KidsPeace National Centers of Georgia

KidsPeace®
Giving hope, help and healing to children, adults and those who love them.

Annual Assessment of Progress in Addressing Sexual Abuse

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June 2020
2019-2020 Annual Assessment of KidsPeace National Centers of Georgia
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 115.88 of the Prison Rape Elimination Act,
KidsPeace National Centers of Georgia 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 trainings 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 National Centers of Georgia.

(b) Such report shall include a comparison of the current year’s data and
corrective actions with those from prior years and shall provide as
assessment of the agency’s progress in addressing sexual abuse.

(c) KidsPeace National Centers of Georgia reports 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 National Centers of Georgia may redact specific materials
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 materials redacted.

Data Collection:

During the calendar year from June 1, 2019 through May 31, 2020,
KidsPeace National Centers of Georgia collected the referrals for
investigation into allegations in order to report findings to the Department of
Juvenile Justice for their annual Survey of Sexual Violence. The data
received is the basis for this section of the report.
(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, 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 of his or her uncovered genitalia, buttocks or breast in the presence of a client, and

(7) Voyeurism by an associate, vendor or volunteer.

From June 2019 through May 2020, KidsPeace National Centers of Georgia had zero substantiated allegations for Associate to Client Sexual Abuse.
Analysis/Corrective Action:

The current data analysis from June 2019 through May 2020 reflects a decrease in the number of sexual incidents that were substantiated during the previous (2018-2019) reporting period.

The current data analysis from June 2019 through May 2020 reflects one substantiated Client to Client Sexual Harassment incident for the current PREA reporting period. KidsPeace placed clients on peer restriction and provided the clients with a refresher course and additional education on personal boundaries.

As of June 2020, KidsPeace has two (2) pending PREA Investigations and one (1) pending PREA Inquiry, for the June 2019 through May 2020 reporting period (05/04/20, 05/21/20 and 05/31/20). Disposition for these cases will be documented in June 2020 through May 2021 Annual Report.

KidsPeace National Centers of Georgia: 2020

Analysis: There was one substantiated Client to Client Sexual Harassment (01/19/20) between the periods of June 2019 through May 2020. Clients have been informed of the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA).

Corrective Action: Clients are given the Residential Client Handbook, a PREA Youth Safety Guide and sign a PREA Acknowledgement Statement at admission regarding the PREA Zero Tolerance and how to report sexual abuse, sexual misconduct and sexual harassment upon admission. Clients are administered the Georgia Vulnerability Assessment and Sexually Abusive Screen within 72 hours of their admission, and every 180 days thereafter for the duration of the client’s stay with KidsPeace National Centers of Georgia. Orientation for clients also includes client access to outside confidential support services for sexual abuse, the Compliance Hotline for KidsPeace and PREA posters are posted throughout the campus to ensure they are aware of their contact information.
Analysis:

Associate, vendor or volunteer sexual assault/misconduct had zero incidents for the reporting period of June 2019 through May 2020. This could be contributed to the fact that each associate, vendor or volunteer completes initial PREA training and annual refresher trainings in which associates, vendors or volunteers receive vital knowledge on the zero tolerance policies with regards to sexual misconduct. In addition, this is a reflection of the ability of supervisors to terminate associates, vendors or volunteers that are not appropriate for this type of employment/environment within this initial training period and/or thereafter.

Corrective Action:

New associates, volunteers and vendors on the KidsPeace National Centers of Georgia who do have or may have contact with residents are to complete PREA training within the first 5 days of New Associate Orientation (NAO) and also receive an annual refresher training. It is our hope that this ongoing training will continue to be instrumental in making associates, vendors and volunteers aware of the zero tolerance policy of KidsPeace National Centers of Georgia with regards to sexual abuse, sexual misconduct and sexual harassment.

Summary:

It is our responsibility and part of our mission to continue to give hope, help and healing to children, adults and those who love them. KidsPeace National Centers of Georgia’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 could not be achieved without the collective efforts amongst associates, vendors, volunteers and clients at KidsPeace National Centers of Georgia. Each one needs to understand their roles and responsibilities in reporting and preventing sexual violence.

KidsPeace National Centers of Georgia remains committed to taking corrective actions to comply with all Prison Rape Elimination Act Standards. KidsPeace National Centers of Georgia created the zero tolerance policy to demonstrate its “zero tolerance” for sexual abuse at our facility. KidsPeace
National Centers of Georgia training curriculum was established to incorporate these policies/standards and to ensure that all KidsPeace National Centers of Georgia Associates, vendors and volunteers are not only made aware of the policies/procedures, but are instructed on the proper protocol in the event of a sexual incident.

It’s the hope of KidsPeace National Centers of Georgia that by demonstrating our belief in practicing a zero tolerance policy for sexual abuse, sexual misconduct and/or sexual harassment in our facility, that we will continue to work toward and achieve a zero account of sexual incidents in our facility.

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6.26.2020