



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 25, 2020

Call to Order:

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

Welcome/Introductions of Members and Guests:

Nicole Bishop welcomed all who were in attendance at the meeting and facilitated introductions.

Review/Approval of minutes: Minutes for May 28th meeting were approved without any changes.

On-Going Business:

SANE Report: Lisa Alward, Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) Program Coordinator PBCVS

Lisa provided a report on Sexual Assault Responses for May 2020. There were a total of 16 call outs and 15 forensic exams. SANEs responded to all cases. In the total call outs there was 1 non-reporting victim. 12 exams were completed at the Butterfly House. Lisa also informed SART members that there are currently 8 SANE nurses responding to cases and all SANEs have appropriate PPE and screening questions.

Child Protection Team Report: Alison Hitchcock, CPT Executive Director

Alison provided child abuse and child sexual abuse CPT case statistics for the month of May 2020. Alison reported that calls from the Child Abuse Hotline are still down about 50%.

May 2020

- 740 Abuse Reports Screened
- 84 Cases Opened
- 149 Services Provided
- 8 Sexual Abuse Forensic Medical Exams were completed
- 5 Sexual Assault Kits were completed

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

Julie updated SART members on rape kit backlog and the timeframe for processing sexual assault kits, the number of kits tested and the number remaining. Julie's team is still in process of reviewing Pre SB 636 cases. They are also applying for grant funding to outsource cases for additional testing. The PBSO forensics lab is still on a modified schedule and will continue this until further notice. They currently have 5 people in training right now – 4 of which will be a DNA

analysts. Julie also wanted to inform SART members that the PBSO forensics lab has entered into an agreement with Fort Lauderdale PD where FLPD is sending their untested kits to PBSO where they will be processed and entered into CODIS. So far, 20 cases have been entered and 7 CODIS hits have come back as a result.

- ▶ **Reviewed SA cases (pre & post SB 636):** 9,695 (up by 34 cases)
 - ▶ 706 cases pending additional review for possible SA evidence for DNA analysis
 - ▶ 400 are PBSO or merged agencies
 - ▶ 305 are from non-PBSO agencies (PBSO will need to reach out for these agencies to do research)
 - ▶ 958 cases without SAKs sent to SID for additional review
 - ▶ SID has completed review of 30 cases
- ▶ **Pre SB636 Cases**
 - ▶ Outsourced for analysis: 1,679 (no change)
 - ▶ Profiles entered into CODIS: 845 profiles from 795 cases (no change)
 - ▶ From evidence: 732
 - ▶ Suspect samples: 113
 - ▶ CODIS hits (across all agencies): 309
 - ▶ 13 arrests made: 9=PBSO, 4=WPBPD (no change)

SART Case Staffing's: Carol Messam-Gordon, PBCVS Program Coordinator

Carol informed SART members that Marci Rex, SAO SVU Chief will be moving on from the unit and moving to homicide. Brianna Coakley will be new SAO SVU Chief and will continue to promote the Start By Believing message.

Carol updated SART members on the most recent sexual assault case staffing held on June 12th. Victim Services' staff reviewed 3 cases. In attendance were Advocates, Coordinator, Team supervisors, and SANEs.

Case 1: Victim was married to the suspect who sexually assaulted her. V reported that she was afraid and temporarily was going to stay with her mother until shelter could be arranged. Advocate arranged shelter but victim later declined shelter and opted to stay with her mother. Victim later decided that she did not want to follow through with case and wanted it to go away. Advocate provided safety plan. Staff had concern that securing shelter is difficult and a better relationship needed to be developed with the shelters in this county.

Case 2: Previously staffed case - advocate wanted to update the team. V was outside her home smoking and defendant approached her for a cigarette, punched her, & sexually assaulted her in her home. Suspect was identified in a photo lineup and also through a DNA match from an item left behind. Det was able to arrest suspect. Prior to the assault V was drug-free for 4 years but later relapsed and moved out of her apartment. V is continuing in therapy with VS therapist and is in substance abuse treatment. V recently met with advocate and provided add'l information about the incident. V disclosed to advocate and LE that she felt embarrassed for not disclosing

this information. The det was reassuring to the victim and supported her when she provided the new information. As a result of this new information the SAO dropped 1 count of sexual assault and 1 count of burglary. Advocate is supporting the V and reassuring her that she is there to support and not to judge her. Advocate wanted to give kudos to the detective for believing and supporting the victim in this case.

