

**TRAVIS COUNTY JUVENILE PROBATION DEPARTMENT**

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CORY J. BURGESS
Chief Juvenile Probation Officer

2025

PREA Annual Report

Reference: 28 CFR 115.388: Data Review for Corrective Action

The Travis County Juvenile Probation Department (the Department) maintains a zero-tolerance policy for all forms of abuse, neglect, and exploitation—including sexual abuse and sexual harassment. Prevention and detection efforts include comprehensive staff screening and training, adequate supervision, resident education, and early identification of risk indicators.

Community members, family, and other third parties who suspect abuse or misconduct within any of the Department's residential facilities are encouraged to report concerns by calling **1-877-786-7263 (STOP ANE)**.

Findings

In calendar year 2024, two (2) allegations of staff sexual misconduct were reported across Department campuses (see charts DS-1 and RS-1). Both incidents originated from the Jeanne Meurer Intermediate Sanctions Center (ISC). Following thorough investigations, both allegations were determined to be unfounded.

Corrective Action

Although no corrective action was necessary in 2024, and historical data does not reflect a recurring pattern of staff sexual misconduct, the Department remains committed to continuous improvement in facility safety and resident well-being. Proactive measures taken include the implementation of the IMPACT Juvenile Justice Testing and Training System, a pre-employment screening tool used to evaluate suitability for work with juvenile populations. This system helps predict job performance and determine appropriate levels of supervision and coaching. In addition, the Department has installed 11 additional surveillance cameras, resulting in 40 new camera views across the facilities interiors and perimeters. These upgrades significantly reduce blind spots and enhance visibility for safety monitoring.

Action Plan

To further ensure the safety and well-being of youth in its care, the Department will continue to:

- I. Maintain public access to PREA information via the Department's website.
- II. Prominently display third-party reporting posters in public areas, programming areas, and housing areas detailing how to report allegations directly to the Texas Juvenile Justice Department (TJJD) at 1-877-(STOP ANE) 786-7263.
- III. Make available information brochures, created by TJJD, outlining reporting methods.
- IV. Educate residents during the intake and orientation process consisting of their right to be free from sexual abuse and sexual harassment, strategies to avoid victimization, and methods for reporting abuse, neglect, exploitation to include sexual abuse and sexual harassment.

- V. Adhere to mandated staffing ratios to ensure proper supervision.
- VI. Ensure adequate staff coverage based on population needs and review the Department Staffing Plan annually.
- VII. Conduct unannounced supervisory rounds throughout the facility.
- VIII. Require staff to announce their presence when entering housing units of the opposite gender, promoting resident privacy.
- IX. Provide annual staff training on:
 - a) Zero-tolerance policy for sexual abuse and sexual harassment;
 - b) Role in prevention, detection, responding, and reporting sexual abuse and sexual harassment;
 - c) Residents' rights and protections against retaliation;
 - d) The dynamics of sexual abuse and sexual harassment in juvenile facilities;
 - e) Dynamics of sexual abuse in juvenile settings;
 - f) Identifying and responding to signs of abuse; and
 - g) Compliance with mandatory reporting laws.
- X. Conduct criminal history and background checks on employees, volunteers, interns, and contractors.
- XI. The Department will report and investigate all allegations of abuse, neglect, and exploitation—including sexual abuse and sexual harassment. The Department will report all criminal allegations to the appropriate law enforcement agency for investigation, referring all allegations to the Texas Juvenile Justice Department (TJJD) as required, and ensure thorough administrative investigations are conducted for every allegation.

This report reflects the Department's unwavering commitment to the safety and dignity of every youth entrusted to its care and aligns with federal standards under the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA).

