



Mission: *To promote a community-wide response to sexual violence by coordinating a multi-disciplinary team that will ensure victims receive comprehensive, compassionate care*

Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) General Meeting Minutes **Thursday, February 25th, 2021**

Call to Order:

Nicole Bishop, Director, Palm Beach County Victim Services & Certified Rape Crisis Center (PBCVS)

Welcome/Introductions of Members and Guests:

Nicole Bishop welcomed all who were in attendance at the meeting and facilitated introductions.

Review/Approval of Minutes: Minutes for January 28th meeting were approved without any changes.

Nicole informed SART members that Lisa Alward has stepped down as the SANE Coordinator. She will continue to work with the county as an on-call SANE. Nicole also informed SART if there are any questions in regards to sexual assault cases or the SANE program, please contact Carol Messam-Gordon.

On-Going Business:

SANE Report: Carol Messam-Gordon, PBCVS Program Coordinator

Carol Messam-Gordon reported on the Sexual Assault Responses for January 2021. SANEs responded to 21 calls and conducted 19 forensic exams. In the total call-outs, there were 2 non-reporting victims. 15 exams were completed at the Butterfly House and 4 were completed at a local Palm Beach County Hospital ER.

Child Protection Team Report: Alison Hitchcock, Executive Director, Child Protection Team

Alison provided the child abuse and child sexual abuse CPT case statistics for January 2021.

January 2021

- 1025 Abuse Reports Screened
- 111 Cases Opened
- 208 Services Provided
- 18 Sexual Abuse Forensic Medical Exams were completed
- 6 Sexual Assault Kits were completed

Laboratory Testing Updates: Julie Sikorsky, Forensic Laboratory Manager, PBSO

Julie Sikorsky was unable to attend the SART meeting this month. Kristen Ferguson reported the statistics in place of Julie. She shared statistics on the rape kit backlog, the timeframe for processing sexual assault kits, the number of kits tested and the numbers remaining. Kristen also shared that Julie's team is still reviewing Pre SB 636 cases

- ▶ Crime Lab sent to SID for review:
 - ▶ 958 cases without SAKs to SID for additional review (older cases)
 - ▶ SID has completed the review of 642 cases, 316 remaining (down 134 cases)
Classified as:
 - ▶ Does not need analysis (no physical evidence, etc.)
 - ▶ To be outsourced for DNA analysis
 - ▶ Additional research needed for possible evidence (forwarded to review list)
 - ▶ **Current cases** without a DNA request after *monthly* evidence vault query:
 - ▶ 4 Post SB 636 cases without a SAK
 - ▶ 14 Post SB 636 cases with a SAK
- ▶ Total SA cases reviewed (pre & post SB 636): 10,521 (up 167 cases)
 - ▶ 9,380 analyzed or do not need analysis (up 97 cases)
 - ▶ 195 identified to be outsourced (up 45 cases)
 - ▶ 38 identified to be processed in-house with *Rapid DNA analysis* (up 3 cases)
 - ▶ 94 requested to be processed in-house (screening/DNA) *analysis* (up 21 cases)
 - ▶ 25 Other pending (up 4 cases)
 - ▶ 789 cases pending additional review for possible SA evidence for DNA analysis
 - ▶ 484 are from PBSO or merged agencies
 - ▶ 305 are from non-PBSO agencies (PBSO will need to reach out for these agencies to do research)
- ▶ Pre SB636 Cases
 - ▶ Outsourced: 1679
 - ▶ Profiles entered into CODIS: 845 profiles from 795 cases (no changes)
 - ▶ From evidence: 732
 - ▶ Suspect samples: 113
 - ▶ CODIS hits (across all agencies): 313
 - ▶ 13 arrests made: 9=PBSO, 4=WPBPD (no changes)

SART Case Staffing's: Carol Messam-Gordon, PBCVS Program Coordinator

Rene Boone, SART Team Supervisor updated SART members on the sexual assault case staffing held on February 12th. Four cases were staffed. In attendance were Advocates, Coordinators, Team supervisors, and SANEs. She provided summaries on 3 of the cases:

Case 1: The helpline received a call from Good Samaritan Annex ER. PBCVS responded and met with an 18-year-old female who was sexually assaulted. The victim was not coherent based on the advocate's observation, therefore was unable to consent to an exam. The ER doctor and the victim's mother were insistent on an exam being done. The ER doctor and the victim's mother woke the victim up and assisted her with walking around the room. The SANE was contacted to respond. After meeting with the victim, the SANE and the advocate both agreed that an exam could not be done based on the victim not being coherent enough to consent or provide information about the assault. The ER doctor and mother of the victim were both upset and the Duty Supervisor was contacted to staff the case. Information about our services was provided to the mother so that once the victim was coherent; she would be able to contact us for information about her options. During this encounter, both the advocate and SANE remained professional and advocated for the victim's rights. PBCVS will be scheduling training with Good Samaritan Annex ER to review our policies and protocols in regards to responding to sexual assault cases.

