

NYC Department of Correction: Development and Implementation of Electronic Screening Tool Progress Report

This report is pursuant to the New York City Board of Correction Resolution regarding “Elimination of Sexual Abuse and Sexual Harassment in Correctional Facilities” §5-17 and §5-18 “Screening for Risk of Victimization and Abusiveness” & “Use of Screening Information” which requires, among other things, that the Department (1) assess all persons in custody during an intake screening and upon transfer to another facility for their risk of being sexually abused by other persons in custody or sexually abusive toward other incarcerated persons; (2) within a set time period, not to exceed 30 days from the incarcerated person's arrival at the facility, reassessing the person's risk of victimization or abusiveness based upon any additional, relevant information received by the Department since the intake screening; and (3) using information from such risk screening to inform housing, bed, work, education, and program assignments with the goal of keeping separate from persons at high risk of being sexually victimized those at high risk of being sexually abusive.

The Resolution requires that the Department provide a written report to the Board stating, in detail, what progress has been made toward development and implementation of an electronic screening tool including, but not limited to, (a) an updated timeline for implementation; (b) the number of staff trained and the number of staff remaining to be trained on utilizing the tool; and (c) other information the Board determines should be included in the report.

Electronic Database Enhancement

Enhancements to the Department’s electronic database system (IIS), that allows the Department to track individuals for potential sexual victimization and abusiveness, have been completed. As the Department diligently works towards the complete implementation of the electronic screening tool, the paper-based system continues to be utilized. The Department is imputing key screening indicators obtained through the paper format into the Electronic System.

Comprehensive Training

In November, with the completion of enhancements to the electronic database, the Department commenced staff training. To date, out of an estimated five hundred (500), sixty-five (65) members of service assigned to intake, classification, movement, general office, security, and all staff that work in these areas regularly from Anna M. Kross Center (AMKC), George Motchan Detention Center (GMDC), and Rose M. Singer Center (RMSC) have been

trained. The training consists of four (4) hours of screening tool data entry in IIS and a review of the PREA interview process.

By January 2018, it is anticipated that the new electronic screening tool will be operational at AMKC, GMDC, and RMSC, and Department-wide by April 2018. During the interim period, as ongoing training continues, designated staff will manually input information into the new Electronic System.