



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 August 30, 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, Oren Alter, Rosemary Balaguer, Belinda Barr, Brandon Beidenman, Nicole Bishop, Robert Bragg, Sherry Britton-Susino, Susan Carlini, Crystal Conway, Carmeron Cook, Amanda Corbin, Yvette Cueto, Laura Cusack, Sharon Daugherty, Rebecca De La Rosa, Lorena Diaz, Marianela Diaz, Holly DiBenedetto, Kat Duesterhaus, Pilar Durham, Jessica Fernandez, Monica Gonzalez, Vance Harper, Candance Harrina, Cristy Johnson, Faye Johnson, Winter Jones, Lazarus Kimsal, Jennifer Kuipers, James Lamovs, Alexa Lee, Jennifer Lipinski, Aldric Marshall, Nicole Martinez, Lisa McDulin, Penny McIssac, Tanya Meade, Carol Messam-Gordon, Valerie Messineo, Chrichet Mixon, R. Moschette, Craig Newby, Serenia Page-Beckton, Shaundra Pittman, Samantha Poje, Jeff Quimby, Clarice Redding, Natalie Roberts, Abby Ross, Gena Rowlands, Stephanie Sejnoha, Christine Shaw, Christina Silvestri, Maura Smith, Liisa Spinello, Laura Stevenson, JR Thicklin, Mark Vertefeulle, Karla Voist.

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

On-Going Business: Nicole Bishop, Director

Regional SART 2018

The training is a one-day, annual collaborative effort among the SARTs in the Southeast region including the Treasure Coast, Martin, Broward, and Dade counties. Palm Beach County is hosting it this year at the Boca Police Department training facility. National Trainers, the Battered Women's Justice Project and a police officer, are training facilitators. It is less than 30 days away and of the 109 participants registered, 49 are from Palm Beach County. There is still time to register using the link that was sent by email & is on the flyer.

New Business: Nicole Bishop

PBCVS Sexual Assault Services Program (SASP) Grant Award

Nicole reviewed the purpose of the SASP grant which was released by the Florida Council Against Sexual Violence (FCASV) and created by the Violence Against Women and Department of Justice Reauthorization Act of 2005. Palm Beach County Victim Services applied and was awarded a 3 year grant that began August 1 and ends July, 2021. Funding will support three additional advocate positions to enhance our existing

services with a focus on increased support to Individuals in lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) communities. The advocates have been selected and will begin in the next couple of months.

Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office (PBSO) Victim Notification & Helpline, Sargent Robert Bragg

The Sheriff's office has established a helpline phone number (561-688-4127) for anyone who had a rape exam done in Palm Beach County before July 1, 2016 and would like to know the status of their kit test results. The helpline number is on PBSO's website and PBCVS also has a link to it on its website. The phone line is not manned, but an Officer is assigned to regularly check the messages and call the victim's back to give a status update on their kit. The Officer will coordinate with PBCVS to see if an Advocate is available to assist with the notification and connect with services as needed.

Member Highlight: Chrichet Mixon, Assistant State Attorney/Chief of Special Victims Unit

Assistant State Attorney, Mixon, shared about how the case intake process is done, what is needed to take a case to trial, and potential sentences that can be given based on the offense.

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

- For the month of August, Palm Beach County SANEs performed all sexual assault exams. There were twenty-four call outs for SANEs this month and they responded to all of those call outs. There were twenty-one exams. Twelve of the exams were done at the Butterfly House and nine were done in the emergency room. Twenty-three of the cases were reporting and one was non-reporting.
- **Case Disposition-** Six case dispositions were read. 1) On 7/18/18, the defendant was adjudicated guilty and sentenced to 10 years in prison with credit for 1281 days for the charge of Unlawful Sexual Activity with a Minor. 2) Criminal case disposed after both defendants were sentenced to prison time. One faced trial by jury and was found guilty on 6/15/18; sentenced to 15 years in state prison. The other plead guilty to the court on 6/22/18 and was sentenced to 5 years in state prison. 3) Guilty Verdict, suspect was taken into custody. Sentencing scheduled for 8/1/2018 at 0930 AM. 4) Child case where defendant was sentenced to Live and was given credit for time served in jail. 5) The defendant pled guilty to Battery of a Child and was sentenced to 3 years' probation. Defendant must remain enrolled in college at Palm Beach State College or FAU. He was ordered to have no contact with the victim and complete Therapy. And 6) Defendant pled guilty to Burglary with assault or battery. He received two years in the Department of Corrections to be followed by 3 years' probation.

Committee Reports: Standing

Community Action Network: Sharon Daugherty, PBCVS Outreach Coordinator

SART members were reminded that the Campus Roundup 4 is planned for November 16, 2018 at Palm Beach State College (PBSC) at 3:00pm. All were invited to participate in the next planning meeting scheduled on 9/10/18 at PBSC. Registration will begin soon.

Training Committee: Serenia P. Beckton, SART Grant Coordinator

The committee worked on three projects last month. The first is working with Aid to Victims of Domestic Abuse (AVDA) to update the Anti-Stalking Toolkit to include Sexual Assault information. The revised toolkit will be shared with SART when available. The group drafted a cheat sheet with questions for law

enforcement to ask when handling child cases of sexual assault and working to incorporate those questions on the Law Enforcement point card. Implementation of the products remain under consideration at this time. The committee also reviewed SART Designation training using Train U and are getting that started again. Projected completion time is end of year.

Legislative Committee: Abby Ross/Christine Shaw

Abby Ross shared her findings about state statutes and laws that relate to social media and how that could potentially impact a victim's case. Christine Shaw examined it from a federal case law. SART Members were engaged in the discussion about the internet in general and an officer asked a question about whether there are laws surrounding telephone spoofing since sometimes use of that tactic may impede their investigation of a sex crime. The topic will be researched and may be discussed at next SART meeting.

SART Case Staffings: Carol Messam- Gordon, Program Coordinator

Two case staffing's were held this month. One at the SART Center on Friday August 10, 2018 & on Wednesday, August 15, 2018 at the State Attorney's Office. The first case involved a victim who was assaulted by her friend's father. While working with the Advocate the special circumstances that arose was when victim missed two weeks of wages and did not seek medical treatment. She was unable to file a claim for wage loss through State Attorney's office because of she did not seek the care. The Advocate was checking with PBCVS Care Coordinator to determine whether the health department's physician would be able to provide medical documentation for victim. Victim has left county and was referred to Rape Crisis Center in the new location.

The second case staffed was at the State Attorney's Office to review concerns about a case that were brought forth during last SART meeting. The case involved a victim that lived in another country, but was sexually assaulted while visiting the United States. The Detective, State Attorney Office and PBCVS team are working towards a satisfactory resolution.

Green DOT Program update: Clarice Redding, Program Coordinator

Clarice shared that 80% of the violence prevention program goals have been met. She reminded SART members about the photo head shots that many took during Green Dot Action Week. She stated the two billboards will be unveiled soon and are designed to rotate pictures of those who participated. Each participate will be notified when their picture will be displayed which gives them an opportunity to share with friends and family. Additionally, Bystander trainings continue to be scheduled.

Member field discussion:

- JR Thicklin, Destiny by Choice announced and invited all to the 23rd Annual International Conference in Lansing, Michigan on November 14- 16, 2018. The community and faith leaders will convene and the conference is OVW approved.
- Next Meeting date: September 27, 2018 at 2:00pm to 3:00pm.