



# NEWS

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS**  
**COURT HOUSE, NORRISTOWN, PA., BOX 311, 19404-0311**

**Frank X. Custer, Communications Director**

**Jessica Willingham, Communications Assistant**

**PHONE (610) 278-3061 FAX (610) 278-5943**

**COMMISSIONERS: JOSH SHAPIRO, *Chair***

**VALERIE A. ARKOOSH, MD, MPH, *Vice Chair***

**BRUCE L. CASTOR, JR., *Commissioner***



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 1, 2015**

## **Montgomery County Correctional Facility Aces Federal Audit**

**Norristown, PA (October 1, 2015)** – A federal audit has found the Montgomery County Correctional Facility (MCCF) to be 100 percent compliant with the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA). MCCF met 43 of the standards and exceeded two other standards.

Montgomery County is the largest county prison facility in Pennsylvania to have been declared perfectly compliant with the federal standards. Two other smaller county facilities have also been declared to be 100 percent compliant. The MCCF audit follows on the heels of last year's perfect PREA score for the Montgomery County Youth Center.

“PREA does not require state and local facilities to comply with the Department’s standards, but we took the lead from our county commissioners and facility administrators, and decided to make sure our facility was in compliance with the PREA act,” said Warden Julio Algarin. “Our President Judge and Prison Board also completely agreed and supported this effort.”

Algarin said that a long and extensive review of the standards and review of our policies was conducted by prison administrators and solicitor Nicole Forzato. The audit was performed from August 3-5, 2015 by a PREA certified auditor. The final report of the audit was received on August 31, 2015.

“The results of this audit are tremendously gratifying, but the news is not surprising given the quality of our staff at the prison,” said Josh Shapiro, chair of the Montgomery County Commissioners.

“Warden Julio Algarin, Deputy Warden James Frey, Assistant Warden Sean McGee, Assistant Warden Mark Murray, and Assistant Warden Marcy D’Orazio should be given special recognition for learning the parameters of the statute and undertaking all of the steps necessary to ensure that MCCF is PREA compliant and that all individuals who enter it understand that MCCF has zero tolerance for any form

of sexual misconduct, abuse, or harassment.” Shapiro also commended prison solicitor Nicole Forzato for “her excellent work” in helping to reach this level of compliance.

The Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) was formally adopted in 2012 by the Federal Government. Thereafter, various states began adopting it as well. PREA requires confinement institutions to adhere to stringent standards designed to prevent and respond to acts of sexual abuse or harassment in order to provide a safe environment to the individuals housed by the facility.

The PREA audit demonstrates that MCCF has demonstrated and continues to demonstrate a strong commitment to ensuring a safe and humane environment for individuals being housed at the facility, and that it has a zero tolerance policy for any form of sexual misconduct, harassment, or abuse. MCCF has taken the requisite steps to ensure that all who enter the facility abide by the stringent standards set forth in the statute in order to ensure that the individuals being housed by the facility are treated humanely.