Case 2: 28-year-old female was sexually assaulted by an acquaintance. Law Enforcement responded to the Butterfly House before contacting the Helpline. The detective interviewed without an advocate being present. Once the advocate arrived, the detective left the Butterfly House and the officer stayed to collect the SAK. The advocate commended Officer Howard from West Palm Beach Police Department who was on scene. Officer Howard remained calm and provided assistance to the victim whenever there was a problem. We want to remind everyone to always contact the helpline as soon as possible so that an advocate can respond promptly. We are also asking that Detectives remember not to interview without an advocate being present because this time allows the advocates to build a rapport and provide support to the victims.

Case 3: 43-year-old female was sexually assaulted, physically assaulted, and strangled by her boyfriend. During the crisis field response, it was discovered that this victim has had multiple sexual assault cases in the past. While the case was being staffed, SART Supervisor was able to look up past cases in our records and saw that the victim has always reported being severely beaten. Human Trafficking indicators were also apparent with the victim's history. PBCVS Human Trafficking Project Coordinator will be following up with the assigned advocate for services. The advocate will also be referring the client to the therapy team for services. The advocate is in the process of assisting with Victims Compensation.

Committee Reports:

Community Action Network: Carol Messam-Gordon, PBCVS Program Coordinator

Carol informed SART members that CAN is currently preparing for Sexual Assault Awareness Month. The theme this year is "We can Build Safe Online Spaces". A calendar of events for SAAM is being created and will be sent to SART members once completed. Carol encouraged SART members to get involved in all the events. The next CAN meeting will be on March 24th. Please see below an outline of some of the activities and events taking place throughout April:

- **Day of Action-April 6th**
 - PBCVS - Will host the Field of Hope event again this year "What will this look like?"
 - We are asking for SART and the community to participate
 - Because of COVID - We will host a drive-thru event
 - We will ask everyone to wear teal
 - The Proclamation was submitted to the Board of County Commissioners and is being sponsored by Commissioner McKinlay
 - The Proclamation will be signed at the March 9th meeting
 - The Proclamation will be read on the day of action at the Field of Hope event
 - We are ordering flags to plant in the "Field Of Hope" – Julie Weil – Not Just me Foundation - will sponsor and pay for the flags
 - The number of flags planted will represent the number of sexual assault cases worked in 2020
 - Inspirational message for everyone during the drive-thru event about Online safety
 - We will have giveaway items with online safety information for participants
 - Short videos on social media about online safety
 - What were you wearing survivor display

- Julie Weil and SAT will work with PBCVS staff on this project – videotape this event
- **Denim Day-** April 28th
 - PBCVS therapy team will work with survivors to create a mosaic of decorated denim. This mosaic will be displayed on Denim Day
 - Facebook live discussion about “Denim Day” and cultural norms
 - The therapy team will host Trauma Informed Yoga sessions with youths in the community
 - PBCVS will participate in FCASV Denim Day – Asking survivors to decorate jeans and FCASV will pay to ship – Jeans will be displayed at the capitol
- **Community Corner**
 - Programs for youths – a collaboration with Vita Nova, Pace Center for Girls, YSB and Compass for an event in April
 - FAU is working to coordinate with Dr. Alan Berkowitz on assumptions on rape, myths about rape and rape culture. They will share information on this event
 - PBSC is currently doing presentations on Consent and ONE Love trainings with college students.

Training Committee: Kristen Ferguson, PBCVS Project Coordinator

Kristen informed SART members that the training committee meeting was held on Tuesday, February 23rd. During this meeting, they discussed the findings from the SART training survey. Based on the findings, the training committee identified 3 projects they would be spearheading this year. The first would be a virtual mock training on sexual assault responses. The second would be a signal 35 training. The last would be creating a SART point card. The next meeting will be April 27th from 2:00pm-3:00pm.

Legislative Committee: PBC Legislative Delegation & Abby Ross, Legislative Aide for Sen Berman

Representative Robin Bartleman (D-Weston) provided SART members a summary of SB 1044/HB 767. This bill is to protect the victim’s privacy and anonymity; anyone wanting to disclose a victim of sexual assault’s name will be required to get written consent from the victim.