JANUARY 1, 2024 – DECEMBER 31, 2024

(Chart DS-1)

Allegations of Sexual Abuse and Sexual Harassment Gardner-Betts Juvenile Justice Center (Detention)

Substantiated Allegations/Confirmed

Allegation Type	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Youth-on-Youth Sexual Abuse	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Youth-on-Youth Sexual Harassment	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Staff-on-Youth Sexual Abuse	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Staff-on-Youth Sexual Harassment	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Unsubstantiated Allegations/Unable to Determine

Allegation Type	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Youth-on-Youth Sexual Abuse	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Youth-on-Youth Sexual Harassment	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Staff-on-Youth Sexual Abuse	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Staff-on-Youth Sexual Harassment	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Unfounded Allegations

Allegation Type	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Youth-on-Youth Sexual Abuse	0	1	2	1	1	0	0	0
Youth-on-Youth Sexual Harassment	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	0
Staff-on-Youth Sexual Abuse	0	0	3	0	0	0	2	0
Staff-on-Youth Sexual Harassment	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0

JANUARY 1, 2024 – DECEMBER 31, 2024

(Chart RS-1)

Allegations of Sexual Abuse and Sexual Harassment Jeanne Meurer Intermediate Sanctions Center (ISC)

Substantiated Allegations/Confirmed

Allegation Type	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Youth-on-Youth Sexual Abuse	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Youth-on-Youth Sexual Harassment	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Staff-on-Youth Sexual Abuse	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Staff-on-Youth Sexual Harassment	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0

Unsubstantiated Allegations/Unable to Determine

Allegation Type	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Youth-on-Youth Sexual Abuse	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Youth-on-Youth Sexual Harassment	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Staff-on-Youth Sexual Abuse	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Staff-on-Youth Sexual Harassment	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Unfounded Allegations

Allegation Type	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Youth-on-Youth Sexual Abuse	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
Youth-on-Youth Sexual Harassment	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Staff-on-Youth Sexual Abuse	0	0	0	3	2	0	2	2
Staff-on-Youth Sexual Harassment	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0

Definitions

Calendar Year: January 1st to December 31st

1. **Substantiated/Confirmed Allegations:** The administrative investigation had sufficient evidence to prove the allegation(s) using the preponderance of evidence standard.
2. **Unsubstantiated Allegations/Unable to Determine:** The investigation revealed insufficient evidence to either prove or disprove the allegation(s).
3. **Unfounded:** The investigation had sufficient evidence to prove the allegations were false or not factual.
4. **Youth-on-Youth Sexual Abuse:** Any sexual contact or act of a sexual nature directed toward a youth by another youth. Sexual acts include intentional touching, either directly or through the clothing, of the genitalia, anus, groin, breast, inner thigh, or buttocks with intent to abuse, arouse, or gratify sexual desire.
5. **Youth-on-Youth Sexual Harassment:** Repeated and unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, or verbal comments, gestures, or actions of a derogatory or offensive sexual nature by one youth directed toward another.
6. **Staff-on-Youth Sexual Abuse:** Any behavior or act of a sexual nature directed toward a youth by an employee, volunteer, contractor, official visitor, or other agency representative (excluding family, friends, or other visitors). Sexual relationships of a romantic nature between staff and youth are included in this definition. Consensual or nonconsensual sexual acts include intentional touching, either directly or through the clothing, of the genitalia, anus, groin, breast, inner thigh, or buttocks that is unrelated to official duties or with intent to abuse, arouse, or gratify sexual desire; or completed, attempted, threatened, or requested sexual acts; or occurrences of indecent exposure, invasion of privacy, or staff voyeurism for reasons unrelated to official duties or for sexual gratification.
7. **Staff-on-Youth Staff Sexual Harassment:** Repeated verbal comments or gestures of a sexual nature to a youth by an employee, volunteer, contractor, official visitor, or other agency representative (excludes family, friends, or other visitors). Include demeaning references to gender; or sexually suggestive or derogatory comments about body or clothing; or repeated profane or obscene language or gestures.

DocuSigned by:

Kris Johnson

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4/16/2025

Kris Johnson, PREA Coordinator

Date

DocuSigned by:

Cory J. Burgess

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4/16/2025

Cory J. Burgess, Chief Juvenile Probation Officer

Date