



U.S. Department of Justice

Review Panel on Prison Rape

Washington, D.C. 20531

March 21, 2022

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL
AND FEDERAL EXPRESS

Camille Cain
Executive Director
Texas Juvenile Justice Department
Central Services Building (CSB), Suite 120
1711 San Jacinto Blvd
Austin, TX 78701

Re: Hearings on Sexual Victimization in Juvenile Correctional Facilities by the Review Panel on Prison Rape

Dear Executive Director Cain,

In accordance with the Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003 (PREA) (codified, as amended, at 34 U.S.C. §§ 30301-30309), the Review Panel on Prison Rape (Panel) requests your appearance for sworn testimony at a public hearing on May 17- 18, 2022. The hearing will be held at the Robert F. Kennedy Department of Justice Building, 950 Pennsylvania Avenue N.W., Conference Room 7411 in Washington, DC. We will send you a final hearing agenda once it is available. The Panel will also post information related to the upcoming hearing at <https://www.ojp.gov/program/review-panel/hearings>.

Under PREA, the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) at the United States Department of Justice is authorized to conduct a comprehensive statistical review of the incidence of sexual victimization in prison facilities throughout the country. PREA directs the Panel to rely on the BJS data and to hold public hearings at which it is to request the appearance of representatives from two institutions with the lowest incidence of sexual victimization and representatives from three institutions with the highest incidence of sexual victimization. The Panel is responsible for conducting these hearings to assist the BJS in identifying common characteristics of victims and perpetrators of sexual assault in prison facilities, as well as common characteristics of the prison facilities with the highest and lowest prevalence of sexual assault.

The current Panel members are: Doug Dretke, Executive Director of the Correctional Management Institute of Texas (CMIT) located within the George J. Beto Criminal Justice Center at Sam Houston State University (SHSU); Wendy Leach, J.D., an independent consultant providing her expertise in inmate and youth physical and sexual safety, conditions of confinement, PREA, and facility operations; and Peter Perroncello, a consultant and a former jail

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administrator in Norfolk County, MA. For more information please see the Panel's website at <https://www.ojp.gov/program/review-panel/members>.

In December 2019, BJS issued the report *Sexual Victimization Reported by Youth in Juvenile Facilities, 2018*. available online at <https://bjs.ojp.gov/library/publications/sexual-victimization-reported-youth-juvenile-facilities-2018>. The report presents findings from the National Survey of Youth in Custody (NSYC-3), conducted from March to December of 2018 in 327 youth facilities.

The Garza County Regional Juvenile Center (Garza) was identified in the report as having among the lowest prevalence of sexual assault. Your sworn testimony will be in connection with the operations of Garza. The hearing will address the prevalence and incidence of both youth-on-inmate and staff-on-youth sexual assault and will examine the spectrum of contact ranging from unwanted touching to non-consensual and physically forced assault resulting in injury.

The Panel also requests the appearance of Michael Breedlove, Facility Director, Garza County Regional Juvenile Center, and Carla Bennett-Wells, PREA Coordinator, TJJD, for sworn testimony at its hearing. The Panel is allocating approximately one and a half hours to Garza, including testimony by the staff named above and a discussion facilitated by the Panel members.

In connection with your testimony, the Panel would like you to prepare a written statement that (1) identifies the factors that led to the low incidence of sexual victimization at Garza during the time of the BJS report, (2) summarizes the measures that Garza has taken to reduce the any incidence of both youth-on-youth and staff-on-youth sexual assault, (3) summarizes Garza's progress in implementing the PREA National Standards (28 C.F.R. pt. 115 (2012)), and (4) describes the measures that Garza has taken to protect from sexual victimization those youth who have mental-health problems, are non-heterosexual, or have a history of prior victimization.

In preparing your statement, it may be helpful for you to review the written testimony submitted by witnesses who participated in prior rounds of Panel hearings. Those statements are located at <https://www.ojp.gov/program/review-panel/transcripts>. No later than April 22, 2022, please submit this statement by e-mail to Joseph Swiderski, Program Analyst, Review Panel on Prison Rape (Phone: 202.514.8615; e-mail: Joseph.Swiderski@usdoj.gov).

Please confirm that you and your colleague plan to appear at the hearing on May 17-18, 2022, by contacting Mr. Swiderski (note that the OCR may be able to specify a more limited date/time slot for your required attendance as the planning for the hearings proceeds). Please provide Mr. Swiderski with the name, phone number, and e-mail address of a contact person on your staff who will serve as a liaison with our office in making travel and other arrangements related to the hearing. The Panel will cover all reasonable costs that invited witnesses may incur in traveling to the hearing.

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We appreciate your willingness to assist the Panel in carrying out its important work of making our country's juvenile facilities free from the threat of sexual assault.

Sincerely,

Michael L. Alston
Attorney Advisor