

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, October 28th, 2021

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 September 30th, 2021 meeting were approved without any changes.

On-Going Business:

SANE Report: Joy Radford Cole, SANE Manager, PBCVS

Nicole introduced Joy as the new SANE Manager to the SART Members. Joy informed SART members that she is happy to be with PBCVS and she is excited to work with everyone.

Joy reported on the Sexual Assault Responses for September 2021.

For September, SANEs responded to 28 calls and conducted 26 forensic exams. In the total call-outs, there were 2 non-reporting victims. 16 exams were completed at the Butterfly House and 10 were completed at a local Palm Beach County Hospital ER. In September, the SANEs responded to 100% of the callouts.

Joy informed SART members that on Tuesday, November 2nd, the PBCVS team will be providing training to the Florida Atlantic Medical Students.

Joy also gave a brief shout-out to Yuna Jewelewicz- Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner on receiving her SANE-A Certification. The SANE-A Certification is recognized nationally by the American Nurses Credentialing Center. This credential designates that Yuna has achieved the highest standards of forensic nursing for sexual assault nurse examiners. This certification demonstrates commendable professional commitment. By exerting the additional effort to become SANE-A certified, a nurse demonstrates a firm desire to provide quality patient care. Becoming certified is a potent statement: that a nurse has accepted the challenge of preparing for, demonstrating a refined knowledge of, and exercising critical thinking skills in, his or her nursing specialty practice.

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

Alison Hitchcock and Susan Sims were unable to attend and provide the report for September. Kristen Ferguson provided the child abuse and child sexual abuse CPT case statistics for September 2021.

September 2021

- 963 Abuse Reports Screened
- 121 Cases Opened
- 203 Services Provided
- 14 Sexual Abuse Forensic Medical Exams were completed
- 5 Sexual Assault Kits were completed

<u>Laboratory Testing Updates: Julie Sikorsky, Forensic Laboratory Manager, PBSO</u>

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 819 cases, 139 remaining (down 7 cases)
 - ▶ 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
 - ▶ 7 Post SB 636 cases with a SAK
- Total SA cases reviewed (pre & post SB 636): 10,947 (up 26 cases)
 - ▶ 9,785 analyzed or do not need analysis (up 44 cases)
 - ▶ 293 identified to be outsourced (up 11 cases) (100 outsourced, 193 awaiting)
 - ▶ 36 identified to be processed in-house with *Rapid DNA analysis* (same)
 - ▶ 60 requested to be processed in-house (screening/DNA) analysis (down 2 cases)
 - ► 20 Other pending (up 1 case)
 - ▶ 782 cases pending additional review for possible SA evidence for DNA analysis (down 29 cases)
 - ► 486 are from PBSO or merged agencies
 - ▶ 267 are from non-PBSO agencies (PBSO will need to reach out for these agencies to do research)
- ► Pre SB636 Cases
 - ▶ Profiles entered into CODIS: 863 profiles from 811 cases (up 4 profiles and 4 cases)
 - From evidence: 757 (up 4)
 - ► Suspect samples: 118 (same)
 - ► CODIS hits (across all agencies): 324 (up 1)
 - ▶ 13 arrests made: 9=PBSO, 4=WPBPD (no changes)

SART Case Staffing's: Rene Boone, PBCVS SART Supervisor

Rene updated SART members on the sexual assault case staffing held on October 8th. Five cases were staffed. In attendance were Advocates, Coordinators, Team Supervisors, SANEs, and Law Enforcement. Rene provided two case summaries:

<u>Case 1:</u> 49-year-old Female: The victim was homeless and had a history of substance use. The victim reported being sexually assaulted twice in September; on the 8th and the 25th. The victim contacted law enforcement both times and requested a Forensic Exam. The victim stated she had did not have much recollection of the assault because she felt that she may have been drugged. On September 8th the victim completed her exam and the law enforcement interview, she was then Baker Acted due to making suicidal threats.

