

Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) Audit Report Adult Prisons & Jails

Interim Final

Date of Report 2/25/2020

Auditor Information

Name: Amy Fairbanks	Email: fairbaa@comcast.net
Company Name: AJF, Correctional Consulting & Auditing, L.L.C.	
Mailing Address: 3105 S. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd #236	City, State, Zip: Lansing, MI 48910
Telephone: (517) 303-4081	Date of Facility Visit: October 2-4, 2019

Agency Information

Name of Agency: Al Cannon Detention Center		Governing Authority or Parent Agency (If Applicable): Charleston County Sheriff's Office	
Physical Address: 3841 Leeds Avenue		City, State, Zip: North Charleston, SC 29405	
Mailing Address: 3841 Leeds Avenue		City, State, Zip: North Charleston, SC 29405	
Telephone: (843) 554-2485		Is Agency accredited by any organization? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
The Agency Is:	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Private for Profit	<input type="checkbox"/> Private not for Profit
<input type="checkbox"/> Municipal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> County	<input type="checkbox"/> State	<input type="checkbox"/> Federal

Agency mission: To serve our community by helping to provide a safe environment for citizens to live, work, raise families, and enhance their quality of life by providing excellent law enforcement services, and always seeking to promote mutual trust and respect.

Agency Website with PREA Information: <https://sheriff.charlestoncounty.org>

Agency Chief Executive Officer

Name: Sheriff Al Cannon Jr.	Title: Sheriff
Email: acannon@charlestoncounty.org	Telephone: 843-554-2485

Agency-Wide PREA Coordinator

Name: Stephanie Hamilton-Lipsey	Title: Accreditation/PREA Manager
---------------------------------	-----------------------------------

Email: slipsey@charlestoncounty.org	Telephone: 843-529-7314
PREA Coordinator Reports to: Jail Administrator/Chief	Number of Compliance Managers who report to the PREA Coordinator: NA

Facility Information

Name of Facility: Al Cannon Detention Center	
Physical Address: 3841 Leeds Avenue	
Mailing Address (if different than above): Click or tap here to enter text.	
Telephone Number 843-529-7314	
The Facility Is:	<input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Private for profit <input type="checkbox"/> Private not for profit
<input type="checkbox"/> Municipal	<input type="checkbox"/> County <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> Federal
Facility Type:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jail <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prison
Facility Mission: The mission of the Sheriff Al Cannon Detention Center is to serve and protect the Citizens of Charleston County by maintaining secure jail operations and facilities, while preserving the rights and dignity of all who are incarcerated.	
Facility Website with PREA Information: https://sheriff.charlestoncounty.org/accreditation	

Warden/Superintendent

Name: Willis Beatty	Title: Chief
Email: wbeatty@charlestoncounty.org	Telephone: 843-529-7314

Facility PREA Compliance Manager

Name: Stephanie Hamilton-Lipsey	Title:
Email: slipsey@charlestoncounty.org	Telephone: 843-529-7314

Facility Health Service Administrator

Name: Herbert Drayton	Title: Accreditation/PREA Manager
Email: hdrayton@cchmonline.com	Telephone: 843-266-3830

Facility Characteristics

Designated Facility Capacity: 1917	Current Population of Facility: 1197
Number of inmates admitted to facility during the past 12 months	16,851

Number of inmates admitted to facility during the past 12 months whose length of stay in the facility was for 30 days or more:		1828	
Number of inmates admitted to facility during the past 12 months whose length of stay in the facility was for 72 hours or more:		5648	
Number of inmates on date of audit who were admitted to facility prior to August 20, 2012:		0	
Age Range of Population: 17-73	Youthful Inmates Under 18: 22	Adults: 1175	
Are youthful inmates housed separately from the adult population?		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NA
Number of youthful inmates housed at this facility during the past 12 months:		282	
Average length of stay or time under supervision:		1213	
Facility security level/inmate custody levels:		Min/Med/Max	
Number of staff currently employed by the facility who may have contact with inmates:		350	
Number of staff hired by the facility during the past 12 months who may have contact with inmates:		41	
Number of contracts in the past 12 months for services with contractors who may have contact with inmates:		4	
Physical Plant			
Number of Buildings: 1		Number of Single Cell Housing Units: 3	
Number of Multiple Occupancy Cell Housing Units:		5	
Number of Open Bay/Dorm Housing Units:		23	
Number of Segregation Cells (Administrative and Disciplinary):		106	
Description of any video or electronic monitoring technology (including any relevant information about where cameras are placed, where the control room is, retention of video, etc.):			
There are over 700 cameras strategically located that monitor operations at the facility.			
Medical			
Type of Medical Facility:		Ambulatory Clinic and Infirmary	
Forensic sexual assault medical exams are conducted at:		Local Hospital	
Other			
Number of volunteers and individual contractors, who may have contact with inmates, currently authorized to enter the facility:		115 contractors, 111 volunteers	
Number of investigators the agency currently employs to investigate allegations of sexual abuse:		14	

Audit Findings

Audit Narrative

On October 2-4, 2019 an audit was conducted at the Al Cannon Detention Center, North Charleston, South Carolina to determine compliance with the Prison Rape Elimination Act standards finalized August 2012. The auditor was present at the facility from 7:30am to 8:00pm Wednesday, 8:30am to 6:00pm Thursday and 8:00am to 3:00pm Friday. The facility was previously audited in October 2016 and found to be in compliance with all standards. There were no barriers to completing the audit. The auditor was selected to complete the audit by responding to and informational request from the agency, forwarding a proposed contract, and being awarded the contract.

