

Annual PREA Compliance Report

Date: 1/31/22

To: General Public

From: Lisa K. Nash; PREA Compliance Monitor

The Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003 is a federal law established to support the elimination and prevention of sexual assault and sexual misconduct in correctional systems. Halfway House, Inc. (dba Pharos House) located in Portland, Maine supports the guidelines set forth in this law and has set forth a ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY for all incidents of sexual abuse and sexual misconduct in accordance with the Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003.

The Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003 is 42 U.S. C. Sections 15601
(<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/USCODE-2005-title42/pdf/USCODE-2005-title42-chap147-Section15601.pdf>)

PREA addresses both inmate-to-inmate sexual assault and staff-to-inmate sexual assault. Pharos House has a ZERO TOLERANCE policy towards all forms of sexual abuse and sexual harassment. All allegations of sexual misconduct or sexual harassment will be referred for investigation. These allegations will be investigated by Pharos House Investigators and be referred to appropriate internal or external investigative staff to conduct a criminal investigation. All staff and contractors with inmate contact receive training on PREA, all volunteers receive an orientation on the Pharos House PREA policy, and contractors who have limited resident contact sign a PREA acknowledgement form. All staff, contractors, and volunteers go through a background check prior to working in the facility and on an on-going basis.

Pharos House houses federal inmates assigned to the program by the Federal Bureau of Prisons. Residents may be able or disabled, male, female, and persons identifying as lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, transsexual, or inter-se. The policies, practices and procedures are driven by the needs of this population, Pharos House Standards and PREA standards.

Pharos House has standardized policies and practices which start as soon as a resident arrives at the Pharos House. During the intake process all residents will be screened and assessed for the risk of sexual victimization or sexual predation. All residents will view an informational video on PREA and their rights which will be documented.

Upon arrival at the Pharos House residents will be informed of the PREA policy and the Pharos House ZERO Tolerance policy regarding all sexual assault and sexual harassment. The PREA policy is available to all residents at any time. Posters outlining the rights of residents and ways in which to report any incidences of sexual assault or sexual harassment can be found throughout the facility. All residents sign an acknowledgement regarding the prohibition of sexual abuse which also includes information regarding how to report any incidents. Residents are informed that they may tell a staff member, a contractor, the ZPREA Compliance Manager or they may contact the Sexual Assault Response Services

of Southern Maine, the Portland Police Department, or the National Sexual Assault Hotline. Any of these methods may also be done anonymously or through a third party. Information regarding the Pharos House PREA policy and how to report an incident of sexual assault or sexual harassment can also be found on the Pharos House website which is www.pharoshouse.org.

If someone is the victim of sexual assault or harassment, they have the right to treatment, counseling and help free of charge. Pharos House will be responsible for the costs of this treatment. Victim Advocacy services are available, Mental health services also available. Pharos House will assist in ensuring that services to treat trauma related to sexual violence continues as long as the victim is a resident of Pharos House.

When a PREA incident comes to the attention of staff, contractors, or volunteers at the Pharos House a written report will be made immediately and given to the Executive Director or the PREA Compliance Manager. The victim will be interviewed by the PREA Compliance Manager or the designee by the end of the day that the incident was reported. The PREA Compliance Manager or their designee will assess the safety and security of the individual. Immediate actions may include forensic evidence collection at the local hospital, medical and mental health assistance, counseling, separation of the perpetrator and notification of the PREA Compliance Manager and the Portland Police Department. The victim will be offered free medical, mental health, victim counseling and the investigation will be initiated. As the investigation proceeds and after it is concluded, the victim will be monitored on a periodic basis for need of assistance, harassment because of the investigation and on-going trauma-based issues. The victim will be informed of the results of the investigation once it has been concluded.

PREA standards mandate that correctional facilities provide a copy of their annual review. Within this document is information concerning the 2021 PREA annual review for Pharos House. In 2021 there were no allegations of any abuse involving staff or residents. There were also no allegations of PREA incidents between residents.

In December 2020, Pharos House underwent a mandatory three-year PREA Audit. The audit was completed, and the facility was found to be in compliance. The next scheduled audit will be in 2023.

As a result of that audit Pharos House has incorporated several new procedures to help ensure PREA compliance in all areas.

Pharos House has also installed one additional security camera to increase the ability to see all areas of the house.


Summary: Pharos House continues to implement the PREA policy which covers all aspects of PREA incidents including training, education, reporting, investigating, and responding to PREA reports. Pharos House has modified a number of procedures in house after undergoing the 2020 audit. These modifications help to ensure that all residents are educated and informed about PREA policies and procedures in an appropriate time frame.

All staff are fully trained in the PREA policy. Staff continue to receive refresher training regarding how to deal with PREA incidents.

All Pharos House residents are provided with the Resident Agreement as well as additional information regarding PREA.

The above-mentioned information is a summary of the activities completed by the Pharos House to detect, protect, and prevent incidences of sexual assault and sexual harassment for any residents living at the Pharos House.

Written by Lisa K. Nash, PREA Coordinator

Date: 2/2/22
Signature: 

Reviewed and approved by James Vincent: Executive Director

Date: 2/2/22
Signature: 