At this time, both law enforcement agencies are awaiting the SAK results. PBCVS has had a difficult time reaching the victim for follow-up services due to her phone not always working. The assigned advocate has been trying to assist the victim with resources for shelter and housing, however, due to her history of substance use, it has been hard to connect her. PBCVS is requesting assistance from the SART Team for ideas or suggestions on how to help with this victim. Please contact Advocate Blandide at 561-625-2568 option 1.

<u>Case 2:</u> 13-year-old Female: The victim ran away from home and was missing for 3 days. Upon return, she reported to Law Enforcement and the Child Protection Team (CPT) that four different men had sexually assaulted her, ages ranging from 16 to late '50s in the Tri-County (Miami-Dade to Palm Beach County). Two PBCVS advocates responded to CPT to provide support to the victim and her family during her initial intake, the interview, and the forensic exam. The victim was provided with prescriptions for STI/STD Prophylactic medications and was having a difficult time getting the HIV medications filled. The SART Project Coordinator worked with Monarch Health Services to assist the victim with medical follow-up services.

This case is still under investigation. PBCVS recently provided support while the victim while she completed her photo line-up. The assigned Victim Advocate continues to provide services to both the victim and her mother.

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: Kristen Ferguson, PBCVS Project Coordinator

Kristen informed SART members that during the last CAN meeting, Rashard Perry, the violence prevention educator from AVDA presented their services and the work that they have been doing in the community. Holly-Lynn also provided updates on all the amazing work and all the upcoming events that the Girls Coordinating Council (GCC) and Girls Voice Task Force (GVTF) have been doing. Zonta also provided an update on their upcoming Fundraiser in January 2022. Lastly, FAU provided an update on all the wonderful events they held for Domestic Violence Awareness Month. The next CAN meeting is scheduled for 11/17/2021. For more information on CAN, please reach out to Carol at cmessamg@pbcgov.org.

Training Committee: Kristen Ferguson, PBCVS Project Coordinator

Kristen informed SART members that the Training committee met on Tuesday, October 26th. During this meeting, they discussed the upcoming projects for 2022, they decided as a group to meet quarterly and will be focusing on projects per quarter. 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 there are no new updates from Legislative Committee. She encouraged SART members to reach out to either herself or Kristen if any legislative issues need to be addressed.

New Business: Domestic Violence Coordinating Council

Nicole provided a brief presentation to SART members on the Coordinated Community Response to Domestic Violence. On October 1st, 2021, PBCVS in conjunction with AVDA and the Criminal Justice Commission was awarded a grant of a million dollars to develop this response team. She informed SART members that this will be based on the model that was developed for SART. Please see attached a short presentation providing more

information on the CCR. For more information please reach out to Nicole at nbishop@pbcgov.org or Susan Carlini at Scarlini@pbcgov.org

Community Corner:

<u>Lorrie Conglose, LMHC, Director, Domestic Abuse Education and Action Department- Ruth & Norman Jewish</u> Family Services, Inc.

Ms. Conglose provided an in-depth presentation about Intimate Partner Violence. She reviewed the definition of IPV, provided statistics, and explained the power and control wheel. Ms. Conglose also explained the cycle of abuse and spoke about the correlation between COVID and Domestic Violence. Ms. Conglose provided information about the different programs and services that her agency has to offer to individuals within the Southern part of Palm Beach County. She reviewed ways to connect clients to services and programs. She encouraged SART members to contact her for questions or future presentations. Ms. Conglose's email is LorrieC@ralesjfs.org.

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

Susan Carlini informed SART Members that On December 10th, 2021 from 9 am-5 pm, there will be a Law Enforcement First-Line supervisor and Investigator training on Gender-Based Violence. This will be held at Palm Beach College Criminal Justice Institute. This training course offers those who hold primary responsibility for overseeing first responders and investigators a unique opportunity to: explore current approaches for responding to and investigating sexual assault, domestic violence, and stalking 9gender-based violence). This training emphasizes recognizing culture and its effect on responding to those crimes to maximize supervisory efforts, network with colleagues to share challenges and solutions, identify practical strategies to enhance officer response, and strengthen leadership skills for addressing gender-based violence crimes. For more information please contact Susan Carlini at 561-355-2383 or scarlini@pbcgov.org.

