



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 March 29th, 2018

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

Welcome / Introductions of Members and Guests: Nicole Bishop, Sherry Britton-Susino, Jackie Blonkie, Susan Carlini, Sharon Daughtery, Holly DiBenedetto, Jumorrow Johnson, Brent Joseph, Lazarus Kimsal, Griselle Liriano, Elizabeth Marlowe, Tanya Meade, Carol Messam-Gordon, Valerie Messineo, Chrichet Mixon, Drew Murphy, Suzette Newcomer, Samatha Poje, Serenia Page-Beckton, Barbara Rodriguez-Marrero, Rob Shelt, Susan Sims, Brandon Strassburger, JR Thicklin, Gilbert Morales, Jennifer Lipinski, Nicole Loshelde, Christina LaVallee, Barbara Zamudio, Robin Moschette, Jessica Gallon Alvarez, Yvette Cueto, Addlesberger, Scott, Aldric Marshall

Review/Approval of minutes: February 2018, minutes were approved by members

On-Going Business: Nicole Bishop

- **2018 SART Outstanding Member Award**

Palm Beach County Victim Services and Certified Rape Crisis Center is in its 3rd year of recognizing an outstanding SART member. The SART Award is your opportunity to recognize a fellow member of SART for their outstanding service and dedication to our mission. Thank you to those who submitted nominations. The voting for 2018 Award officially closed on March 26th. There were five (5) nominees:

- ✓ Oren Alter, Keiser University
- ✓ Susan Williams, PBC Victim Services
- ✓ Tanya Meade, Victim Advocate CILO
- ✓ Detective Mark Vertifeuille, West Palm Beach Police Department
- ✓ Detective Yesenia Collura, North Palm Beach Police Department

We will officially announce the winner at our 38th Annual Awards Luncheon on April 13, 2018 to be held at the Embassy Suites from 11:00am – 1:30pm.

- **2017-2020 SART Strategic Plan**

- We are in a new grant cycle 2017-2020 and have set corresponding goals & objectives. We have drafted a strategic plan with input from many of our SART Members who participated in our planning meeting on January, 25, 2018. It will serve as our guide for the next three years.
- Since the plan is in draft, it is not available for distribution yet. However, some goals in the plan are our trainings. The trainings include motivational interviewing for advocates and therapists,

SANE training for members of the Judicial Circuit, training Palm Beach State College Police Academy about the work of victim services and SART, completing the SART designation training using TRAIN U curriculum developed by training committee and law enforcement members of SART. Other goals include more media outreach to underserved populations, expanding SART membership and development of toolkits such as anti-stalking, clergy, and others.

- The plan is in review and will be final soon. Look for it in your inbox as we release it electronically to SART Members.
- We look forward to three more productive years.

New Business: Gender Bias Review, Nicole Bishop/Serenia P. Beckton

- Nicole introduced that the Department of Justice released guidance for local areas to take a look at and incorporate into their Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence responses. As a conference attendee at FSCAV conference in 2017 and exercise about bias and decisions was as reminder that our biases can influence our decisions without being aware.
- Serenia reminded group that the Department of Justice is our grant funder and the guidance is included as a part of our new grant goals & objectives. The Department developed the guidance with input from a multi-disciplinary team of law enforcement officers, Advocates, community organizations, and survivors, similar to our SART and encourages all to use the guide as a foundation to assist in their response to cases. The video link showing the official release of the guide to “Identifying and Preventing Gender Bias in Law Enforcement Response to Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence” is <https://www.justice.gov/opa/file/799366/download>. The video clip was unavailable to show during meeting but all were directed to link on the agenda for future viewing.
- The Gender-Bias Guidance document includes basic principles to help responders to recognize and prevent any bias from influences their decisions in an effort to keep victim safe and hold offender accountable. The guidance is specifically titled gender-bias because statistically majority of Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence cases are female victims or a member of the LGBTQ community. But, the concept and principles are applicable to bias in general, making the attempt to ensure that we recognize our biases, evaluate the situation objectively, and do not let the biases influence how we respond. The link to the document is <https://www.justice.gov/opa/video/justice-department-issues-guidance-identifying-and-preventing-gender-bias-law-enforcement>.
- DOJ is encouraging everyone to utilize it and incorporate into their work. We need your help to figure out the best way to incorporate it into the great work our responders are already doing. The SART has done a great job to date of developing, reviewing, and continually updating protocols that work best for how Palm Beach County operates. We are asking that we continue that work utilizing the gender-bias document.
- **Gender-Bias subcommittee sign up**
- A sign-up sheet was passed around and SART members asked to sign up to participate in the sub-committee. The dates of the sub-committee meetings will be forth coming.