Audit Methodology:

The PREA Resource Audit Instrument used for Adult Prisons and Jails is furnished by the National PREA Resource Center. This tool include the following: A) Pre-Audit Questionnaire, sent by Eastern Correctional Facility; B) the Auditor Compliance Tool; C) Instructions for the PREA Audit Tour; D) the Interview Protocols; E) the Auditor's Summary Report; F) the Process Map; and G) the Checklist of Documentation. In addition, the Auditor Handbook 2017 was used to guide the audit process. The Online Audit Process was not used for this audit. Documentation was emailed to the auditor; it was accessed by the auditor September 2019. The Online Audit Process was not used for this audit.

The facility reported that posters announcing the audit with the auditor's name and address were placed throughout the facility on August 19, 2019. They were posted in English and Spanish, noting that correspondence would be confidential as defined as follows: "All correspondence and disclosures during interviews with the designated auditor are confidential and will not be disclosed unless required by law. There are exceptions when confidentiality must be legally broken. Exceptions include, but are not limited to the following:

- if the person is an immediate danger to her/himself or others (e.g. suicide or homicide);
- allegations of suspected of child abuse, neglect or maltreatment;
- in legal proceedings where information has been subpoenaed by a court of appropriate jurisdiction. "

There was no confidential correspondence received in response to the postings announcing the audit and providing the auditor's address. Posters announcing the auditor were observed in various areas of the operations during the on-site tour of operations. They were printed on yellow paper in high traffic areas and noticeable during the tour.

The Agency website was reviewed. The previous PREA Audit report was available, how to make a third-party allegation were available as well as the mission statement. The auditor reviewed the mandatory reporting laws, laws regarding where and how juveniles are housed and laws regarding vulnerable adults for the State of New York prior to the audit. In July 2019 an new law was enacted regarding the housing of youthful offenders.

The auditor researched the internet and found neither evidence of Department of Justice involvement, nor any concerning information. Contact was made with Just Detention International, Inc. No specific information was provided as they had not received any concerns regarding this facility.

Documents reviewed for this audit received three weeks prior to the audit included the Pre-audit questionnaire, policies, contracts, accreditation reports, training curriculums, staff training records, contract/volunteer training records, logbooks, meeting minutes, population reports, sexual abuse

incident review meeting minutes, and sexual abuse and harassment data. A tentative schedule was sent to the facility five days prior to the audit.

On-site audit:

A brief formal meeting was held with the Executive Team (fourteen staff total) and the auditor the morning of the first day of the audit. Tentative schedules were developed regarding the tour, interviews and review of additional documentation. It was noted that interviews need to be in a private setting. Rosters of staff and inmates were provided; a list of random interviews was developed.

A complete tour of the facility was conducted on October 2, 2019. The following areas and operations were visited and observed: inmate living areas, medical operations, intake operations/holding cells, laundry services, library/education areas, chapel, programming areas, visiting room, mailroom and food service operations. All areas of the facility were visited that have inmate access. PREA posters and posters announcing the audit were observed. Blind spots and supervision practices were assessed. Cross-gender announcements were given as required. Availability of phones, kiosks were noticed. Camera monitoring operations were also examined.

Formal interviews were conducted with the following:

Chief

PREA Coordinator

Four Medical/mental health staff (Director of Nursing, nurse, Office of Mental Health staff - contractual)

Commissary staff – contractual

DAODAS staff - contractual

Human Resources

Twelve corrections officers/sergeants from all areas of the facility and each shift

One officer who supervises the youth unit

Two shift supervisors (AM & PM) who conduct unannounced rounds

One officer who supervises special housing

One investigator (and PREA Coordinator who also conducts investigations),

One investigator supervisor from the Sheriff's Investigative Unit

Intake staff (who completes the initial intake risk screening)

Volunteer Coordinator

Training staff

One volunteer

No staff who have acted as a first responder (based on review of the investigations)

Zero staff involved in cross-gender strip or visual searches

Sheriff interview responses were provided in written format as he was out of town

SANE supervisor for MUSC

Three staff from People Against Rape (local advocacy organization)

A total of 34 inmates were selected to be interviewed thirty-three were completed.

Targeted inmate interviews included the following:

- two with limited English,
- one self-admitted as homosexual
- zero self-identified as transgender
- three who initiated a sexual harassment complaint
- three self-reported as having prior victimization
- two inmates who required assistive devices for mobility (wheelchair and cane)
- two hard of hearing inmate

- one legally blind inmate
- two cognitively impaired inmate (one interview was attempted)
- zero inmates housed in restrictive housing/isolation for risk of sexual victimization
- five youths (four males, one female)

Inmate interviews were held in the private interview rooms. Inmates were interviewed from each housing unit. Six inmates were informally interviewed regarding knowledge of PREA, knowledge of the PREA audit, opposite gender announcements and supervisory rounds.