JR Thicklin from Destiny By Choice informed SART members that throughout October he has produced a series of webinars about Domestic Violence and the faith community. These webinars are available through Youtube. He also highlighted all the events that have been taking place to spread awareness about Domestic Violence. JR encourages SART members to spread awareness about Domestic Violence and also to speak about the resources available to individuals who are victims.

Next meeting date:

SART Law Enforcement Meeting November 18th, 2021 2 pm-3 pm SART General Meeting, January 27th, 2022, 2pm-3 pm

Thank you!

Palm Beach County's Coordinated Community Response to Domestic Violence

October 12, 2021 2pm-4pm

Shared Understanding of Domestic Violence

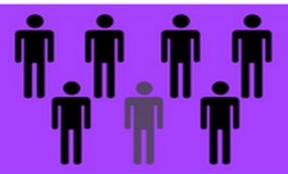
Domestic violence (also referred to as intimate partner violence (IPV), dating abuse, or relationship abuse) is a pattern of behaviors used by one partner to maintain power and control over another partner in an intimate relationship.

This includes behaviors that physically and sexually harm, intimidate, manipulate or control a partner, or otherwise force them to behave in ways they don't want to through the use of physical violence, threats, emotional abuse, or financial control.





1 in 4 women will be victims of severe violence by an intimate partner in their lifetimes.



1 in 7 men will be victims of severe violence by an intimate partner in their lifetimes.

▲ 3 to 4 X

Men who were exposed to domestic violence as children are three to four times more likely to perpetuate intimate partner violence as adults than men who did not experience domestic violence as children.



Domestic violence is the third leading cause of homelessness for families.

Prior/Related Efforts

1993: DOVE Unit

1994: Domestic Violence Council of Palm Beach County

1995: Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team

1999: DART

2001: DV Court and DVIS

2002: Child Abuse Protocol

2010: Palm Beach County Law Enforcement Guidelines - Domestic Violence Investigations

2011: SART

2011: Anti-Stalking Initiative & Toolkit



- Work began in October 2018
- > First progress report (October 2019) noted:
 - ✓ Committed professionals working to respond to IPV
 - ✓ Rich quality and variety of services
 - ✓ Some barriers prevent victims from reporting or staying engaged
 - ✓ Need to bolster first responses
 - ✓ Information sharing could be strengthened by replicating SART
 - ✓ Law Enforcement Report Analysis

Trainings Coordinated in Response to BWJP Outcomes

2019: Advanced Intimate Partner Violence Investigations: Strategies for Successful Interviewing, Investigations and Documentation

2020: Language Access Considerations for Law Enforcement

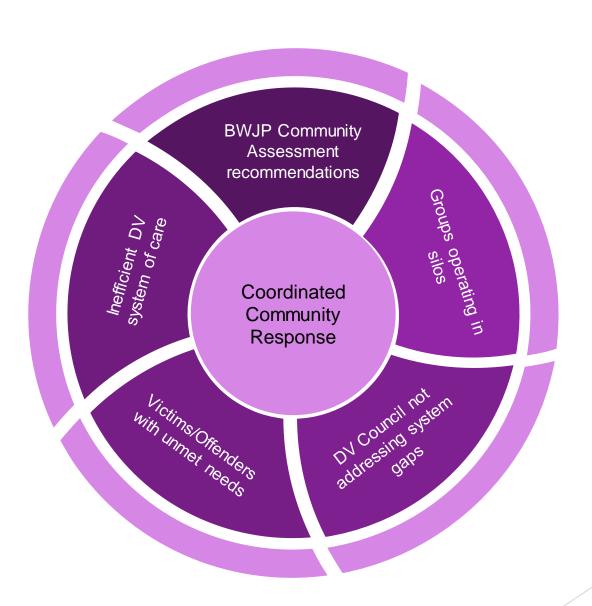
2021: Law Enforcement First-Line Supervisor and Investigator Training on Gender-Based Violence



