



**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 April 25, 2019**

**Call to Order:** Carol Messam-Gordon, Program Coordinator, Palm Beach County Victim Services & Certified Rape Crisis Center (PBCVS)

#### **Welcome / Introductions of Members and Guests:**

Carol welcomed all on behalf of Victim Services Director, Nicole Bishop, who was attending the EVAWI conference that week to roll out the Clergy Tool kit with Pastor JR Thicklin. Although she has not been with us physically over the past several months, she sends her regards and hope to be back with us soon.

**Review/Approval of minutes:** Minutes for March 28 meeting was approved without any changes.

#### **On-Going Business:**

Carol Messam-Gordon reported the SART member of the year was announced at the Victim's Right's Week Luncheon on April 12<sup>th</sup>. SART member of the year was Carol Messam-Gordon. Carol gave words of appreciation to SART and gave special recognition to the other SART members who were nominated. Julie Sikorsky, Nicole Martinez, Aldric Marshall, Yesenia Collura and Scott Addlesberger.

#### **Laboratory Testing Updates:**

Julie Sikorsky updated SART members on rape kit backlog and the timeframe for processing sexual assault kits, the number of kits tested and the number remaining. She also wanted to let us know that crime lab will continue with testing the sexual assault kits, backlog and others.

#### **Pre & Post SB636 Cases:**

- Reviewed SA cases (pre & post SB 636): 6480

#### **Pre SB636 Cases:**

~ 5,000+ cases reviewed

- 1619 outsourced
  - reports received (33 outstanding), 1604 reports received (15 outstanding)
  - 45/100 cases sent from final PO shipment
- 727 profiles entered into CODIS from 687 cases
  - 633 from evidence
  - 94 suspect samples (no change)

- 262 CODIS hits (across all agencies)
- 6 arrests made with 1 active warrant (awaiting transfer to PBC jail from FL DOC).
- Project still on-going to review cases without SAKs for potential outsourcing

**New Business:** Carol Messam-Gordon, Program Coordinator

Carol communicated and distributed the FCASV Tools for Immigrant Survivors of Sexual Assault hand out. This information includes a 24 hour helpline to connect Immigrant Survivors to free and local services available to them, information about sexual violence, and immigration options for survivors of sexual violence.

**Member Highlight:**

Susan Sims, Senior Case Coordinator, Child Protection Team (CPT). Susan provided a detailed explanation of the role of CPT in Palm Beach County. Susan also provided information and standards regarding the referral process, eligibility and services provided to child victims of sexual assault.

**SANE Report:** Carol Messam-Gordon, Program Coordinator

Carol reported that there were twenty-one call outs and seventeen forensic exams in March. SANEs responded to all cases. In the total call outs there were four non-reporting victims. Ten exams were completed at the Butterfly House. Law enforcement present were reminded of the importance of utilizing the Butterfly House.

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

Carol discussed the success of various Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM) events including Field of Hope (held April 2) and thanked SART members for their support and participation throughout the month's activities.

**Training Committee:** Susan Carlini, Program Coordinator

A Training Committee meeting was not held for the month of April due to the activities in place for SAAM. Susan updated SART members on the change of date for the upcoming Trauma Informed Care Training that was originally a full day on June 19 but will now be a half day on June 27.

**Legislative Committee:** Susan Carlini, Program Coordinator

- On April 5, 2019 HR 1585 (VAWA reauthorization) passed the House by a vote of 262 to 158. FCASV is working on thanking the member of the house personally via social media. They are asking that as a SART that we contact our representatives and thank them personally as well. This is also a good time to invite them to tour your programs – they will be on break in district the weeks of 4/15 and 4/22.
- Cyberstalking bill is up this week as a county priority. The bill was voted favorably and in the appropriations subcommittee on civil and criminal justice. It was referred to appropriations committee to be voted on. An act relating to technology crimes; amending and redefining the term “cyberstalk”. The term relates to prohibited acts; reenacting and amending s. 815.06, F.S.; providing that a person commits an offense against users of certain electronic devices if he or she willfully, knowingly, and exceeding authorization

performs specified acts; providing criminal penalties; reenacting ss. all relating to the crime of stalking,

List of bills from Abby Ross Legislative Aide to Senator Berman were reviewed and updates were provided on the current bills that are under review through legislation:

- Prohibited Acts in Connection with Obscene or Lewd Materials (SB 160/HB1107) (also currently in SB 642/HB7125)
- Lewd and Lascivious Exhibition (SB 828/HB 599) (also currently in SB 642/HB 7125)
- Crime Victim Assistance (SB 1068/HB 785)
- Cyber harassment (SB 1136/HB 1043) (moving over here but stuck in a committee in the house) (also in HB 7125 not in SB 642)
- Human Trafficking (SB 540/HB 851) (is on 2<sup>nd</sup> reading in the House but is stuck in committee here in the Senate)
- Petition for Certain Protective Injunctions (SB 980/HB 845) (this passed the House and is on 2<sup>nd</sup> reading here in the Senate)

**SART Case Staffing's:**

A SART Case Staffing was not held for the month of April due to the activities in place for SAAM.

**Green DOT Program update:** Clarice Redding, VS Green Dot Program Coordinator Clarice shared the outcome of the TEAL Talk on Wednesday April 10, 2019 at the Keiser Flagship Campus. The event was a film screening and panel discussion highlighting the experiences of survivors of color. Clarice expressed that she would plan similar events and continue to partner with Keiser in the future.

**Member field discussion:** Carol Messam-Gordon recognized and congratulated the nominees and the recipient of the annual award for Office of The Year. The vision and purpose of the Officer of the Year Award is to recognize a law enforcement officer for their outstanding work with crime victims as their focus is always “victim-centered. This year’s award went to Detective Michael Metz from PBSO.

Carol also introduced and congratulated SART member Molly McConnell as the upcoming new Victim Services Grant Coordinator.

**Next meeting date:** May 30, 2019 @ 2pm – 3pm

Thank you!