Representative Bartleman asked for support from SART members to contact Chair Byrd about getting SB 1044/HB 767 on his Criminal Justice & Public Safety Subcommittee agenda. Information in regards to his contact information is below:

HB 767: Victims of Crimes of Sexual Violence or Sexual Exploitation			
Criminal Justice & Public Safety Subcommittee			
Representative	Phone #	District	
Chair Cord Byrd	(850) 717-5011	11	Cord.Byrd@myfloridahouse.gov
Vice Chair Robert Charles Brannan III	(850) 717-5010	10	Charles.Brannan@myfloridahouse.gov
Democratic Ranking Member Michael Grieco	(850) 717-5113	113	Michael.Grieco@myfloridahouse.gov

Please see below article about Senator Lori Berman (D-Boynton Beach) and Representative Robin Bartleman for more information on SB 1044/HB 767:

<http://www.orlandosentinel.com/opinion/guest-commentary/os-op-sex-abuse-survivor-reporting-legislature-20210225-7hmk4dloqjggjhn5rth5nuicjq-sftory.html>

New Business:*“SART 2020 Annual Member Survey”*

Nicole informed SART members that we want to ensure that SART and the SART process is running efficiently and effectively and shared the results of the SART annual survey. According to survey participants, the current SART meeting location/time is convenient therefore SART meetings will continue to be the last Thursday of the month from 2pm-3pm via WebEx. Most members felt that SART is highly effective and receives training updates. When looking at 2021 to prioritize goals and the importance of SART agenda items, survey results were evenly distributed. Please see results summary:

Advocates, Law Enforcement and Campus representatives were the 3 main categories of people responding.

- 66% of SART members attended monthly.
- 80% agree that the current meeting time is convenient.
- 95% agree that we are effective in meeting our Mission.
- 95% agree that the digital platform is convenient.
- 84% would like to continue our digital option.
- 30% felt that Committee reports are most important, new business and ongoing business coming a close second.
- The Training committee and CAN were the two most attended committees, however, 25% did not participate in any committees
- 85% are always made aware of trainings.
- 61% will occasionally be able to participate in online trainings.
- 42% prioritized increasing victims' trust by reviewing and revising SART protocols.
- Beneficial trainings for SART members in 2021:
 - Human Trafficking, Online Safety, Trauma Informed interviewing, Forensics, SART Protocols, Policies and Procedures, Child Sexual Abuse, Title IX, Responding to Victims, Signal 35 Training.
- Member highlight topics during SART meetings in 2021:
 - Long-term community resources for victims, SANE their roles and process, service overviews from local community partners, youth services homeless outreach team, county-wide statistics on monthly sexual assault reports.
- Legislative topics during SART meetings in 2021:
 - Legislation related to SART and sexual violence investigation. Statute of limitation in Florida. Legislative bills that affect sexual assault cases both in the civil and criminal arena. Victim's rights, tracking of SAKs data system, updates from Biden's administration

Nicole informed SART members that based on the response from the SART survey and conversations with local law enforcement agencies, there is a need for law enforcement specific meetings. The calendar of SART meetings has been revised and moving forward SART will host a quarterly law enforcement meeting. These meetings will assist with re-engaging law enforcement, allow a safe space to troubleshoot issues, discuss updated policies, procedures and best practices. PBSD Sergeant Martinez will be the point of contact for this initiative.

Community Corner:

“Planned Parenthood Program and Service Overview”- Breanna Lewis- Time for your Youth Coordinator, Planned Parenthood

Ms. Lewis provided SART members an overview of Planned Parenthood. She reviewed the history, mission and goals of the organization and gave an in depth overview of the services that are available to individuals. Please see attached presentation. If you have any questions or comments for Breanna Lewis, you are encouraged to contact her at Breanna.Lewis@ppsenfl.org

Member field discussion: Nicole opened the floor to members to discuss successful collaborations or provide updates.

Kristen Ferguson informed SART members that the SART member of the year survey has been sent out. She encouraged SART members to read the nominations and vote!

Nicole informed SART members that the Battered Women’s Justice Project completed an evaluation on the community needs for Palm Beach County; language access was one of the highlighted areas that our agencies need to focus on. There will be two separate trainings one for law enforcement and the other for advocates, these trainings will provide the legal obligations and standards, tips for working with interpreters and best practices for working with crime victims of limited-English proficiency. See below the dates, times and registration links:

- Language Access Considerations for **Law Enforcement**: April 23rd, 2021 from 12pm-4pm
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LACLE2021>
- Language Access Considerations for **Advocates**: April 30th, 2021 from 12pm-4pm
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LACA2021>

Next meeting date: March 25th, 2021 2pm-3pm

Thank you!



