



Prison Rape Elimination Act  
Laraway Youth & Family Services  
Foote Brook Program  
January 2018-December 2018



## Laraway Youth and Family Services

### ***Our Vision***

All children and families belong to nurturing communities.

### ***Our Mission***

Providing opportunities for children and families to recognize their individual strengths while supporting them to grow and contribute within our communities

### ***Our Values***

We embrace a youth centered and family focused philosophy by

- Listening to the voice of the child and striving to act in his or her best interest
- Appreciating diverse family cultures
- Honoring youth and their families by preserving, supporting and strengthening their bonds

We promote respect for individuals and organizations by

- Recognizing the potential of all human beings
- Celebrating differences and accomplishments
- Seeking to create and maintain relationships based on trust and integrity

We create opportunities and strive to empower youth and their families by

- Identifying individual strengths
- Coordinating the creation of realistic action plans
- Seeking and integrating feedback

We value building community and encouraging giving back by

- Believing a strong Laraway family is the foundation of our work
- Promoting participation in local activities and culture
- Fostering professional partnerships and alliances
- Supporting youth in transitions to families and communities



## PREA & Laraway

Laraway's Foote Brook Residential Treatment Program provides residential placement and treatment to youth served under Vermont Department of Children and Families' Family Services Division. This relationship results in Laraway's Foote Brook Program having to comply with the Federal Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA). At this juncture, Laraway's Foote Brook program is working diligently to incorporate PREA and its standards into our policies and practices. This is done in efforts to educate, detect, prevent and keep youth safe within our program. Our efforts are to include having a zero tolerance policy regarding sexual abuse and harassment of youth served by our agency.

We are developing and implementing PREA standards within the organization, therefore, we are half way through our audit process and engaging all levels within the organization to create a safe environment for youth served. All staff members, interns, contractors, volunteers, and clients are being educated on PREA through a comprehensive training before they enter the Foote Brook Home.

## Foote Brook

Foote Brook is a values-based adventure program using the outdoors as a therapeutic tool. The clinical side of the program includes Circle of Courage, ARC, Attachment theory, Developmental trauma theory and Handle with Care crisis de-escalation. Daily life is consistent: structured routines and an incentive system.

Learning by doing is a hallmark of adventure programming. Daily interventions and interactions between staff and student provide opportunities to gain information and knowledge. These skills are mastered and reinforced during outdoor adventures throughout the year. The environment is naturally conducive to personal, human-to-human communication. Teens talk with other teens openly and honestly while hiking, setting up camp, preparing meals and developing skills.

Foote Brook provides intensive treatment within its residence to adolescent male youth ages 13-19 years old. This program is designed to serve youth stepping down from more secure facilities from throughout the state. The youth served may have a variation of mental health



disorders, substance use disorders, or juvenile delinquencies that generally require more intensive support and supervision than a traditional community foster home or pre-adoptive home.

### PREA Activities

- Prior to the PREA audit, the Human Resource Director, Program Director, and Program Manager met to discuss and arrange meetings, check ins, and ongoing communication regarding PREA. Our team determined who would be responsible for changes to policies, practices, facilities and staffing patterns needed to comply with the PREA regulations.
- During the interim stage of the PREA audit the following was determined:

| Category                            | Total                                                                                                                               |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Number of Standards <b>Exceeded</b> | 0                                                                                                                                   |
| Number of Standards <b>Met</b>      | 18                                                                                                                                  |
| Number of Standards <b>Not Met</b>  | 22<br>(Standards: 313, 316, 322, 331, 332, 333, 341, 342, 352, 353, 354, 361, 363, 367, 378, 381, 382, 383, 386, 387, 388, and 389) |
| Number of Standards <b>N/A</b>      | 1                                                                                                                                   |

- Laraway's Foote Brook team members continue the process of satisfactory meeting all standards.
- We currently have the following statistics on the youth residing at Foote Brook:

|                         | 2018 Total Admissions | # of youth with pending charges or adjudicated delinquents | % of youth with pending charges or adjudicated delinquents | PREA Compliance dates            |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Foote Brook Programming | 8                     | 3                                                          | 37.5%                                                      | February 21 <sup>st</sup> , 2019 |



## Sexual Abuse and Harassment Data for 2018

During this reporting period, there were 1 incident of Sexual Harassment at the Foote Brook Residential Program. This was a youth on youth incident that was investigated and found to be substantiated. This substantiation resulted in the perpetrator youth receiving program consequences and warning to curb behavior. There is a 90 retaliation monitoring protocol in place to ensure the youth is protected.

### Conclusion:

Efforts are underway;

- We are in the final PREA Audit stages of developing and implementing all Federal Standards required.
- All levels of the organization are engaged and committed to providing education, training and implementation of policy/practice to encourage the detection, prevention and safety of youth in our program.

Please feel free to contact us with further questions.

Regards,

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