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FROM: Chambers of the Chief Judge
19th Judicial Circuit
Lake County
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Waukegan, Illinois

DEPKE JUVENILE JUSTICE COMPLEX PASSES PRISON RAPE ELIMINATION ACT AUDIT

The Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) was passed in 2003 to provide for the analysis of the incidence and effects of prison rape in Federal, State, and local institutions; and to provide information, resources, recommendations, and funding to protect individuals from prison rape. In 2010, the Bureau of Justice Assistance funded the National PREA Resource Center to provide federally funded training and technical assistance to states and localities, as well as to serve as a single-stop resource for all those in the field working to come into compliance with federal standards.

From November 3rd through 5th, 2021, the Hulse Detention Center and Families and Community Engaged in Treatment (FACE-IT), both part of the larger facility known as the Depke Juvenile Justice Complex of the 19th Judicial Circuit, were involved in their second PREA audit. The audit was conducted by Jessica Durbin, a Department of Justice Certified Auditor for Juvenile Facilities who randomly selected 11 residents, 10 direct care staff, and 12 specialized staff for interviews.

Based upon a thorough review of all audit-related documents, interviews, and observations during the three phases of the process, the auditor has determined that the Hulse Detention Center and FACE-IT Program have achieved full-compliance with the PREA Standards for Juvenile Facilities. "The Facility's policies, procedures, and practices meet the requirements of these PREA standards and effectively mandate a zero-tolerance toward all forms of sexual abuse and sexual harassment," said Jessica Durbin.

"Our juvenile counselors, juvenile administration, and PREA coordinator work diligently every day to not only ensure the safety of our residents but also to ensure adherence to the Act. We will continue to maintain our PREA compliance with proper training, guidelines, and policies for preventing, detecting, and monitoring sexual abuse and harassment within the Robert W. Depke Juvenile Complex Center," said James Edwards, Director of the Division of Juvenile Probation and Detention Services.

The Hulse Detention Center provides secure detention services to high-risk youth who are pending delinquent or criminal court. Services provided regularly include education, recreation, medical, and mental healthcare. Youth receive programming outside of their designated room throughout the day and have access to their families through visitation, mail, and phone calls. The Hulse Detention Center houses up to 48 residents, with 8 beds dedicated to female residents. The age range at this facility is 13 to 20 years old, however, it is possible to house residents as young as 10, if there is no suitable community alternative.

The FACE-IT Residential Program's focus is to meet the needs of high-risk delinquent youth and provide them with resources and tools to become productive members of society while learning how to communicate and properly express themselves. This includes a vigorous family component to ensure the youth have continued support upon release. The FACE-IT Residential Program houses up to 12 male participants. The age range of the participants is 13 to 18 years old. There are six bedrooms, with two participants assigned to each room. The unit consists of a classroom, therapy area, cafeteria, and media room.

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