Case 3: Victim is a drug user, suspect sells drugs and is known to the victim. V initially agreed to have sex with suspect in exchange for drugs but changed her mind and suspect forced victim and assaulted her vaginally and anally. V is homeless, disabled and suffering from cognitive delay. Advocate had concerns w/case because the victim was cleared and discharged from the hospital to be transported to Butterfly House for a forensic exam. When the V arrived at BH she was bleeding. Upon arrival at the Butterfly House the SANE reviewed her discharge and noticed that hemoglobin was low. SANE was not able to do a kit. V was immediately admitted to Wellington hospital. Det. went above and beyond on this case and needs to be commended. Advocate went w/ Det and got a statement from victim and found out that suspect might be a serial suspect. Advocate is working on coordinating services for victim with the mental health system and arranged for her to stay with her sister. Det. will do a ride along with victim to identify suspect. At the staffing it was recommended that a composite sketch should be done. Advocate will contact detective with this suggestion and will continue to provide support and follow-up services to victim.

Committee Reports:

Community Action Network: Holly Carotenuto, PBCVS Sexual Assault Outreach Coordinator

Holly reported that C.A.N. met on June 24th and are actively looking for new outreach events. Holly is looking to plan another Start By Believing event at the end of July. This event will be structured as a panel/round table made up of law enforcement, SAO, health professionals, and community provider leaders who will answer and discuss questions relating to the Start By Believing campaign. The event is planned to be streamed on Facebook Live and will be open for public comment and questions. Some outreach in the community has continued with the provision of hygiene kits at food distribution sites at local libraries. Holly is always open to outreach virtually to train different organizations. Individuals who are underserved may not want to use typical criminal justice avenues so it is important to reach outside providers to connect sexual assault survivors with services.

Legislative Committee: PBC Legislative Delegation & Abby Ross, Legislative Aide for Sen Berman

Nicole Bishop and Abby Ross provided an update regarding HB 199/SB 170 - Sexual Battery Prosecution Time Limitation also referred to as "Donna's Law". This piece of legislation was discussed at the October 2019 SART Meeting where it's goal was to eliminate the statute of limitations for sexual assault against minors. During the most recent legislative session, HB 199/SB 170 passed unanimously in the House and Senate. "Donna's Law" was officially signed into law by Governor DeSantis this past Tuesday and will apply to any qualifying offense committed on or after July 1, 2020.

Abby informed SART members that all passed bills have to be signed by June 30th by the Governor if they are not vetoed and will be in effect as of July 1st. Committee process will continue again around November/December.

New Business:

PBSO: Trauma Informed Investigations Grant Award: Nicol Bishop, PBCVS Director

PBSO was awarded a two year grant from the Florida Council Against Sexual Violence which will support the hire of one additional full time Detective to be assigned to the Human Trafficking Unit. The new Detective will be investigating Human Trafficking Cases against Sex Trafficking victims ages 11 years of age and older. Additionally, over the course of the two-year project, there will be training opportunities for trauma informed investigations and practice. The start date is officially "July 1" however, they will need to execute the contract and hire the Detective so they expect actual start date might be a little later than July 1, but hoping not too much later. This is a 24 month project.

Community Corner:

Lucas O’Ryan, Transgender Youth Program Coordinator for Compass Community Center

Lucas O’Ryan provided an overview of the mission and goals of Compass Community Center. Compass’ mission is to engage, empower and enrich the lives of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQ) people and those impacted by HIV and AIDS. Compass offers a variety of HIV testing and outreach, health services, community events, social and support groups, youth programs, a brick and mortar center, and access to a pride business alliance.

Lucas took the time to explain the differences between gender expression, gender identity, and sexual orientation while providing examples. Lucas also provided insight on various stigmas, barriers, and considerations to have when working with LGBTQ+ victims such as being comfortable asking a victim what their preferred pronouns are in order to ensure their comfort and display compassion.

Additional information provided:

Prevention is providing Safer Sex Kits and At-Home HIV Test for pick up. They can call 561-533-9699 or email to schedule a time to pick up/drop off.

