



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, June 24th, 2021

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 Messam-Gordon welcomed all who were in attendance at the meeting and facilitated introductions.

Review/Approval of Minutes: Minutes for the April 29th meeting were approved without any changes.

On-Going Business:

SANE Report: Carol Messam-Gordon, PBCVS Program Coordinator

Carol Messam-Gordon reported on the Sexual Assault Responses for April and May 2021.

For the month of April, SANEs responded to 14 calls and conducted 13 forensic exams. In the total call-outs, there were 2 non-reporting victims. 11 exams were completed at the Butterfly House and 2 were completed at a local Palm Beach County Hospital ER.

For the month of May, SANEs responded to 20 calls and conducted 20 forensic exams. In the total call-outs, there were 5 non-reporting victims. 14 exams were completed at the Butterfly House and 6 were completed at a local Palm Beach County Hospital ER.

Carol also informed SART members that the SANE team reviewed all the charts for both April and May. Carol gave a shout out to the SANEs for doing an amazing job and providing comprehensive care to the victims we serve.

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

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

April 2021

- 1023 Abuse Reports Screened
- 136 Cases Opened
- 302 Services Provided
- 17 Sexual Abuse Forensic Medical Exams were completed
- 4 Sexual Assault Kits were completed

May 2021

- 1029 Abuse Reports Screened
- 112 Cases Opened
- 230 Services Provided
- 25 Sexual Abuse Forensic Medical Exams were completed
- 7 Sexual Assault Kits were completed

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

Julie Sikorsky was unable to attend the SART meeting. Kristen Ferguson provided the updates to SART members on the rape kit backlog, the timeframe for processing sexual assault kits, the number of kits tested and the numbers remaining. 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 756 cases, 202 remaining (down 10 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:
 - ▶ 2 Post SB 636 cases without a SAK
 - ▶ 4 Post SB 636 cases with a SAK
- ▶ Total SA cases reviewed (pre & post SB 636): 10,744 (up 47 cases)
 - ▶ 9,598 analyzed or do not need analysis (up 47 cases)
 - ▶ 261 identified to be outsourced (up 13 cases) (49 outsourced, 212 awaiting)
 - ▶ 37 identified to be processed in-house with *Rapid DNA analysis* (up 1 cases)
 - ▶ 44 requested to be processed in-house (screening/DNA) *analysis* (down 18 cases)
 - ▶ 12 Other pending (up 2 cases)
 - ▶ 790 cases pending additional review for possible SA evidence for DNA analysis (same)
 - ▶ 484 are from PBSO or merged agencies
 - ▶ 306 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: 849 profiles from 799 cases (up 14 profiles and 12 cases)
 - ▶ From evidence: 745 (up 10)
 - ▶ Suspect samples: 113 (up 4)
 - ▶ CODIS hits (across all agencies): 324 (up 6)
 - ▶ 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 May 14th and June 11th. We staffed nine cases. In attendance were Advocates, Coordinators, Team Supervisors, SANEs and Law Enforcement. Rene provided three case summaries:

Case 1: 27 year old female: The victim and suspect met on social media and victim relocated to Palm Beach County to spend time with him. The victim said she went out for dinner and drinks

with the suspect and later felt as if she was drugged. The victim said she woke up at suspect's home with a feeling of being assaulted by an object and also being videotaped. The victim doesn't have much memory of what took place, and decided to contact law enforcement. The victim was transported to the Butterfly House and a SAK and DFSA Kit was completed. This case was staffed at the case staffing in May because there were concerns that the forensic exam took a very long time to be completed causing extensive wait time for the responding detective. Program Coordinator and SART Supervisor reviewed the response procedure at the staffing. Advocates and SANEs were advised that if a primary SANE is out on a case and a 2nd case comes in case should be staffed with a supervisor to get the assistance of the back-up or to reach out to a SANE that is not scheduled. After the forensic exam victim needed a place to stay because she could not return to the home of the suspect. Victim Advocate assisted the victim with finding a place to stay. The assigned advocate also assisted victim with filing for SA Relocation through Attorney General's Office.

