



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 28, 2018**

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

Welcome / Introductions of Members and Guests: Oren Alter, Vanessa Ariela, Belinda Barr, Brandon Beidenman, Sherry Britton-Susino, Susan Carlini, Carmeron Cook, Yvette Cueto, Sharon Daugherty, Holly DiBenedetto, Kat Duesterhaus, Bambi Fanto, Monica Gonzalez, Brittney Gutin, Karen Hansen, Jannelle Henry, Brent Joseph, Nicola Kenig, Jennifer Kuipers, Tim Kurdys, Tessa Lacroix, Aldric Marshall, Nicole Martinez, Tanya Meade, Carol Messam-Gordon, Anitra Moss, Craig Newby, Kathryn Olesky, Serenia Page-Beckton, Stephanie Sejnoha, Christine Shaw, Liisa Spinello, Laura Rafkin, Clarice Redding, Natalie Roberts, Abby Ross, Gena Rowlands, JR Thicklin

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

On-Going Business: Carol Messam-Gordon

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: Sharon Daugherty, PBCVS Outreach Coordinator

Start By Believing Campaign and Strategic Plan

Sharon showed the Start by Believing power point presentation, reviewed the goals of the campaign and what has been done locally in support of it. The members were asked to think about what they could do and were informed that if any Chiefs or Department heads were there and wanted to sign the Start By Believing Pledge they could sign after the meeting. The draft Start by Believing Strategic Plan was presented and distributed as well.

Regional SART 2018, Carol Messam-Gordon

Palm Beach County is hosting the Regional SART this year on September 21st. It is a one-day training that will be conducted by Battered Women's Justice Project, national trainers from MN along with a LE Officer. Boca Raton PD Training facility graciously allowed us to utilize their location. We are looking forward to a very informative and interactive training. Registration is now open! The flyers, including registration information are attached to your agenda. We are looking forward to as many of our SART members participating as schedules permit.

Member Highlight: Tessy Lacroix, AVDA and Bridget Glass, the Center for Child Counseling

The AVDA team shared their program successes with the members. They also introduced and distributed program brochures that have been updated. The brochures are available at AVDA and at community events.

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

- For the month of May, Palm Beach County SANEs performed all sexual assault exams. There were thirty-two call outs for SANEs this month and SANEs responded to all of those call outs. There were thirty-one exams. Fifteen of the exams were done at the Butterfly House and sixteen were done in the emergency room with one that had no exam. Five cases were non-reporting.
- Case Disposition- A recent case that was difficult to prosecute was successfully prosecuted because of the DNA evidence collection of the SANE.

Committee Reports: Standing

Community Action Network: Sharon Daugherty, PBCVS Outreach Coordinator

SART members were reminded that the CNN documentary about a local survivor and advocate aired and may be shown again:

What: "Inside Evil with Chris Cuomo"
Date/Time: Sunday, June 24, 2018 at 8:00 p.m.
Location: CNN – HLN channel

Training Committee: Serenia P. Beckton, SART Grant Coordinator

There have been two committee meetings since last update about Training committee. The initial meeting following the start of the new grant cycle was held on May 17th. The committee reviewed the training objectives in the SART strategic plan for 2017-2020. There was discussion about recording all future trainings and make them available on SART website for future viewing. Many of the training deliverables include finding web based trainings for continued education and identifying trainings targeting the underserved populations.

The meeting on June 21 focused on updating the Anti-Stalking toolkit. AVDA presented findings from the survivor focus groups, asked for feedback about how to incorporate sexual violence in the toolkit. Several

members gave suggestions and will work with AVDA to incorporate protocols. Group explored the suggestion of creating a quick anti-stalking reference/cheat sheet for Advocates to use. After incorporating the suggestions, the toolkit will be taken back to the larger body of original contributors to the toolkit to finalize any changes. The court staff training objective has been met as of June 13th and other grant training objectives are in process. The committee meets the 3rd Thursday of each month, next meeting is scheduled for July 21st at 2pm here at SART unless otherwise changed.

Legislative Committee: Serenia P. Beckton/Abby Ross

Abby Ross shared her findings about the statutes and laws that relate to the following concerns submitted by a couple of SART Members:

- French kissing a minor or attempting to French kiss a minor should not be allowed.
- Breasts on a 12-year-old are NOT considered a sexual body part (that was the law at the time of SART member's daughter's molestation) therefore, they can be touched without consequence.
- An adult putting their mouth on the outside of a minor's bare skinned vagina without penetrating it, should not be allowed.

The SART members discussed their thoughts, including the member who was personally impacted and initiated the discussion. A 25 -year Boca PD veteran shared that his office worked the above case and other similar ones. He shared experiences that caused him to seek clarity from State Attorney's Office about what defines a prosecutable case. SART leadership will follow up with SAO about further discussion.

SART Case Staffings: Serenia P. Beckton

The sexual case staffing was held at the SART Center at 10am on Friday June 11, 2018. Victim Services Staff, Law enforcement and SANE Nurse Coordinator participated in the case staffing. Two cases were discussed. The first case involved two sisters who were visiting from another state and met accused perpetrators online, they were examined at the Butterfly House. The process took fifteen hours, in part, because of victim indecisiveness about reporting. Group were reminded to provide referrals to Victim Services, therapy, drug treatment Health Department in the state they are currently living in. Additionally all agreed that although case was time-consuming, everyone collaborated to preserve the best interest of the victims.

The second case involved a 21-year old victim who had been brought to the hospital by multiple family members and friends for a medical forensic exam. The conversation of medical responders was overheard by victim's friend and reported to victim. Victim became irate. During staffing all were reminded to be mindful of location of discussions while victims or their supporters are present. Conversations may be misinterpreted as confidentiality breach (es).

Green DOT Program update: Clarice Redding, Program Coordinator

Clarice presented the action week of activities for Green Dot program and invited all members to come out to participate. The professional head shots were being done the day of the meeting and some members already had theirs done, all others were encouraged to participate after the meeting. The week of activities would culminate with a night of bowling during which a red bowling pin would be added to the

complement of pins as a symbol of violence... when each person bowls they knock down the red pin as a symbolic way of knocking out violence.

Member field discussion:

- Open discussion
- Next Meeting date: No JULY meeting. Next one is August 30, 2018 SART Center 2-3pm