Dylan Brooks, dylan@compassglcc.com

Walberto Colon, walberto@compassglcc.com

Additional questions about LGBTQ training or about Compass services and events, please contact Lucas O’Ryan at Lucas@compassglcc.com

*Additional information and flyers are attached to the minutes.

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

Laura Cusak provided Molly McConnell with an update regarding CILO. CILO is hosting a presentation for parents on online safety to help guide them on how to keep their kids safe online. The presentation will be held on July 16 from noon to 1:00pm. It's free, and anyone can register at the link on the attached flyer. The link can also be found here: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1sgMUgRPQ3EsHxCWbfgNiHFGKuogC0G5Wx-5Z3tvYhvo/edit#responses> Feel free to pass along to anyone who can benefit! *Flyer attached to minutes.

Next meeting date: July 30, 2020 @ 2pm – 3pm

Thank you!

SERVICIOS QUE SE PROVEEN:

EXAMEN DE VIH GRATIS Y EDUCACION
PROGRAMA DE APOYO PARA JOVENES
CONDONES/PROFILACTICO GRATIS
GRUPOS SOCIALES Y DE APOYO
SERVICIOS DE SALUD MENTAL
SALON DE COMPUTADORAS DISPONIBLE
PARA EL USO DE LA COMUNIDAD

VEN Y VISITANOS EN:

201 N. DIXIE HWY.
LAKE WORTH BEACH, FL 33460

TELEFONO: 561-533-9699
WEBSITE: www.compassglcc.com



HORARIO PARA PRUEBAS DE VIH (SIN CITA PREVIA)

LUNES, MARTES & JUEVES 10 am - 7 pm

MIERCOLES & VIERNES (CON CITA PREVIA).

FAVOR DE LLAMAR AL 561-533-9699

SERVICES PROVIDED:

FREE HIV TESTING & EDUCATION
PROGRAMS AND SUPPORT FOR YOUTH
FREE CONDOMS
SOCIAL AND SUPPORT GROUPS
MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES
COMPUTER ROOM AVAILABLE FOR THE
COMMUNITY

COME AND VISIT US AT:

201 N. DIXIE HWY.
LAKE WORTH BEACH, FL 33460

PHONE: 561-533-9699
WEBSITE: www.compassglcc.com

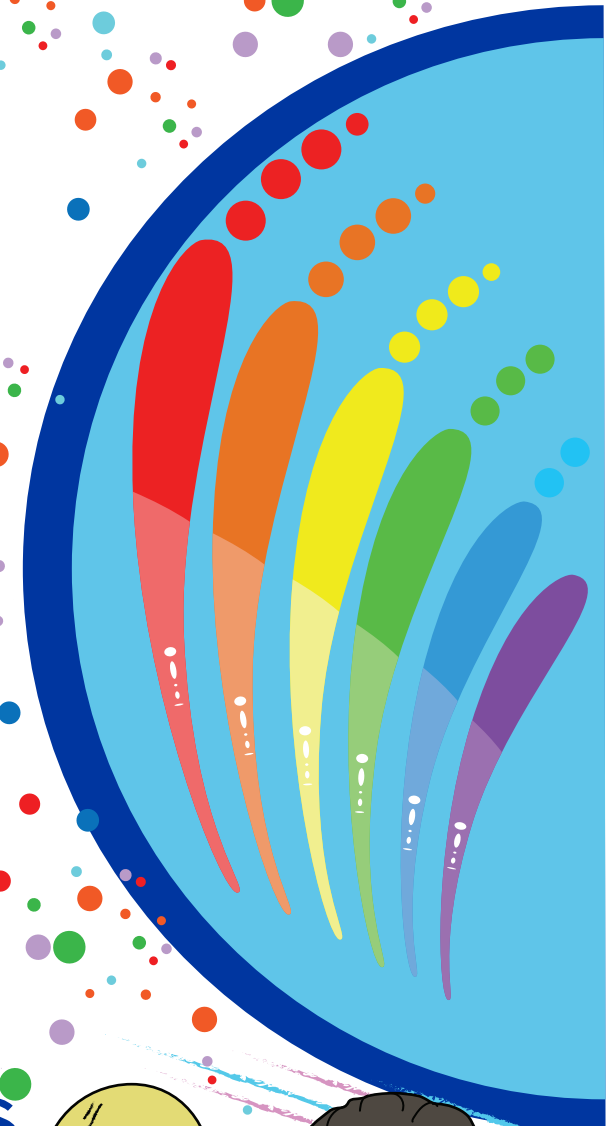


Open HIV Testing Hours (No Appt. Required)

Monday, Tuesday, & Thursday 10am - 7pm

Wednesdays and Fridays by
appointment.