Member Highlight: Rob Shelt, Division Manager, Palm Beach County Consumer Affairs

PBC Consumer Affairs Division’s services that are available to the community were reviewed. A power point presentation of the adult entertainment Id program that is administered by Consumer Affairs was shared. Highlights are below:

- Adult Entertainer ID Program, established July, 1999 to ensure that the entertainers were at least 18 years old.
- More than 9,846 work id cards have been issued as of 11/30/2017
- No person shall act as a performer without a work ID
- Persons performing without a work id shall be guilty of a misdemeanor of the second degree and subject to civil penalties per Ch. 17, article v, section 17-153
- Applicability: countywide, unless municipality opts out

- All applicants must be at least 18 years of age to be approved
- Civil and Criminal penalties apply
- \$400 fine for each performer that does not have a valid work (new performer not previously issued a work ID card)
- \$400 fine for failing to retain copies of work id cards or performance roster
- Consumer Affairs Division staff are trained to look for and report potential human trafficking indicators when entertainers apply in the office Monday – Friday between 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. No appointment necessary.

SANE Report: Sherry Britton-Susino, Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) Program Coordinator

- For the month of March 2018 Palm Beach County SANE nurses performed all sexual assault exams. There were twenty-one call outs for sexual assault exams. Palm Beach County SANE nurses responded to all twenty-one of these cases. One case was non-reporting. Nine of the exams were conducted at the Butterfly House and six exams in the emergency room. Six were SANE response no exam.

Committee Reports: Standing

Community Action Network: Sharon Daugherty, PBCVS Outreach Coordinator

- Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM) EVENTS: PBCVS April events were shared and are below:
- Field of Hope: Survivors, family, friends, & the community are invited to write/then read (optional) their expressions of healing on a flag which is then placed in the ground in letters spelling HOPE. There will be food, an art table, vendors and music to support this unique survivor speak out. Support your community in sharing this powerful message of hope & healing!

Event 1: Field of Hope Survivor Speak out
Date/Time: Tues., April 3rd from 5-7 p.m.
Location: Palm Beach County Victim Services –
4210 N. Australian Ave., West Palm Beach, FL 33445

- What Were You Wearing Art Exhibit: The exhibition aims to explore the cultural attitudes around sexual assault— victim blaming and implying that a survivor could have prevented their assault had they worn something less revealing. The exhibit will display outfits from survivors, similar to what they wore during their assault.

Event 2: What Were You Wearing Art Exhibit Opening Night
Date/Time: Friday, April 6th from 6-8 p.m.
Exhibit runs through April 26th
Location: Palm Beach State College is hosting this event at
The Gallery at Lake Worth Campus HU 104
4200 South Congress Ave., Lake Worth, FL

- Channel 20 TV – Human Trafficking show
Sharon Daugherty interviewed Tanya Meade & guest regarding Human Trafficking in Palm Beach County. Topics included the comprehensive assistance provided by Palm Beach County’s Victim Services Division and the mission of Victim Services, the goals and objectives of the dedicated staff who make it a priority to respond and assist crime victims with compassion and respect. Watch PBC TV and you’ll know where to call to get help from the Victim Services Division. Airs Mondays at 1:30pm, Tuesdays and Thursdays at 10:00pm, Wednesdays at 9:00pm and Fridays at 8:30pm

- Palm Beach County Library SAAM Book Displays will be hosted at the following libraries next month:
 1. Main Library
 2. Glades Road Branch
 3. Greenacres Branch
 4. Okeechobee Blvd. Branch
- Campus Round Up 4: Penny McIsaac
- Julie Weil, SART Survivor Activist reminded all about upcoming CNN Special documentary featuring her will be aired June, 2018. A free Theatre to film this documentary.
- Julie also announced that she had “I Believe” T-shirts available and distributed them to SART members who requested one.

