



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 June 30th, 2022

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 the April 28th, 2021 meeting were approved without any changes. Nicole informed SART members that on Monday, PBCVS had a case in which the ER Doctor at a local hospital refused to give Plan B to a victim because of the recent overturn of Roe vs. Wade. This issue sparked the conversation on alternative ways victims can receive Plan B. Julie Weil from Not Just Me Foundation will be purchasing plan B so that the Forensic Nurses can have them on hand to provide to victims. PBCVS will provide updates on the Florida Statutes as we get more information, we are hoping it will not affect our victims of sexual assault.

On-Going Business:

Forensic Report: Joy Radford Cole, Forensic Nurse Manager, PBCVS

Joy reported on the Sexual Assault Responses for May.

For May, the forensic nurses responded to 23 calls and conducted 20 forensic exams. In the total call-outs, there was 1 non-reporting victim. 11 exams were completed at the Butterfly House and 12 were completed at a local Palm Beach County Hospital ER. In May, the Forensics Nurses responded to 100% of the callouts.

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.

April 2022

- 1020 Abuse Reports Screened
- 113 Cases Opened
- 242 Services Provided
- 18 Sexual Abuse Forensic Medical Exams were completed
- 2 Sexual Assault Kits were completed

May 2022

- 977 Abuse Reports Screened
- 119 Cases Opened
- 278 Services Provided
- 16 Sexual Abuse Forensic Medical Exams were completed
- 3 Sexual Assault Kits were completed

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

Julie was unable to attend the SART meeting. Kristen provided the updates on the work that Julie and her team are reviewing for Pre SB 636 cases.

- ▶ Crime Lab sent to SID for review:
 - ▶ ~1,000 (updated to reflect merged agency data) older cases without SAKs to SID for additional review older cases)
 - ▶ SID has completed the review of most cases, 87 remaining (up 1 case)
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:
 - ▶ 3 Post SB 636 cases without a SAK
 - ▶ 4 Post SB 636 cases with a SAK
- ▶ Total SA cases reviewed (pre & post SB 636): 11,326 (up 62 cases)
 - ▶ 10,350 analyzed or do not need analysis (up 96 cases)
 - ▶ 344 identified to be outsourced (up 8 cases) (100 outsourced, 244 awaiting)
 - ▶ 23 identified to be processed in-house with *Rapid DNA analysis* (same)
 - ▶ 47 requested to be processed in-house (screening/DNA, non-rapid) *analysis* (up 17 cases)
 - ▶ 7 Other pending (down 20 cases)-list sent to SID
 - ▶ 555 cases pending additional review for possible SA evidence for DNA analysis (down 39 cases)
 - ▶ 482 are from PBSO or merged agencies
 - ▶ 73 are from non-PBSO agencies (down 39 cases)
- ▶ Pre SB636 Cases
 - ▶ Profiles entered into CODIS: 931 (SAME) profiles
 - ▶ From evidence: 780 (SAME)
 - ▶ Suspect samples: 151 (SAME)
 - ▶ CODIS hits (across all agencies): 341 (up 3)
 - ▶ 13 arrests made: 9=PBSO, 4=WPBPD (no changes)

SART Case Staffings: Carol Messam-Gordon, Program Coordinator, PBCVS

Rene updated SART members on the sexual assault case staffing held in May. Four cases were staffed. In attendance were Advocates, Coordinators, Team Supervisors, SANEs, and Law Enforcement. Rene provided two case summaries:

Case 1: IPV SA Case: The victim was sexually (digital penetration) & physically assaulted by her husband.

The victim was Spanish speaking only. Law Enforcement was unable to provide a Spanish interpreter for the victim. The advocate who responded was Spanish speaking and interpreted for LE (questions/no interview), the advocate also interpreted for the Forensic Exam. According to the protocol, Victim Services advocates are not permitted to interpret for LE or Forensic Nurses. LE must provide their own interpreter and for Forensic Exams, Voiance language services should be utilized.

Case 2: IPV SA Case:

The suspect has a history of stalking the victim. One day, while she was in a job interview, the suspect slashed her tire. When the victim became aware of this, she decided to call for help. While this was going on, the suspect drove up, got out of his car and showed the victim a gun. He forced her into his car, drove to another parking area, and began to physically and sexually assault the victim. The victim was able to eventually call 911.

Case 3: Acquaintance SA Case:

The victim resides in Pompano Beach. The victim and some friends came to Lake Worth to visit the suspect who was an acquaintance. While at the home, the victim was sexually assaulted by the suspect. The victim drove back home and decided to go to a hospital in Broward County. Palm Beach Sheriff Office was contacted by Broward Sheriff Office and was informed about the case.

