



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 May 31, 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, Nicole Bishop, Jennifer Brashear, Sherry Britton-Susino, Susan Carlini, Leah Cauley, Sharon Daugherty, Kat Duesterhaus, Maria Golonski, Monica Gonzalez, Jumorrow Johnson, Lazarus Kimsal, Christina LaVallee, Tiffany Mackey, Aldric Marshall, Nicole Martinez, Tanya Meade, Carol Messam-Gordon, Chrichet Mixon, Serenia Page-Beckton, Samantha Poje, Jill Raftery, Natalie Roberts, Abby Ross, Christine Shaw, Julie Sikorsky, Susan Sims, Arreta Varessa, Christian Tomas.

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

On-Going Business: Nicole Bishop

SART Newsletter 2018

July Edition of the "SART Connection", our newsletter is in process and will be released prior to the end of the month of July. This edition will showcase special events and notable accomplishments during the first six months, January to June, of 2018. Sexual Assault Awareness Month activities will be featured. The group was asked to send events, awards, announcements or other items they'd like to include in the newsletter, to Serenia Beckton at spagebec@pbcgov.org prior to June 15th. The newsletter will be distributed electronically & posted on the SART website.

New Business: Nicole Bishop/ Julie Conover Sikorsky, M.S., F-ABC, Forensic Biology Unit Manager

Regional SART 2018, Nicole Bishop

Regional SART 2018 will be a one-day training facilitated by a National Trainer, Battered Women's Justice Project (BWJP). Our region extends as far north as the Treasure Coast and as far south as the Keys. We are still in the planning phases, but have reserved the date & location. It will be held on September 21, 2018 at Boca Raton Police Training Academy. All were encouraged to watch their inboxes for an invitation with registration information.

Changes to SAK and Forensic Lab Updates, Julie Sikorsky

Julie announced that the Sexual Assault Kit had been changed to match the recommendations in the National Best Practices for Sexual Assault Kits publication by the National Institute of Justice. It was released in August, 2017 and PBCVS SANE Coordinator, SA Program Coordinator, and SA Grant

Coordinator met with Laboratory Team to review recommendations. As a result, the following changes were made to the kit:

- Time collected will be removed from all SAK envelopes.
- Some of the verbiage is changing on the instructions (e.g. adding swabbing to fingernail collection, renaming to include buccal swabbing, etc.)
- Reducing number of swabs and swab boxes in envelopes for evidence collection from various locations on the body.

Julie also discussed the effects of SB636 on the lab. The bill was effective on July 1, 2016 and gave labs 120 days to complete DNA testing. Post SB 686, the average number of sexual assault case requests increased from 15 sexual assault case requests to 24 requests. And of the kits collected at the hospitals, the biology unit of the lab is asked to work 20 of kits. The 20 kits is a 50% increase for the lab.

Member Highlight: Clarice Redding, Green DOT Program Coordinator

The Green Dot Strategy is a comprehensive approach, designed to empower the everyday citizen to stop a potentially dangerous situation before it escalates to violence. Highlights are below:

- The Green Dot Program set a goal to make Palm Beach County a safer place to live by reducing instances of violence, such as domestic and dating violence, sexual assault, child abuse, elder abuse, bullying, and stalking.
- A green dot is whenever an individual uses their words or actions to interrupt or diffuse a red dot, which is a violent or potentially violent situation.
- Palm Beach County is pleased to announce that over 1,200 county employees have undergone Green Dot Bystander Training since its implementation in 2016.
- Employees have come from the following departments: Airports, Community Services, County Attorney, Engineering & Public Works, Facilities Development & Operation, Information Systems Services, Internal Auditor, Library, Parks & Recreation, Public Affairs, Public Safety, and Youth Services.
- **Green Dot ACTION Week**, June 24th- June 30th will feature a series of awareness events, designed to draw in families, businesses, and leaders in the Northwood/Pleasant City community in Downtown West Palm Beach, and to encourage the implementation and reinforcement of the Green Dot message.
- The goal of the program is to introduce the violence reduction strategy to as many of the 5,500 (and growing) county employees and community members as possible by 2021.
- The takeaway is that nobody has to do everything, but everybody has to do something. This program is asking everyone: “What’s your Green Dot?”

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

- For the month of May 2018 Palm Beach County SANE nurses performed all sexual assault exams. There were thirty-two call outs for sexual assault exams. Palm Beach County SANE nurses responded to all thirty-two of these cases. Twenty-seven cases were reporting and five cases were non-reporting. Fifteen of the exams were conducted at the Butterfly House and sixteen exams in the emergency room. The SANE response was 100% availability for this reporting period. All sexual assault exams were performed by SANES.

Committee Reports: Standing

Community Action Network: Sharon Daugherty, PBCVS Outreach Coordinator

Sharon shared and encouraged all to support the following events & meetings:

- Start by Believing: SART attendees were invited to attend the June Community Action Network meeting to provide their input we are soliciting input from SART & the CAN committee to solidify the Start by Believing strategic plan.
- Survivor Action Team: Tune in to Chris Cuomo's documentary series "The Anatomy of a Rape" highlighting our own Julie Weil, SART member/Survivor Activist, Palm Beach County Victim Services, and the Survivor Action Team.

What: "Inside Evil with Chris Cuomo"

Date/Time: Sunday, June 24, 2018 at 8:00 p.m.

Location: CNN – HLN channel

CNN Press release:

<http://cnnpressroom.blogs.cnn.com/2018/05/22/inside-evil-with-chris-cuomo-on-hln-delves-into-the-psychology-of-murder-and-mayhem/>

"Episodes Take Viewers Inside the Country's Most Dangerous Minds. Julie was abducted from her church parking lot by a stranger. Gabrielle was attacked as she walked home from work alone at night after the Uber app on her phone malfunctioned. Despite the growing attention on sexual assault, an alarming number of rapes go unpunished; more than 98% of the time the perpetrators never spend a single day in prison. Cuomo hears the firsthand accounts of rape survivors and examines what hurdles they face to get justice."

- Campus: Penny McIsaac reported results of the Campus Round up 4 planning meeting.
 - The next Campus Round up 4 committee mtg. is July 17, 3:00 – 4:30 pm. everyone is invited.
 - The full day Campus Round up 4 training will be on Oct. 26th at Palm Beach State College/Lake Worth Campus.

Legislative Committee: Abby Ross, Legislative Aide to Senator Berman

- There's a crime victims' rights amendment, which expands on existing protections and will ensure that victims are "reasonably protected from the accused." It's part of Proposal 6001 and a yes vote will also mean approving two other, unrelated changes to the judicial system. The first is a requirement that judges weigh cases without deference to administrative agencies' interpretations of the law.
- 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)

SART Case Staffing's: Carol Messam-Gordon

- The staffing of sexual assault cases was held at the SART Center at 2pm on Friday, May 11, 2018. Two cases were staffed with victim advocates and SANE Nurse Coordinator. An overview of case details was shared. In the first case the concern arose when it was reported that the victim and accused were at the same hospital. Law Enforcement were encouraged to bring all victims to the Butterfly House. Advocate will apply for funding for victim through victim fund and Attorney General Relocation Program to assist with expenses because she is receiving threats from accused's family.

- The second case was a minor and was linked with Child Protective Team, SA Care Coordinator, and Health Department for follow up care.

Member field discussion:

- Open discussion
- Next Meeting date: June 28, 2018 SART Center 2-3pm