Planned Parenthood of South, East, and North Florida



- Our goal at Planned Parenthood of South, East and North Florida is to create the healthiest generation ever by providing critical health care, empowering education and continuing efforts to advocate for access to high quality care for all families across our region. We serve 45 counties in Florida – when combining the counties together, they have a larger population than 42 states in the U.S. Each year, we see over 55,300 patient visits and provide sexual health information to over 18,000 parents and teens.

**PPSENFL by
the Numbers**

11 HEALTH
CENTERS

55K PATIENT
VISITS

45 COUNTIES
SERVED

WHO WE ARE. WHAT WE DO.

Health Care



Our 11 health centers across Florida provide a wide range of safe, reliable health care.

Education



Our education programs deliver comprehensive and medically accurate information that empowers young people, adults, and families to make informed decisions and lead healthy lives.

Advocacy



We are a passionate and tireless advocate for policies that enable Floridians to access comprehensive reproductive health care and education.



HEALTHCARE SERVICES

Planned Parenthood of South, East and North Florida has highly skilled, compassionate medical professionals. We deliver high quality, non-judgmental reproductive health care to our patients, including:

*Services vary by location

- Abortion services
- Contraception consultations and prescriptions
- STD and HIV testing and treatment
- Emergency Contraception (“the morning after pill”)
- Permanent sterilization
- Gynecological Exams
- Transgender Care
- Breast exams
- Cancer screenings
- Men’s health services
- Some primary care services
- Other services (HPV vaccine; domestic violence screenings; referrals for care; pregnancy testing; etc)

1-800-230-PLAN

www.ppsenfl.org

TEEN MEDICAL SERVICES

All PPSENFL health centers offer discounted pricing for youth between 12 and 17. Health centers in Palm Beach County receive special grant funding to provide some of these services at low to no cost.

Services include:

- Initial visit/annual exam (for males and females)
- Sexuality education
- Sexually transmitted infection testing and treatment
- Birth control (pills and Depo-Provera injections)
- Pregnancy testing
- HIV testing
- Emergency contraception

1-800-230-PLAN

www.ppsenfl.org



**Services vary by location*

TELEHEALTH SERVICES



Services Available

Birth Control
HIV Services
LGBTQ Services
Men's Health Care
Morning-After Pill
Women's Health Care
Pregnancy Testing
& Services
STD Testing, Treatment
& Vaccines

Telehealth Services

- Telehealth is a virtual visit between you and one of our providers.

If you are interested in a virtual visit, please call

1-800-230-PLAN

or visit us online at

GO.PPSENFL.ORG/TELEHEALTH

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COUNSELING

PPSENFL offers state-certified and licensed staff to provide support for a range of mental health conditions

Affordable, Inclusive Counseling Services

Everyone deserves access to high-quality, therapy services regardless of their gender identity, race, sexuality, ability, or any other status or identity.

Make an appointment, call 561-472-9991

Visit our website for details: go.ppsenfl.org/mentalhealth



Our behavioral health program provides affordable, short-term and long-term care. Our goal is to promote healthy individuals, families, and communities. As individuals and couples move through life, they meet several challenges. Our state-certified and licensed staff are available to provide support for a range of challenges, including:

Stress
Anxiety
Depression
Family relationships
Gender identity
Sexuality
Intimate partner violence



Our behavioral therapy and mental health care services are available via telehealth.

MAKE A TELEHEALTH APPOINTMENT

Call 561-472-9991

go.ppsenfl.org/mentalhealth

*Services vary by location

EDUCATION



- Planned Parenthood is proud of its vital role in providing young people with honest sexual health and relationship information. Our programs use medically accurate information to help reduce alarmingly high rates of teen pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases and help young people achieve their goals. We also believe that parents should be the first resource of information about sexuality and sexual health for their teens.

Angela Holliday
Program Director
Email: angela.holliday@ppsenfl.org
Phone: 561-472-9962

TEEN EDUCATION PROGRAMS



- Family Life and Sexual Health (FLASH) is a comprehensive science-based sexuality education curriculum developed by Public Health Seattle-King County and designed to prevent teen pregnancy, STDs and sexual violence. The curriculum includes a strong family involvement component, creating opportunities for families to talk with their children about important sexual health topics.



- Wyman's Teen Outreach Program® (TOP®) is an evidence-based program that empowers teens with the tools and opportunities needed to avoid risky behaviors and become leaders with a powerful vision for their future. TOP® promotes positive development through a combination of curriculum guided group discussion and engagement in community service learning. Topics covered include: values, communication, goal setting, sexual health, relationships, peer pressure, and decision-making.