- > Spring 2020 Report: In Survivors' Own Words
 - > 4 Listening Sessions with 23 Survivors
 - > Survivors were concerned about the difficulty of leaving and if law enforcement would take their situation seriously
 - > Immigrants/people with limited English proficiency did not feel protected due to lack of access to interpretation and translation services
 - > Consistency of response could improve
 - Greater coordination with DCF and BIP needed to ensure survivor safety and offender accountability



Need for CCR in PBC



Resources

Training (based on needs identified by the CCR)

Increase capacity of forensic nurses to collect evidence for certain DV cases (to be decided by CCR)

AVDAposition to support CCR

Choices-4 hour class that examines men's use of abusive and intimidating tactics against women. Can be used for child welfare, civil DV cases and first time low level offenders

Tactics and

Project
Coordinator
and Victim
Advocate to
like DV
victims to
services
sooner

Public Awareness campaigntargeted in areas with highest incidence of DV

Plan of Action

Step 1: Develop the Team

Step 2: Identify and prioritize areas for action

Step 3: Develop a plan of work

Step 4: Develop CCR Protocols

Step 5: Monitor progress toward goals

CCR Defined

An inter-agency effort to create more effective interventions to enhance safety for victims, accountability for offenders and change the climate toward violence in the community.



Identified Committees

Existing Committees

Fatality Review Team

Awareness and Outreach (DV Council)

Intersection of DV and Child Welfare

Prevention

Proposed Committees

Training Committee

Offender Accountability

Policy Committee, as needed

High Risk Committee

Survivor Action Team

Issue-specific Committee, as needed

Do you serve on any workgroups/committees that addresses domestic violence as a core issue that we should consider integrating into the CCR?

Focus on Outcomes

A coordinated community response involves police, prosecutors, probation officers, victim advocates, counselors, and judges in developing and implementing polices and procedures that improve interagency coordination and lead to more uniform responses to domestic violence

- ► Identification of gaps
- ▶ Shared Resources
- Consistent protocols
- ▶ Training
- Enhanced victim safety
- Offender accountability
- ► Elimination of Silos
- Monitor progress toward goals

Potential Next Steps

Next meeting: (November)

- Establish meeting schedule, structure, agenda outline
- Discuss leadership structure
- Review/discuss mission statement

Following meeting: (Dec or Jan)

Developing/prioritizing areas for action



You Are Not Alone

JFS is Here for YOU!

If you or someone you know needs help, contact

JFS' Domestic Abuse

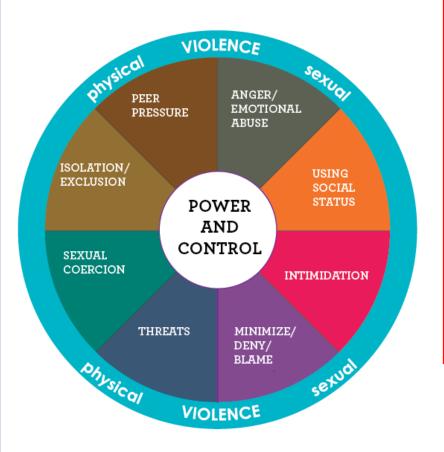
Education & Action Department







Intimate Partner Violence



Intimate partner violence - A broad term for domestic violence and dating violence.

A pattern of abusive behaviors through the use of power and control tactics used by one person over another in an intimate relationship.

It is a **learned** behavior.