Call 561-533-9699



Our Funders



Victim Services



Compass Youth Program



For more than 25 years, Compass has been committed to providing a safe space for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and Queer/Questioning (LGBTQ) youth in Palm Beach County.

At Compass, LGBTQ youth and their allies engage in emotional and social support with their peers and supportive adults.

Our Groups

The Youth Group

The Compass Youth Group is for LGBTQ teens and allies ages 12-18. We meet every Wednesday from 5:00-7:00 pm.

The Transgender Youth Group

Social support group for transgender youth ages 12-18. Meets every Friday from 5-7 PM.

Authentically YOUth

A social support group for transgender children ages 3-11 and their families. Meets the first Saturday of the month from 10:00-11:30am.

The All Tea, No Shade Therapy Group

A therapy group for LGBTQ youth ages 10-18 who would benefit from talking to their peers in a facilitated setting led by licensed therapists. Short term individual therapy is also available.

PFLAG

Parents, Friends, and Families of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) meets at Compass the second Wednesday of each month from 5:00-7:00 p.m and the fourth Thursday from 6:30- 8:30pm. For more information, please contact Carole at pflag@pobox.com

Activities

Palm Beach Pride
Equality Prom
Lavender Graduation
Community Service
Comprehensive Health Education

Drag Story Time
Field Trips
College/Career Readiness
Arts & Culture

The Drop In Center

Compass' Youth Drop-In Center is for LGBTQ youth and their allies, ages 12-18.

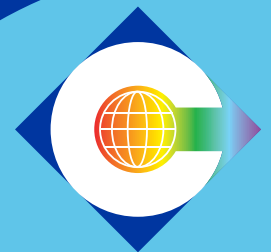
It's a safe space to hang out, use computers, talk about the issues that matter to youth, and connect with your community. Youth are welcome in the drop-in center every weekday from 3-7 PM.

Mentoring Program

Compass' Mentoring Program connects our youth with upstanding community members. The Mentor Program requires a 12 month commitment. The Mentoring Program is made possible through generous support from the United Way of Palm Beach County, Inc.

HIV Testing

Compass offers free rapid HIV testing Monday, Tuesday & Thursday from 10:00 am to 7:00 pm (no appt required). Wednesdays and Fridays are available by appointment only.



COMPASS

561-533-9699

Youth@CompassGLCC.com



COMPASS
COMMUNITY CENTER

THE STONEWALL “STAY THE HECK HOME” BALL

JUNE 27, 2020

Pride Month May Be Different This Year, But That
Doesn't Mean We Aren't Going to Have Fun!

Stay Home, Stay Safe and Party with Friends
While Supporting Our Local Businesses and
Compass Community Center!

For more information, go to
CompassGLCC.com/StayAtHomeBall

DONATION SUGGESTIONS
\$25, \$50 OR \$100



June 29, 2020
6pm

5B

· remarkable story of courage and compassion

from the nurses and caregivers of San Francisco General's Ward 5B.

Screening and Panel Discussion

Register free at <https://Compass5b.Eventbrite.com>



Glen Weinzimer
Founder, The SMART Ride



Lysette Perez
Moderator



Graham Brown
HIV/AIDS Early Intervention
Specialist




ONLINE SAFETY: A PARENT'S GUIDE

Presented by CILLO

.....07.16.2020, 12-1pm.....

Join us for an informative presentation on online safety! With youth online now more than ever, it's important to be aware of the risks the internet poses for youth. Learn risks of popular social media platforms, how to identify risky behavior and victimization, how to respond when an online safety incident occurs with your child, how to teach youth online safety skills, resources, how to report, and more!



Register here: <https://forms.gle/xEhuBSTQnD5Htd13A>
For questions contact: Lcusack@cilo.org