

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR JANICE HAHN

November 14, 2017

The Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA), signed into law by President George W. Bush on September 4, 2003, was created to eliminate sexual abuse of both juveniles and adults who are confined in prisons, jails, station lockups, and other detention facilities. Every year, about 200,000 people are abused in U.S. detention facilities.

Like thousands of correctional facilities in the U.S., Los Angeles County's (County) jails and juvenile detention facilities are bound by PREA. In 2012 the United States Department of Justice issued PREA standards for the prevention, detection, and response to sexual abuse in confinement settings. The federal standards include barring cross-gender strip searches, mandate that prisons, jails, and youth facilities provide a way for inmates to report sexual abuse to an outside, independent entity, and require these facilities to pass an audit every three years in order to be compliant with the law. The PREA standards also require that agencies designate upper-level agency-wide PREA Coordinators with sufficient time and authority to oversee PREA implementation for all facilities. Each facility should designate a PREA Compliance Manager, also with sufficient time and authority, to coordinate efforts toward PREA compliance.

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To date, no facility within the Los Angeles County jail system or within the Probation Department— the nation's largest — has undergone an audit. And neither the Sheriff's Department nor the Probation Department currently has sufficient single-assignment staff positions dedicated to PREA compliance, a shortcoming that was reported to the Board by the Office of the Inspector General.

Given recent articles in the news about suspected abuses at Century Regional Detention Facility and Central Juvenile Hall, the quarterly report by the Office of the Inspector General (OIG), and presentations made at the Sheriff's Civilian Oversight Commission, it is clear that the County must act now to comply with federal mandates and protect those people in its custody.

**I, THEREFORE, MOVE** that the Board of Supervisors instruct the CEO, in collaboration with the Sheriff and Probation Departments to report back in 60 days regarding the creation of a Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) Compliance Unit for both the Sheriff's Department and the Probation Department. Consideration for staff model should consider lawyers, paralegals, and non-sworn employees who would report directly to the Sheriff and to the Chief Probation Officer.

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JH:dg