For the purpose of

POWER AND CONTROL

PHYSICAL VIOLENCE

SEXUAL VIOLENCE

EMOTIONAL/VERBAL ABUSE

STALKING

ECONOMIC ABUSE

ISOLATION

USING CHILDREN

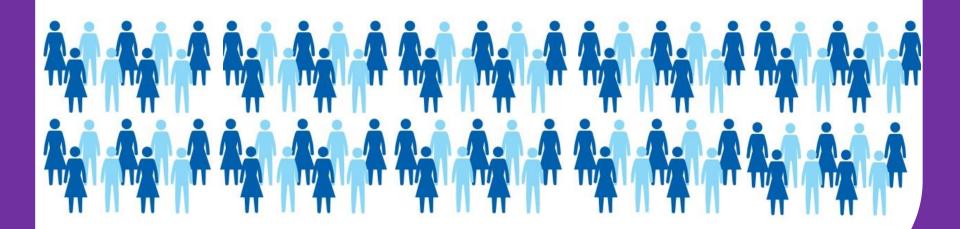
USING PRIVILEGE

THREATS/ COERCION

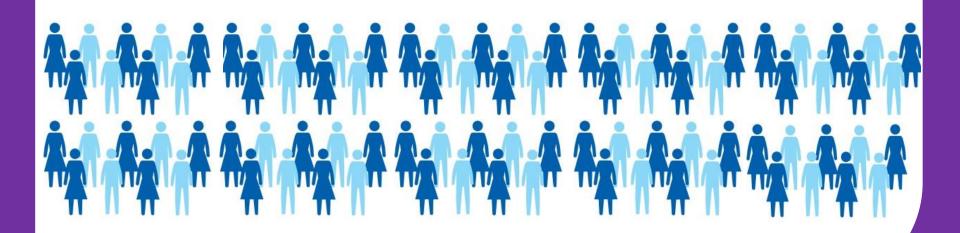
MINIMIZE/DENY/BLAME

12 million U.S. women and men are

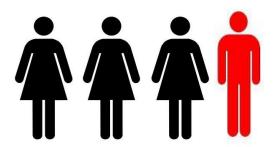
victims of physical assault by an intimate partner every year



20 People Every Minute



4 murdered BY THEIR PARTNERS EVERY DAY

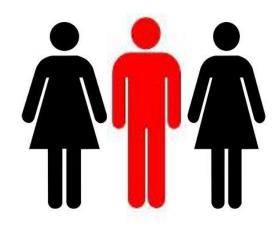


1 IN 3 WOMEN EXPERIENCE INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE WORLDWIDE



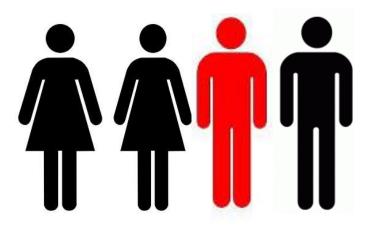


1 IN 3 TEENS EXPERIENCE AN ABUSIVE RELATIONSHIP



ONLY 33% EVER TELL ANYONE

1 IN 4 SAME SEX PARTNERS EXPERIENCE INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE





DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Crosses all boundaries of culture, age, race, sex, education, and socioeconomic status



CYCLE OF ABUSE

Tension building

Explosion

THE CENTER FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION

INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE IS A PUBLIC HEALTH ISSUE

\$8.3 BILLION

COST OF INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCT EACH YEAR

8.0 MILLION

DAYS OF PAID WORK ARE LOST TO VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

57%

HOMELESS FAMILIES ATTRIBUTED
TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

DV & Covid

The Epidemic Within the Pandemic

Survivors who rely on support groups and other social connections may be experiencing even greater isolation and a sense of overwhelm.

An abuser may disrupt the survivor's ability to work from home, jeopardizing their job.

Jails have been releasing some inmates early, leaving survivors with little time to make a safety plan.

In shared custody situations, abusers may use quarantine as an excuse to keep children from the survivor.



Survivors may be less likely to go to the ER after an assault, for fear of exposure to COVID-19.

> Abusers may threaten to cancel a survivor's, or their children's, health insurance.

Where to go?
Shelter and motels have
limited capacity, and many
people are distancing from
family and friends to stay
healthy.