PBSO activated the SART Team. The Victim Services advocate, the sergeant, the detective and the victim collaborated in order to get a Forensic Exam (SAK) completed. The victim did not want to remain at hospital that she was currently at due to her having been there for over 6 hours and she felt as though she was not receiving a victim-centered care. At the victim's choice, the victim came to Boca Regional Hospital and met with PBSO and VSRCC to have SAK completed. This is a good demonstration of SART working together to meet the victim's needs.

If you would like to join our staffing or are interested in staffing a case please reach out to either Rene at eboone@pbcgov.org or Carol at cmessamg@pbcgov.org, both can be contacted at 561-625-2568 Option 1 or SART staffing is normally the 2nd Friday of the month.

Committee Reports:

Community Action Network: Carol Messam-Gordon, PBCVS Project Coordinator

Carol is out of town, therefore Kristen provided the CAN report. Kristen informed SART members that June is PTSD awareness month. For the June CAN meeting, members had the privilege of hearing from Katherine Murphy who is the director of programs at NAMI Palm Beach County. She provided CAN members information about the different services they have to offer for individuals and their loved ones who are affected by mental health. Jannifer Diaz, Therapy Coordinator reminded CAN members of the importance of self-care. She led members into a self-reflective exercise.

Winter Jones and Holly-Lynn Carotenuto provided updates on the Girls Coordinating Council and the Girls Voice Task Force. They will be celebrating their 2 year anniversary in October, I will be sending out save the dates for the events that will take place as the information comes in.

For more information on CAN meetings and upcoming events, please reach out to Carol at cmessamg@pbcgov.org.

Training Committee: Kristen Ferguson, PBCVS Project Coordinator

There were no updates from the Training Committee. For more information or ways to join, please reach out to Kristen at kferguso@pbcgov.org.

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

Nicole informed SART members that the PBCVS Team, PBCVS County Administrators and Senator Bartleman's team met to discuss the Victims Bill of Rights and provide feedback on a proposed Bill they may be submitting in the upcoming session.

New Business:

Launch of Palm Beach County Domestic Violence Coordinated Community Response Team quarterly Meeting- Jacqueline Jackson, OVW Project Coordinator, PBCVS.

Jacqueline explained that the Core team for the CCR has been meeting on a monthly basis since October 2021 planning for the launch which took place June 14th, 2022. Jacqueline explained the Core team developed

protocols, laid the foundation of the CCR, drafted guiding documents and created a meeting structure. They also developed the mission for the CCR which is “To reduce intimate partner violence and its impact on families and communities through education, advocacy and accountability.

The work of the CCR is building on the work from the Battered Women's Justice Project (BWJP). They have done a lot of work here in Palm Beach County in the 3 years leading up to the CCR, they did an evaluation and in their final report, they had several recommendations for the county follow up with to improve our response to domestic violence in the community. The six key areas for the CCR is:

- Institute language access plans to benefit victims and survivors.
- Focus support on marginalized victims-survivors & reinforce services for victims survivors who do not wish to report to the criminal justice system.
- Improve consistency and quality of first responses.
- Rethink services for IPV offenders
- Initiate internal reviews of policies & procedures
- Relaunch and prioritize a Coordinated Community Response.

On June 14th, they announced the sub-committees where the work for the CCR will be happening: The sub-committees are: Best Practices. Offender accountability, Training, Outreach and Awareness, Prevention, Child welfare, BIPs.

Jacqueline informed SART members that the next meeting will be on September 13th at 2pm. She is encouraging SART members to join the CCR if they are interested. Her contact information is: Jacqueline Jackson at JJackson4@pbcgov.org.

RAINN Sees 35% Increase in Calls to the National Sexual Assault Hotline

Kristen provided each SART members a copy of the SART point cards as a reminder of our role in SART process and how we can be beneficial to victims who disclose that were assaulted. She explained that RAINN released an article that showed a 35% increase in calls to the National Sexual Assault Hotline after the verdict for Depp vs. Heard. Please see article attached: <https://www.rainn.org/news/wake-depp-heard-verdict-rainn-sees-35-increase-calls-national-sexual-assault-hotline>

Video: <https://youtu.be/GH3sMPYnMpY>

Community Corner:

Detective Botella and Detective Bitz- Violent Crimes Division/Jail Investigation: Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) Program

Detective Botella and Detective Bitz provided an overview about the PREA Process within the correctional setting. In Palm Beach Sheriff's Correctional Facilities, inmates have rights as it relates to sexual abuse and harassment during their incarceration. The PREA team and SART share a common goal of ensuring that victims who have endured a sexual assault receives the best care and treatment. Please see attached the PREA Brochure with information relating to this program. For more information or questions, please reach out to Detective Botella at BotellaD@pbso.org or Detective Bitz at BitzJ@pbso.org

