



TEXAS JUVENILE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Jim Hurley at (512) 490-7016

Five TJJD Facilities Certified PREA Compliant

Five juvenile justice facilities operated by the Texas Juvenile Justice Department have been certified as compliant with Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) standards by auditors accredited by the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ). PREA standards establish strict requirements for facilities to ensure safeguards are in place to provide for the sexual safety of those housed in prisons, jails, and juvenile detention and corrections centers.

The five TJJD facilities receiving certification are:

- Ron Jackson State Juvenile Correctional Complex in Brownwood;
- Evins Regional Juvenile Center in Edinburg;
- Brownwood Halfway House in Brownwood;
- McFadden Ranch Halfway House in Roanoke; and
- Edna Tamayo Halfway House in Harlingen.

TJJD has prioritized the sexual safety of its youth, including educating youth and staff on how to report sexual misbehavior, installing additional cameras and video recording systems in all facilities, and strengthening reporting mechanisms. The agency also works with the Office of Inspector General to investigate and prosecute misbehavior and adheres to a “zero tolerance” policy throughout the agency. In 2011, TJJD appointed a PREA coordinator to oversee and direct agency efforts in this area. The agency has also contracted with nationally recognized experts to review agency policies and procedures and recommend additional measures to improve the sexual safety of its youth.

Prior to the release of federal PREA standards in 2012, the agency had already begun working to ensure compliance in all areas and prepare its facilities for audit. The audits consisted of the review of these national standards through an examination of TJJD protocols, practices, policies and procedures, detailed inspection of facilities, and interviewing TJJD staff and youth, investigators, volunteers and outside advocacy groups.

TJJD Executive Director David Reilly said the safety of youth in TJJD facilities has been and will continue to be a primary focus of the agency.

“Texas is among the first state systems to receive PREA certification and TJJD staff continue to work diligently to ensure the safety of our youth,” Reilly said. “This certification validates their efforts and our commitment to our youth, their parents and guardians, and the citizens of Texas.”



TEXAS
JUVENILE  JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Jim Hurley at (512) 490-7016

Five additional TJJD facilities are scheduled for PREA audits in 2015 and the four remaining facilities will be audited in 2016.

###

October 30, 2014