Unemployment
and increased demand
on general assistance
programs creates financial
stress that can escalate the
abuse and violence already
occurring in the home.

Increased time spent with the abuser means fewer opportunities for survivors to call a Helpline or reach out for support.



DOMESTIC ABUSE EDUCATION & ACTION DEPARTMENT SERVICES



INFORMATION & REFERRALS



CASE MANAGEMENT



CRISIS COUNSELING



EDUCATION & PREVENTION







ACTION



SAFETY PLANNING



ADVOCACY



DV Ed/ Crisis Counseling



GENDER **NEUTRAL** SUPPORT



SUPPORT GROUPS



ACCESS TO **COMMUNITY** RESOURCES



PROFESSIONAL REFERRALS



ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES





EDUCATION & PREVENTION



YOUTH



PROFESSIONALS



COMMUNITY

TARA

STRESS SUPPORT GROUPS

Relationship FUNdamentals

PROFESSIONAL GROUPS

MEDICAL PERSONNEL

LAW ENFORCEMENT

SOCIAL SERVICES AGENCIES

COMMUNITY EVENTS

RESOURCE FAIRS

FAITH-BASED GROUPS

MULTI-CULTURAL GROUPS



Local Domestic Abuse Agencies



AVDA (561) 265-2900



Women in Distress (954)761-1133



Harmony House (561) 640-0050

Thank You!

Contact Info:

JFS

Domestic Abuse Education & Action Department (561) 852-3356











Please see free BWJP training opportunity provided by Palm Beach County Victim Services & Certified Rape Crisis Center. Hosted by Palm Beach State College Criminal Justice Institute.

This training was created specifically for the needs of Palm Beach County Agencies

TRAINING TITLE:

Law Enforcement First-Line Supervisor and Investigator Training on Gender-Based Violence

DATE: December 10, 2021

TIME: 9:00am – 5:00pm

LOCATION: Palm Beach State College Criminal Justice Institute, PSD 108

PRESENTER: Lt. Mark Wynn (Ret.) is a 21-year member of the Nashville Metropolitan Police Department – Served as Lieutenant to the Domestic Violence Division. He is the recipient of 121 commendations and 51 awards and certificates including the 1995 National Improvement of Justice Award and the 1998 Nashvillian of the Year Award. Mark received the 2012 Family Justice Center Alliance Lifetime Achievement Award. In 2011 he was awarded the "Visionary Award" by End Violence Against Women International and the Distinguished Faculty Award by the National District Attorney's Association. Mark is a member of International Association of Chiefs of Police National Strategic Partnership on Violence Against Women – Faculty member to the National Leadership Institute.

PURPOSE: This training course offers those who hold primary responsibility for overseeing first responders and investigators a unique opportunity to: explore current approaches for responding to and investigating sexual assault, domestic violence, and stalking (gender-based violence). This training emphasizes recognizing culture and its effect on responding to these crimes in order to maximize supervisory efforts, network with colleagues to share challenges and solutions, identify practical strategies to enhance officer response, and strengthen leadership skills for addressing gender-based violence crimes.

As a result of the training, supervisors and investigators will be able to:

- Illustrate the interconnected nature of gender-based violence
- Articulate the importance of leadership and supervision in enhancing officer response to genderbased violence
- Train and supervise subordinates in responding to domestic and sexual violence
- Identify the role of culture and team climate in shaping attitudes and actions towards genderbased violence

- Utilize a range of tools and best practices to strengthen efforts to address gender-based violence crimes
- Explain how partnerships and collaborations can enhance and improve response to gender-based violence crimes

TARGET AUDIENCE: Law Enforcement Supervisors and Investigators. (8 hour certificates will be provided)

REGISTRATION: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/YM25PR7

Seating is limited to 100 attendees. CDC guidelines will be followed.

COST: Free

POINT OF CONTACT: Susan Carlini 561-355-2383, scarlini@pbcgov.org