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

Winter Jones, Sexual Violence Prevention Project Coordinator- Winter oversees the STOP Sexual Violence in Palm Beach County project for PBCVS. STOP SV PBC is a Rape Prevention Education program that focuses on taking three various strategic approaches to sexual violence in the county. The program focuses on changing the social norms by engaging men and boys as an alias in the fight against sexual violence and also empowering young women and girls in programs like the Girls Voice Task Force and the Girls Coordinating Council. STOP SV PBC has a partnership with the Office of Equal Business Opportunity; this partnership allows PBCVS to provide sexual harassment and workplace culture training to businesses and agencies throughout the county. This training offers agencies tools, policies, and information as it relates to sexual harassment in the workplace.

Next meeting date:

SART Law Enforcement Meeting, August 25th, 2022, 2 pm-3 pm

SART General Meeting, September 29th, 2022, 2pm-3 pm

Thank you!

PROFESSIONAL BOUNDARIES

- ♦ Align yourself with other employees and treat them with mutual respect
- ♦ Maintain a fair, firm, consistent manner when dealing with inmates
- ♦ No first name familiarity with inmates
- ♦ Keep focused on your duties/assignments
- ♦ Never share any personal information about yourself or others with inmates
- ♦ Be cognizant that inmates can overhear conversations
- ♦ Never accept, or provide gifts or favors with an inmate
- ♦ Do not use abusive, indecent or profane language
- ♦ Follow all PBSO policies, procedures and guidelines

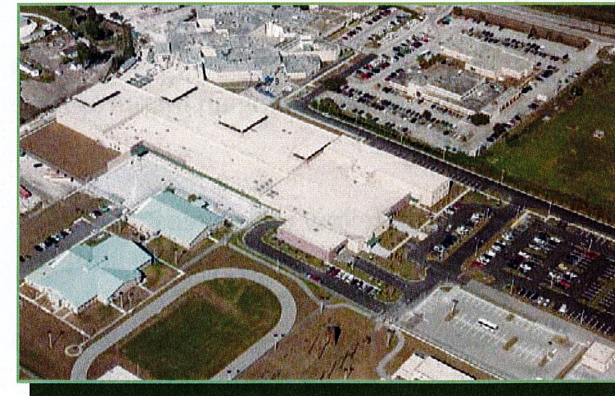
It becomes a problem for everyone when any staff member, volunteer or contractor becomes involved in an inappropriate relationship with inmates. Watching for “red flags” helps you to do a personal inventory of your feelings and emotions, as well as others around you.

DUTY TO REPORT

All employees have a duty to report knowledge of any inappropriate relationship between inmates, or with staff to their immediate supervisor through their chain of command **IMMEDIATELY!**



Main Detention Center
3228 Gun Club Road
West Palm Beach, FL 33406



West Detention Center
38811 James Wheeler Way
Belle Glade, FL 33430

PALM BEACH COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE



A Guide for the Prevention and Reporting of Sexual Abuse of Offenders



This pamphlet is written to promote continued awareness regarding compliance with the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) of 2003. PREA is a federal law established to address the elimination and prevention of sexual assault/abuse and harassment in correctional facilities. PREA applies to all federal, state, and local prisons, jails, lock-ups, private facilities and community corrections. This brochure is intended to provide basic information on PREA, staff and inmate relationships, your duty to report, and ideas for maintaining professional boundaries.

PREA AND PBSO

In response to the Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003, the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office Department of Corrections is committed to emphasizing a **ZERO TOLERANCE** policy on sexual violence against inmates by staff and by other inmates. The implementation of the PREA policy (COP 934.00, *Sexual Offenders and Victims* and COP 920.01 *Transgender Housing*) promotes a safe, humane, and appropriately secure environment, free from threat of sexual abuse/assault and harassment. It is up to us as professionals, to continue to maintain this goal.

Some indicators or "red flags" that an employee may be developing an inappropriate relationship are:

- ⇒ Isolation from fellow employees
- ⇒ Spending too much time with one inmate
- ⇒ Sharing food with inmate (s)
- ⇒ Noticeable behavior or changes in appearance of a staff member or inmate
- ⇒ Flirtatious behavior, inappropriate comments or conversation with an inmate
- ⇒ Voyeurism unrelated to official duties

There is no such thing as a consensual sexual relationship between staff and inmates! Sexual conduct between staff members and inmates, or between volunteers or contract personnel and inmates is strictly prohibited and subject to administrative and/or criminal sanctions.