Training Committee: Serenia Page-Beckton, PBCVS Grant/SART Coordinator

- No new training updates at this time.
- We’ve accomplished our goals for the closing of the last grant. And we are looking to start meeting again to generate new ideas about training topics. Please look for emails from me for those who signed up for the committee as to when our next meeting is scheduled

Legislative Committee: Jackie Blonkie/Serenia Page-Beckton

- Reviewed Education Bill, HB 495 which modifies Florida law regarding educator certification requirements and district school board duties relating to school safety, and prohibits misconduct by authority figures against students. Specifically: prohibits an authority figure from soliciting or engaging in sexual conduct with a student and deems relationship of a romantic nature, or lewd conduct with a student and deems such offenses against students by authority figures as a second degree felony.
- FY18 final funding bill (the omnibus) was released on March 21, 2018 and included increases regarding funding for sexual assault and domestic violence programs. The omnibus includes increases in the Rape Prevention & Education Program (RPE), Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) and Victims of Crime Act (VOCA).
- RPE: Funded at \$49.4 million, a \$5 million increase.
- VOCA: More than \$4.6 billion (minus set aside for VAWA) for the VOCA funding cap, \$1.8 billion increase. There is a 3% set aside for Tribes – which has been a MAJOR policy priority of ours.
- VAWA: \$492 million for VAWA funding (the highest funding level ever for VAWA) with an additional \$5 million for the rural grant program, and an additional \$5 million for the transitional housing grant program.
- First-time funding of \$50 million for the Department of Housing and Urban Development to support rapid rehousing projects to serve victims and survivors of domestic violence.
- Department of Health- 2010 SART funding was placed in current budget, therefore SANE funding continues.

SART Case Staffing’s: Carol Messam-Gordon On March 22nd at 2pm SART staffed CPT and PBSO cases where PBC Victim Services Advocates responded. These cases allowed us to review our CPT protocol and identify how we are doing as a county.

The staffing of sexual assault cases was held at the SART Center on Thursday, March 22 at 2pm. We staffed CPT and PBSO cases where Victim Advocates from Palm Beach County Victim Services responded and provided support to the victims.

The time and immediacy of the response as well as if response was within guidelines of CPT countywide protocol was reviewed. Revisions to protocol included agreeing that callers should provide sufficient information to CPT and CPT should open to do forensic medical examination.

There were some suggestions that a cheat sheet should be created with questions for law enforcement to answer when they contact CPT for services for minor victims. SART will be putting together a committee with representation from law enforcement agencies throughout the county to develop this cheat sheet.

Member field discussion:

- **Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics:** Brent Joseph, Boynton Beach Police Department shared that this an annual event when more than 6000 law enforcement officers carry the Flame of Hope across Florida each year to raise money & awareness for Special Olympics in FL. Anyone can donate by purchasing Torch Run merchandise or making a donation. Contact him at 305-902-9175.
- **Victim's Rights Week at a Glance 2018 :** Holly Dibenedetto shared each of the events:
 - April 8, 4-6pm -Thrive: From Struggle to Survivor, Brewhouse Gallery
 - April 9, 9-11am - Opening Ceremony Press Conference, WPBPD Community Room
 - April 10, 6:30-8:30pm - RAD (Rape Aggression Defense) Overview, DRBPD Training Center
 - April 11, 10am – 12pm -Will you #ROCKTHEDOT?, Belle Glade Library
 - April 11,10m – 12pm- Sexual Abuse: A Parent's Perspective, Palm Beach Post
 - April 12, 9- 11am, Ceremony in the Garden, Mounts Botanical Gardens
 - April 13, 11am – 1:30pm – 38th Annual Crime Victims' Rights Week Awards Luncheon, Embassy Suites
 - April 14, 2018, 8:00am- Walk for Victim's Rights, Palm Beach Shores Community Center
- **Destiny By Choice Clergy Roundtable:** Reverend Dr. JR Thicklin announced and distributed flyers about hosting a roundtable discussion about Domestic & Sexual Violence with Clergy tonight at 6pm.

Next Meeting: April 26, 2018 SART Center 2-3pm