While on-site, additional random documents were requested or reviewed and are noted throughout the report. On-site documentation review included personnel files, inmate/resident files, investigations, medical/mental health files, and training records.

Administrative investigations are conducted by facility investigators, criminal investigations are conducted by the local sheriff's department. Completed investigations from August 2018 to August 2019 were reviewed, there were thirty-five total. Fourteen were determined to not meet the definition of sexual abuse or sexual harassment in accordance with the definitions established by the Department of Justice. The remaining twenty-one occurred as follows:

Three staff on inmate sexual abuse allegation
 Five staff on inmate sexual harassment allegation
 Six inmate on inmate sexual abuse allegations
 Six inmate on inmate sexual harassment allegation
 One retaliation allegations

Six allegations were deemed substantiated, three were deemed unsubstantiated, twelve were deemed unfounded. The auditor reviewed the appropriate notifications.

Any and all allegations that may appear to meet the definition are investigated until the investigation established that it was not a "PREA" investigation. Investigations were initiated to staff verbally, to staff in writing, through grievances, through the hotline and through the kiosk available in the unit for inmates to communicate electronically. One investigation was regarding an incident that occurred at another facility. During this time period, two allegations were referred for criminal prosecution.

The auditor was allowed free access to all areas of the facility, access to interview inmates and staff selected randomly and intentionally, and to see any documentation requested. A brief exit meeting was conducted with five Executive team members.

Post-Audit Phase:

Areas needing corrective action were identified. An interim report was forwarded to the facility. A follow up visit was conducted on November 12, 2019. Wendy Hart, Certified PREA auditor assisted with additional inmate interviews. Both auditors were present at the facility from 8:00am to 5:00pm. During the follow up visit, the areas needing correcting were discussed. Twenty-two additional random inmate interviews were conducted. Three declined to be interviewed.

Facility Characteristics

The Sheriff All Cannon Detention Center is in North Charleston, South Carolina. It is the detention center for mainly pre-trial detainees and those sentenced up to 90 days for Charleston County. It houses males, females and offenders age 17. They also house a small population of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detainees. The Sheriff AI Cannon Detention Center was originally built in 1966. There have been three expansions. The first expansion was a four-story addition completed in 1994, raising the inmate capacity to 661. The second expansion was adding the two modular units in 2001 raising the inmate capacity to 789. The third expansion completed in May 2010 increased the inmate population to 1,917. The current facility consists of the following: The original building, Tower A includes the Training Division, Training Room, staff gym and showers, Inmate Library, Environmental/Logistics, eight inmate housing units, and two modular units. The expansion Towers B and C include administrative offices, conference rooms, a state-of-the-art control center, kitchen, laundry, staff dining, medical department, lobby, visitation area, twenty-one direct supervision units and an infirmary.

There are 31 housing units plus a medical infirmary housing unit. Many units (thirteen) were closed at the time of the audit. There is a Behavioral Management Unit (BMU) and Special Management Unit (BMU). Count on the first day of the audit was 1183. Housing units in the A Tower are in cells. Each unit has a day room and a recreation deck where inmates can get outdoor activity. Showers are individual stalls with curtain. Sinks and toilets are in each room. In the other Tower, inmates are housed in a dormitory setting. Each unit has a recreation deck, TV room/programming room, one room with a sink and toilet for holding an inmate, and a day room. There are common bathrooms with sinks, toilets (individual stalls) and showers with appropriate curtains.

In addition to county staff, contractual services provide medical and mental health, food service, commissary services and substance abuse programming. No inmates work in the food service operation. Inmates are under direct supervision at all times, including during movement. Department of Alcohol and other Drug Abuse Services (DAODAS) provides education, intervention and treatment strategies including AA, NA and Person's Incarcerated Entering Recovery (PIER) which is a fee based 12-week treatment program. Father to Father, Turning Leaf Project, Parenting, Coping Skills Education, Female Book Club, and New Outlook Advocacy are additional programs provided to inmates while incarcerated. Academic and Vocation education is provided through Trident Literacy Association, a non-profit organization. This includes literacy, GED, ESL and Work Keys (an assessment tool that tests an individual's work skills).

Summary of Audit Findings

Number of Standards Exceeded:	1
§115.31 – Employee Training	
Number of Standards Met:	44
Number of Standards Not Met:	0

AUDITOR CERTIFICATION

I certify that:

- The contents of this report are accurate to the best of my knowledge.
- No conflict of interest exists with respect to my ability to conduct an audit of the agency under review, and
- I have not included in the final report any personally identifiable information (PII) about any inmate or staff member, except where the names of administrative personnel are specifically requested in the report template.

Amy J. Fairbanks

2/25/2020

Auditor Signature

Date