 26			
Designed facility capacity: 164			
Current population of facility: 114			
Facility security levels/inmate custody levels: Medium to Maximum			
Age range of the population: 18-70			
Name of PREA Compliance Manager: Penny Ball		Title: Corporal	
Email address: ballpl@co.lincoln.ne.us		Telephone number: 308-535-9567	
Agency Information			
Name of agency: Lincoln County Nebraska Sheriff's Office			
Governing authority or parent agency: <i>(if applicable)</i> Click here to enter text.			
Physical address: 302 N Jeffers St., North Platte, NE 69101			
Mailing address: <i>(if different from above)</i> Click here to enter text.			
Telephone number: 308-535-9599			
Agency Chief Executive Officer			
Name: Jerome Kramer		Title: Sheriff	
Email address: kramerrl@co.lincoln.ne.us		Telephone number: 308-535-9599	
Agency-Wide PREA Coordinator			
Name: Penny Ball		Title: Corporal	
Email address: ballpl@co.lincoln.ne.us		Telephone number: 308-535-9567	

AUDIT FINDINGS

NARRATIVE

A PREA audit was conducted on July 7th and 8th, 2016 at the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office Detention Center in North Platte, Nebraska. The facility is of modern design and co-located with the administrative, civil, and patrol offices for the agency. The Sheriff serves as the CEO of the facility. The PREA coordinator and PREA compliance manager are the same individual; Corporal Penny Ball. Corporal Ball and Sgt. Grandel facilitated the visit and gave a very detailed tour of the facility as well as access to any records requested. The hosts/facilitators were open and transparent. The audit team was comprised of two adult facility certified auditors (Tim Evinger and Christy Wyler) and one support clerical assistant from the auditing firm. The audit team worked with the PREA compliance manager, requesting, and receiving documents for nearly two months prior to the visit. Staff, contractors, the administration, and existing documents were made readily available to the audit team.

The audit began with an initial meeting wherein the auditors met with the undersheriff, the facilitator (Sgt. Grandel) and the PREA compliance manager/coordinator Corporal Ball. The audit process was explained to the facility representatives prior to the facility tour, which was conducted the first morning of the site visit.

The facility had been working hard to become PREA compliant prior to the visit and was implementing policy and practice right up to the audit, as well as during the preparation of the interim report. The corrective action period was utilized to bring the facility fully compliant with the United States Department of Justice PREA Standards. Most of the items found non-compliant were quite attainable only needing signatures and dates on policy or in some cases, additional documentation.

Overall, the audit experience at the Lincoln County Detention Center was very positive. This facility cared about the PREA audit and wanted to be sure they were compliant and open to recommendations/suggestions when issues were identified. The on-site PREA team and the Sheriff were extremely helpful and accommodating to our needs for the audit during the visit and the Corrective Action Period. The facility staff have an overall positive attitude and all the inmates were respectful and willing to participate in the interviews.

DESCRIPTION OF FACILITY CHARACTERISTICS

The Lincoln County Detention Center houses inmates/prisoners that are arrested by surrounding Federal, State, and local law enforcement agencies. Individuals who have been sentenced to less than one-year imprisonment by Lincoln County Courts are also housed in the Detention Center. A number of inmate services are provided to all inmates that include legal, medical, psychological, commissary and visitation.

The facility consists of a single building with several types of housing and multiple opportunities for segregation or classification. The detention center housing units consist of: Five multiple occupancy cell housing units and four dorm housing units. There are also 20 segregation cells in "Housing Unit D". Administrative Segregation is to alleviate a possible threat to the general population. An inmate is placed and assigned administrative segregation status when it is determined he/she:

- Poses a threat to self, staff, other offenders, property, or to the orderly operation of the facility
- Requests protection or is deemed by staff to require protection
- Is pending transfer or is in transit to a more secure facility
- Is a possible escape risk
- Is pending investigation

Additionally, there are two juvenile holding cells, which are completely isolated from adult housing units. There are 6 observation cells available in the booking unit, which allows 24/7 observation of certain high-risk inmates (i.e. Those that are intoxicated upon booking or those who are identified with mental health issues that present an imminent danger).

Inmates are used in labor tasks throughout the facility and on work crews. The Lincoln County Detention facility contracts out their food service and preparation. Inmates assist civilian contractors in the delivery of food services. Some medical care and triage is led by a qualified medical staff member in a small clinic, although any serious illness or injury is referred to outside care. This also remains true for any victim of sexual assault. Any exam associated with a sexual assault is done at the local hospital with SAFE/SANE qualified staff (Great Plains Health). Finally, mental health services are also largely outsourced, including counseling. The exception is what is conducted with contractors and volunteers within the facility which is largely for screening purposes.

The facility houses all types of inmates. They include a full range of lengths of stays. Individuals being booked can be housed for any period, from less than an hour to more than a year, when awaiting trial or part of a Department of Corrections contract for housing state inmates. The facility has booked 1,782 inmates over the past 12 months with an age range of 18-70. In the rare event a juvenile is brought to the facility, they are there for less than 6 hours and fully segregated from adults, adhering to sight and sound barrier requirements.

Investigations into alleged sexual abuse or harassment allegations, are performed by two highly trained investigators, housed next door at the main sheriff's office. The investigators are sheriff's office employees. Should an allegation include a staff member, the investigators conduct the internal portion of the investigation, however, they utilize the North Platte (Nebraska) Police Department investigators for any criminal allegations involving staff. This is done to prevent any perceived or actual conflict of interest.

The camera system that the Lincoln County Detention Center currently has in place exceeds what is required in the standards. Their use of the camera systems in protecting inmates and staff is quite robust, with many camera features to assist in the elimination of blind spots within the facility.

SUMMARY OF AUDIT FINDINGS

Initial Audit Findings:

The facility worked hard toward compliance on every standard. Initially, the Lincoln County Detention Center met 13 of the 43 standards, and exceeded in 1 of the 43 standards. Of the 43 standards, 29 were not met. However, the 29 standards are easily attainable for the facility through finishing their policy development. Again, most of what was lacking is signatures and dates to show when the policy was approved. Although the paperwork was not finished, interviews of staff and inmates indicated the practice of the policy was actually already in place.

Number of standards exceeded: 1

Number of standards met: 13

Number of standards not met: 29

During the corrective action period all 29 standards were addressed adequately and now meet compliance.

Final Outcome:

Number of standards exceeded: 1 (115.18)

Number of standards met: 42

Number of standards not met: 0