PEER EDUCATION PROGRAM

- The Leaders Igniting a Generation of Healthy Teens (LIGHT) is a sexual health peer education program for students. LIGHT sexual health education program is designed to increase students' knowledge, skills, and behaviors associated with avoiding an unintended pregnancy, HIV, STIs, and other health issues. It also seeks to create a climate that supports healthy decision-making and advocacy skills among young people while building a pipeline to leadership.
- Participants must be a high school student, have an interest in providing accurate sexual health information to others, and commit to one year of attending training sessions and regular meetings
- Participants earn a monthly stipend, community service hours, leadership, advocacy, and presentation skills.



Diane Macias
Peer Education Coordinator
Email: light.broward@ppsenfl.org
Phone: 561-406-9866

TIME FOR YOUR TEEN



Planned Parenthood
Care. No matter what.
Planned Parenthood of South East and North Florida

Time For Your Teens:

A PARENT EDUCATION WORKSHOP

PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY

- RESIDE IN PALM BEACH COUNTY AND BE A PARENT / CAREGIVER OR WORK WITH ADOLESCENTS

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

- COMPLETE REGISTRATION PACKET
- ATTEND VIRTUAL WORKSHOP

PROGRAM BENEFITS

- FREE SEXUALITY EDUCATION PROGRAM
- RECEIVE SEXUAL HEALTH RESOURCES
- RECEIVE \$50 GIFT CARD STIPEND

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Time for Your Teen is a parent education program that aims to influence parent-child communication, promote healthy adolescent sexual development, and reduce adolescent risk-taking. By the end of the program, participants will be able to engage in lines of positive parent-child communication and increase knowledge of adolescent sexual development.

TOPICS INCLUDE:

- Creating Family Values
- Sexual Health Wellness
- Initiating Sex Positive Conversations
- Healthy Relationships
- Adolescent Health Development
- Communication Techniques
- Sexual Identity Exploration
- Answering Difficult Questions

CONTACT OUR PROGRAM COORDINATOR TO RESERVE A WORKSHOP!

Breanna Lewis, MPH
Time for Your Teen Coordinator
Email: breanna.lewis@ppsenfl.org
Phone: 561-472-9988

"As an older lady I thought I was well informed on how to talk with my daughters about sex, but I learned a lot of new information."

"I was very impressed by this presentation!"

"This program made me feel comfortable initiating those difficult conversations about sexual health."

"I learned about tons of services and sexual health resources offered by Planned Parenthood!"

- Time for Your Teen is a free parent sexuality education program designed to promote parent-child communication and healthy adolescent sexual development. The workshop diminishes the anxiety many parents feel when talking with their children about sexuality and encourages parents to engage in healthy communication surrounding sexual health topics.
- Participants must reside in Palm Beach County. Upon completion of program requirements, participants receive a \$50 gift card stipend.

Breanna Lewis, MPH

Time for Your Teen Coordinator

Email: breanna.lewis@ppsenfl.org

Phone: 561-472-9988

GET INVOLVED!



- Planned Parenthood has been around for more than 100 years and one thing is clear—we will never stop providing the care our patients need and the education our community deserves. But, we need your help. Here are some ways you can stand with Planned Parenthood:



- Donate to protect patients' access to care
- Become a patient by booking an appointment
- Contact an educator for our education services
- Share online— follow us on Facebook/Twitter
- Sign up for email alerts
- Volunteer

561-472-9983

info@ppsenfl.org

HEALTH CENTER LOCATIONS

- Treasure Coast Health Center
1696 SE Hillmoor Dr
Port Saint Lucie, FL 34952
772.692.2023
- West Palm Beach Health Center
931 Village Blvd. Suite 904
West Palm Beach, FL 33409
561.683.0302
- Wellington Health Center
10111 Forest Hill Blvd. Suite 340
Wellington, FL 33414
561.296.4919
- Boca Raton Health Center
8177 Glades Rd.
Boca Raton, FL 33434
561.226.4116
- Pembroke Pines Health Center
263 North University Drive
Pembroke Pines, FL 33024
954.989.5747
- Jean Shehan Health Center of Miami
1378 Coral Way
Miami, FL 33145
305.285.5535
- Golden Glades- Miami Health Center
585 NW 161 St.
Miami, FL 33169
305.830.4111
- Kendall Health Center of Miami
8900 SW 117 Ave. Suite 207-B
Miami, FL 33186
786.263.0001

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GENERAL QUESTIONS CAN BE ANSWERED BY CALLING OUR CONTACT CENTER AT 1-800-230-7526