



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 26, 2018

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

Welcome / Introductions of Members and Guests: Scott Addlesberger, Molly Anderson, Oren Alter, Monica Banks, Belinda Barr, Nicole Bishop, Sherry Britton-Susino, Jackie Blonkie, Corey Campbell, Susan Carlini, Leah Cauley, Cameron Cook, Ellen Craddock-Day, Holly DiBenedetto, Kat Duesterhaus, Monica Gonzalez, Brittney Gutin, Alison Harris, Jumorrow Johnson, Angelina Lambis, Nicola Kenig, Brenda Krayer, Jennifer Kuipers, Christina LaVallee, Jennifer Lipinski, Nicola Martinez, Tanya Meade, R. Moschetto, Carol Messam-Gordon, Drew Murphy, Kathryn Oleksy, Samatha Poje, Jill Raftery, Abby Ross, Stephanie Sejnohe, Maura Smith, Liisa Spinello, Kenneth Velazquez, Collura Yesenia.

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

On-Going Business: Nicole Bishop/Ellen Craddock-Day

2018 Victim's Rights Week

- Nicole announced that April 8-12 marked 30 years of commemorating National Crime Victims' Rights Week. Many participated and/or supported the events. The Opening Ceremony, hosted by West Palm Beach Police Department, began the week and Awards Recognition Luncheon during which Oren Alter was recognized as our SART member of the year.
- Ellen shared highlights and how successful the events during each day of the Crime Victim's Week was this year. She encouraged all to support their efforts next year.

New Business: Nicole Bishop/Carol Messam-Gordon/Ellen Craddock-Day/Brenda Krayer

Human Trafficking Website, Carol

- Nicole shared State & County statistics on Human Trafficking and background information that was the impetus to creation of the website. She stated Florida ranks 3rd in the country for incidents of human trafficking, and PBC ranks 3rd in the state for calls to the National Human Trafficking Hotline. She also share the helpline 1-800-373-7888 number and an alternate number, 561-355-2418. The website address <http://discover.pbcgov.org/publicsafety/victimservices/Pages/human-trafficking.aspx>, was given to the group.
- Carol reviewed timeline to implementation and more details about the site. She accessed the website and demonstrated how to use it.

2018 EVAWI Conference Highlights, Ellen/Brenda

The conference was held in Chicago this year and two attended, Ellen Craddock-Day & Brenda Krayner. The Seek Then Speak and Victim Link was interesting and may be beneficial in our county. In 2016, EVAWI extended a partnership opportunity to Ten8Tech. Together, they created Seek Then Speak and Victim Link to help sexual assault victims gather information, explore options, and take action on a multilingual platform via voice over the phone, the web, or mobile app. The 90 sec. video was unable to be shown due to technical difficulties, but the link to it is: <http://www.ten8tech.com/victimlink>. PBC Victim Services is working to get it implemented in PBC.

They shared a DV, victim-centered approach by a Law Enforcement Agency in California.

Member Highlight: Christina LaVallee, Department of Veteran Affairs Police Department

The medical center is a general medical, psychiatric and surgical facility resting on 88 acres. Comprehensive healthcare is provided through primary care and long-term care in the areas of dentistry, extended care, medicine, neurology, oncology, pharmacy, physical medicine, psychiatry, rehabilitation and surgery. Highlights are below:

- In 1989 the Department of Veterans Affairs was established and the Police and Security Service was reorganized as the Office of Security and Law Enforcement.
- Is one of largest Police Department in the U.S. Government with over 4,600 Police Officers serving in 171 duty locations
- Patrol all areas of the VA Medical Center 24 hours a day, 7 days a week with expanded authority for special investigations off VA grounds
- Respond to all reports of crimes or suspected criminal activity on VA property
- Investigate all Sexual Assault incidents on all VA installations (Housing and Urban Development-Veterans Administration Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH), Community Out Patient Clinics (CBOC'S))
- Investigates criminal matters involving Felonies such as: Theft of government and patient funds over \$1000.
- Office of the VA OIG Duties: Drug Offenses, Homicides, Armed Robbery, Rape, Aggravated Assault, Serious Physical abuse of a VA Patient

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

- For the month of April 2018 Palm Beach County SANE nurses performed all sexual assault exams. There were twenty-two call outs for sexual assault exams. Palm Beach County SANE nurses responded to all twenty-two of these cases. Five cases were non-reporting. Five of the exams were conducted at the Butterfly House and thirteen exams in the emergency room. Four were SANE response, but no exam.