Case 2: 30 year old female: The victim in this case met suspect through an online dating service. The night of the incident, the suspect sent a car to transport the victim to his home. The victim and suspect went out to dinner and the suspect also took her shopping. Upon return to the suspect's home, suspect assaulted the victim for payment for the items he purchased for her. After the assault, the victim tried to escape and suspect chased her through his home to prevent her from leaving. Victim threw things at the suspect to escape. The victim also fell and was cut by broken glass that was in the home. The victim was able to escape the suspect home and was picked up by law enforcement. Law enforcement transported Victim to a local hospital. While at the hospital the victim reported that, she was sexually assaulted. The officer contacted PBCVS and transported her to the Butterfly House. Reporting and non-reporting options were explained to the victim and the victim chose not to report the assault. The victim disclosed to the advocate that the officer transported her in the back of the patrol car in handcuff and she was very upset. The advocate was concerned and contacted the SART office to staff the case. Law enforcement was also contacted to staff the case. During the staffing, we were informed that the suspect reported that he was assaulted by the victim. Law enforcement transported the victim to the hospital because she was incoherent, there was blood on her clothing and he wanted an evaluation; law enforcement did not share this information with the advocate. SART supervisor staffed the case with the officer and everyone involved agreed that a victim-centered approach is important when working with victims. To ensure the safety of everyone, this information should have been communicated with the advocate. Advocates and SANEs are mobile and are able to respond to area hospitals to provide advocacy services and to complete forensic exams.

Case 2: 25 year old female: We wanted to take a moment to recognize Detective Tatum from West Palm Beach Police Department, The PBSO HT Task force, PBCVS HT Project Coordinator Maura Smith and Catholic Charities Case Manager Hazel Matic for going above and beyond with the services they provided to the victim in this case. This victim was able to escape from her trafficker and is receiving services after years of being trafficked and tortured.

Committee Reports:

Community Action Network: Briana Salter, Sexual Assault Outreach Coordinator

Briana informed SART members that CAN met on June 23rd and had a wonderful time learning about Compass and the services they provide to individuals within the community. She also stated

that during the meeting, some of the members of the Girls Coordinating Council and Girls Voice Task Force spoke about some of the work they have been doing in the community and some of the upcoming events and activities. They provided CAN member ways they can get involved. Briana informed SART members that she has been in contact with the new liaison for St. John Fisher and will be getting updates for the Hispanic Outreach in January. Briana also stated the Campus committee will schedule a meeting to discuss Campus Round up and future outreach activities for students on campus. Briana stated the committee brainstormed on ways in which they provide outreach to the community and engage other community partners to invite and participate in CAN. She reminded SART members that CAN is the last Wednesday of the Month.

Training Committee: Kristen Ferguson, PBCVS Project Coordinator

Kristen informed SART members that the training committee identified multiple projects that they wanted to work on throughout this year. They met on Tuesday, June 22nd to finalize the write up for one of the first projects, which was the SART point card. PBCVS will be reviewing and approving the point cards before sending them to PBC graphics department. The next meeting will be on August 24th, during this meeting the team will review the design of the point cards. The goal is to have the point cards completed and ready for distribution by September. Kristen informed SART members that they discussed creating contact cards with only the helpline phone number, a QR code that links to the SART Website and a message stating “We Believe you”. The team also discussed creating bookmarkers, compact mirrors, sanitizers.

Legislative Committee: PBC Legislative Delegation & Abby Ross, Legislative Aide for Sen Berman
Abby Ross was unable to attend the SART meeting. All updates in regards to Legislative Delegation will be share via email and in the upcoming SART meeting.

New Business: Internet Safety Month-Lauren’s Kids: <https://laurenkids.org/june-is-internet-safety-month-digital-safety-psa-videos-free-safety-resources/>

Carol informed SART members that June was Internet Safety Month. Lauren’s Kids created free safety resources and digital PSA videos for the public to utilize. Founder, CEO, and Senator Lauren Book was a victim of childhood sexual abuse founded Lauren’s Kids in 2007. Her agency seeks to educate adults and children about sexual abuse prevention as well as help survivors heals. SART was reminded of the importance of updates on current trends that affects our society.

Some of the Internet Safety Facts discussed are below:

- Over the last year due to COVID, there has been an increase in internet users, which has played a role in victimization amongst children.
- One in five children who touch a digital device will be sexually solicited online.
- The increased reliance on digital devices during COVID has intensified the threat of online predators: According to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, there has been a 97% increase in online enticement reports in 2020 compared to that same 12-month period in 2019.

