

# KidsPeace Mesabi Academy



## Annual Assessment of Progress in Addressing Sexual Abuse

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## **2014 Annual Assessment of KidsPeace Mesabi Academy's Progress in Addressing Sexual Abuse**

The Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) of 2003, 42 U.S.C. 15601 et seq., regulations that adopt national standards for the detection, prevention, reduction and punishment of prison rape. The finalized PREA standards were released on August 20, 2012, with an implementation date of August, 2013. **Pursuant to standard 115.88 of the Prison Rape Elimination Act, KidsPeace Mesabi Academy is required to:**

- (a) Review data collected and aggregated 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 findings and corrective actions for KidsPeace Mesabi Academy.**
- (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) KidsPeace Mesabi Academy'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) KidsPeace Mesabi Academy 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.*

### **Data Collection:**

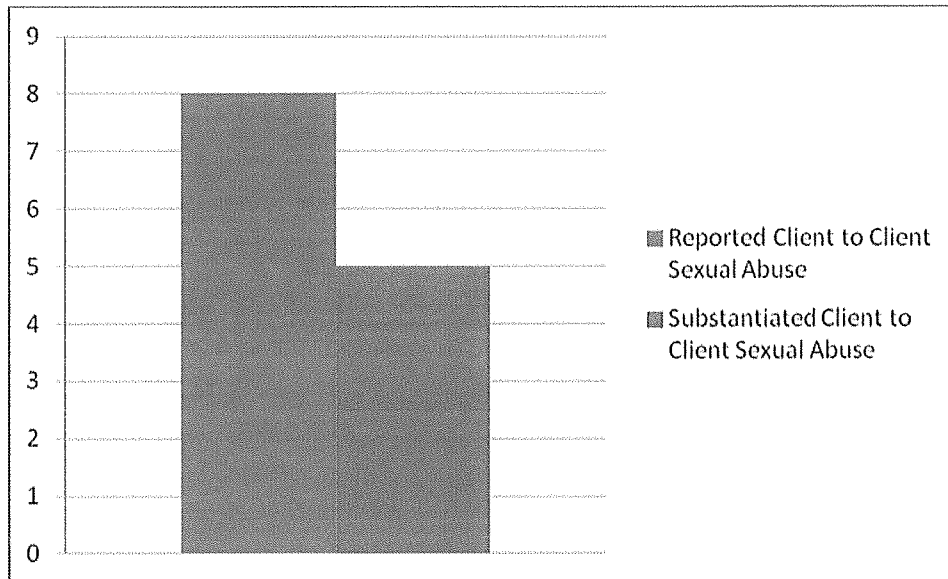
During the calendar year 2014, KidsPeace Mesabi Academy collected the referrals for investigation into allegations in order to report findings to the Department of Justice for their annual Survey of Sexual Violence. The data received is the basis for this section of the report.

### **Client to Client Sexual Abuse**

KidsPeace Mesabi Academy defines sexual abuse of a client by another client as any of the following acts:

- (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;
- (4) 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.



In 2014, KidsPeace Mesabi Academy had a total of five substantiated client to client sexual abuse incidents (by PREA standards) from January to June.

- March 2014- A client touched another client’s groin area during capture the flag.
- March 2014 – A client touched another client’s groin area over the clothes.
- June 2014 – A client touched another client’s groin area over the clothes.
- June 2014 – A client exposed himself to another client and this client touched the other client’s exposed penis.
- June 2014 – A client touched another client’s groin area over the clothes.

In 2013, KidsPeace Mesabi Academy had a total of one substantiated client to client sexual abuse incident (by PREA standards).

- June 2013 – A client touched another client in the groin area over the clothes.

## **Associate to Client Sexual Abuse**

KidsPeace Mesabi Academy defines sexual abuse of a client by an associate as any of the following acts:

- (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 associate, vendor, 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 associate, vendor, 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 associate, vendor or volunteer has the intent to abuse, arouse or gratify sexual desire;
- (6) Any attempt, threat, or request by an associate, vendor, or volunteer to engage in any sexual misconduct.
- (7) Any display by an associate, vendor, or volunteer of his or her uncovered genitalia, buttocks, or breast in the presence of a client, and
- (8) Voyeurism by an associate, vendor, or volunteer.

In 2014, KidsPeace Mesabi Academy did not have any substantiated allegations of associate to client sexual abuse (by PREA standards) from January to June. There was one allegation that was found to be a client making false accusations.

In 2013, KidsPeace Mesabi Academy did not have any substantiated allegations of associate to client sexual abuse (by PREA standards).

### **Analysis/Corrective Action:**

There were no PREA Standards requirements to analyze efforts in 2012, due to final PREA standards/requirements not being finalized until August 2012 and a PREA Compliance Officer not in place at KidsPeace Mesabi Academy until 2014. As a result, there is no corrective action in 2013 with which to compare in 2014.

## **KidsPeace Mesabi Academy: 2014**

Analysis: There were a total of five substantiated sexual abuse incidents in January to June 2014, as compared to one substantiated sexual abuse incident in 2013. The reason for the increase can be attributed to an increase in client and associate awareness of PREA. Both clients and associates have been made aware of the prison rape elimination act.

Corrective Action: Clients are given the Mesabi Client Safety Guide at intake regarding the PREA Zero Tolerance and how to report sexual abuse, sexual misconduct, and sexual harassment. Clients are administered the Vulnerability Assessment and Sexually Abusive Behavior Screen upon admission. Orientation for clients also includes client access to outside confidential support services for sexual abuse.

Analysis: Associate sexual assault/misconduct continues to remain at zero substantiated incidents. This could be contributed to the initial training period in which associates undergo and the ability of supervisors to terminate associates that are not appropriate for this type of employment within this initial training period.

Corrective Action: Beginning in 2014, it is mandatory that all KidsPeace Mesabi Academy Associates complete PREA training annually. Previously associates received yearly Boundaries and Professionalism. New Associate Orientation also includes PREA training on the first day of training. It is our hope that this training will assist associates in being fully aware of the zero tolerance for sexual abuse, sexual misconduct, and sexual harassment at KidsPeace Mesabi Academy.

### **Summary:**

It is our responsibility and part of our mission to give hope, help and healing to children, families and communities. KidsPeace Mesabi Academy's vision is to help people in need overcome challenges and transform their lives by providing emotional and physical healthcare and educational services in an atmosphere of teamwork, compassion, and creativity. This cannot be achieved with a collaborative effort amongst the associates and clients at KidsPeace Mesabi Academy. Both need to know and understand their roles and responsibilities in reporting and preventing sexual violence. KidsPeace Mesabi Academy is committed to taking corrective actions to comply with

the Prison Rape Elimination Act Standards. KidsPeace Mesabi Academy has created a new policy to demonstrate “zero tolerance” for sexual abuse in our facility. A training curriculum was established to incorporate these policies/standards and to ensure that all KidsPeace Mesabi Academy Associates are not only made aware of the new policies/procedures but are instructed on the proper techniques in dealing with such an event of sexual abuse should it occur.

It is our hope that by demonstrating our belief in having zero tolerance for sexual abuse, sexual misconduct, and sexual harassment in our facility, that over time with education and practicing procedures, that we will be able to make efforts in reducing the incidents of sexual abuse in our facility.

Melissa Daniels, MS  
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PREA Compliance Officer

6/30/14  
Date