Committee Reports: Standing

Community Action Network: Kat Deustehaus, Survivor Action Team member

- The Purpose of CAN is: to Engage Community in Awareness in the Prevention of Sexual Violence. Our focus is Community Outreach, Awareness and Prevention.
- And it's working yesterday the number of outside agencies outnumbered victim services staff!
- And we welcome more CAN members!
- If any of you have an outreach component, or would like to get more involved with our events or if someone from your agency might like to, please give me your card and I'll make sure Sharon Dougherty gets in touch.

- Penny McIssac, title nine coordinator is in the process of scheduling a meeting to plan for campus roundup 4 which will taking place sometime in the last two weeks of October. It's our understanding that the DV Council is planning that for the last two does anyone else have events that would overlap?
- Social Media Committee will be receiving training at the next CAN meeting from public affairs, how to enhance and grow your social media outreach. Everyone is welcome to attend that will be May 23rd the fourth Wednesday of May at 9am.
- Monica Gonzalez- shared about the What Were You Wearing Art Exhibit: The exhibition aimed 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 displayed outfits from survivors, similar to what they wore during their assault.
- Monica Gonzalez shared information about Denim Day 2018: Denim Day campaign has been run by Peace Over Violence for the past 19 years! Wearing jeans on a Wednesday in April has become a visible way to show support for sexual assault awareness. This year, on April 25th, PBCVS team members supported the campaign by wearing jeans, taking pictures and posting them on social media. She encouraged everyone to make a social statement with your fashion by participating in Denim Day 2019 on Wednesday, April 24th.
- Carol Messam-Gordon reported on Field of Hope: Held the evening of Tuesday, April 3rd Survivors, family, friends, & the community were 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 was food, an art table, vendors and music to support this unique survivor speak out. It was a community event sharing a powerful message of hope & healing!

Training Committee: Carol Messam-Gordon, PBCVS Program Coordinator

- The committee meeting has been scheduled for May 17, 2018 at 2pm at SART.
- The objective of the group is to identify and assist with providing specialized training for Sexual Assault Response Team members focusing on the immediate & long term needs of sexual assault survivors through the medical, civil and criminal justice systems.
- The grant timeline for 2017 -2020 will be reviewed , discuss potential training topics for the new grant cycle, and review ongoing training projects such as the PBC SART designation for Law Enforcement, review the Anti-Stalking Toolkit.
- Look for an invite if you signed up to join the Committee or if you'd like to join but did not sign up, please email Serenia P. Beckton at spagebec@pbcgov.org.

Legislative Committee: Carol Messam-Gordon/Abby Ross, Legislative Aide to Senator Berman

- The 2018 Florida legislative session ran from January 9, 2018 through March 9, 2018. Budget updates: Attorney General- \$500,000 (95% to be distributed to certified rape crisis centers); VAWA STOP - \$2,157,654; General Revenue - \$2,500,000 (95% to be distributed to certified rape crisis centers)
- SB 1696/HB 447 Related to Sentencing for Sexual Offenses creates F.S. 794.10. It also prohibits granting of probation, community control, parole, conditional release, control release, or any early release, or suspension of sentence if the victim of an offense under F.S. 794.011 was unconscious, asleep or prevented from resisting the offense by any intoxicating, anesthetic, or controlled substance.

SART Case Staffing's: Carol Messam-Gordon

- The staffing of sexual assault cases was held at the SART Center at 2pm on Thursday, April 19. Four cases were staffed with victim advocates and SANE Nurse Coordinator. In the first two cases the collection of evidence and crime scene examination overlapped between SANE and Crime Scene investigators. Program Coordinator & Law Enforcement will review at a later date.

- On third case, hospital contacted the helpline requesting an advocate for a victim of sexual assault and stated that the victim was requesting a non-reporting kit, but victim was incoherent when Advocate arrived which prevented the Advocate from obtaining consent. Follow up discussion with ER has been scheduled.
- On fourth case, the same hospital dispensed HIV medications outside CDC recommended period of effectiveness. A refresher training on Medication recommendations is scheduled with the Hospital ER.

Member field discussion:

- Open discussion
- Next Meeting date: May 31, 2018 SART Center 2-3pm