Please see link to both PSA videos from Lauren’s Kids:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K5yqvpfCEPA> and

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OF9s11eiALI>

For more information on Lauren’s Kids please visit their website at www.laurenkids.org

Community Corner:

“Monarch Health Services Program and Service Overview”- Richardo Jackson, Health Promotion and Community Engagement Manager, Monarch Health Services

Mr. Jackson provided an in-depth presentation on Monarch Health Services to SART members. He explained the different programs and services Monarch has to offer to individuals within Palm Beach County. He reviewed ways to connect clients to services and programs. He also provided SART members information on all the office locations contact information. He encouraged SART members to contact him for questions or comments. His email is rjackson@monarchhealth.org. Please see attached presentation.

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

PBCVS Therapy Service Update: Isabel Atkin, SART Therapist, PBCVS

- Isabel provided SART members an overview of PBCVS Therapy Services. She informed SART members that therapy services are available and free to victims and secondary victims of sexual assault and other crime types throughout Palm Beach County. There are 5-license therapist on staff who provide services in English or Spanish. The therapy department strives to help clients identify and reduce trauma symptoms, build coping skills and process traumatic events. The therapy department utilize evidence-based treatment and continues to stay updated on the most effective treatments for clients. The therapy department offers trauma informed yoga for clients and provide support groups for victims of sexual assault, domestic violence and family members of homicide. Groups are on a weekly basis.
- For more information on PBCVS Therapy Department, and connect clients to services, please contact Kate Cole, Therapy Coordinator at 561-355-2418 option 3 or kcole@pbcgov.org.

Kristen informed SART members that in May, the various law enforcement agencies came together for the first Law Enforcement SART meeting. During this meeting, the law enforcement officers were able to discuss topics they felt were important to them such as the SART process, Law Enforcement protocols and training needs. She encouraged other law enforcement agencies to join in on the next meeting and reminded them that this space was created to meet the needs of law enforcement.

Next meeting date:

SART Law Enforcement Meeting August 26th, 2021 2pm-3pm

SART General Meeting, September 30th, 2021, 2pm-3pm

Thank you!



Community Connections

Monarch Health Services, Inc

www.MONARCHEALTH.org

561-523-4589

Overview

- Who We Are?
- Our Services
- Locations
- Ways to follow us
- Questions and Answers

Who We Are?

Monarch Health Services is a Non-Profit that provides comprehensive services aimed at expanding sexual health and Wellness to all and basically what that means is that we provide free and confidential HIV, HEP C and other STD screening, care and treatment services to the insured, uninsured and underinsured, vulnerable, and at-risk population in Palm Beach County.

Our Services

- **STI Testing & Screening** – Chlamydia, Gonorrhea, HIV, Herpes, HPV, Syphilis, Hepatitis and Trichomoniasis
- **HIV Testing & Screening** – Rapid Test; Treatment; Linkage to Care
- **HIV/STI Treatment** – Treatment is confidential and provided by an Infectious Disease doctor at Triple O Medical.
- **PREP** – Pre-exposure prophylaxis or PrEP – Is a way for people who do not have HIV to possibly prevent HIV infection by taking a pill every day
- **PEP** – Post Exposure Prophylaxis or PEP – A pill must be taken within 72 hours of exposure and for a period of 28 days
- **Consultation & Counseling** – With a Doctor/ARNP

Our Services

Other Services includes:

- Medical and Non-medical case management
- Linkage to care services
- Hepatitis care and treatment services
- Support services – Transportation, Co-pay assistance, Treatment

Locations

Monarch Health Services

(561) 523 - 4589

West Palm Beach

2580 Metrocentre Blvd, Suite 1, West Palm Beach, Florida 33407

Broadway

3600 Broadway Ave, Suite 15, West Palm Beach, Florida 33407

Delray Beach

600 North Congress Ave, Unit 510, Delray Beach, Florida 33445

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- Facebook at Monarch Health Services
- Instagram at Monarchhealth
- Tik Tok at Monarchhealth
- YouTube at Monarch Talk
- Podcast: Sip N Talk.podbean.com

check out our social media pages

Like – Share – Subscribe

and

signup on our websites for our upcoming
events and activities.

Ways to follow us

Monarch Health Services, Inc

**2580 Metrocentre Blvd, Suite 1, West
Palm Beach, Florida 33401**

www.MONARCHEALTH.org

561-523-4589

Q & A

Questions

&

Answers



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HEALTH SERVICES