



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, November 19th, 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 October 29th, meeting were approved without any changes.

On-Going Business:

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

Lisa was unable to attend the SART meeting and Carol Messam-Gordon reported on the Sexual Assault Responses for October 2020. SANEs responded to 9 calls and conducted 7 forensic exams. In the total call-outs, there were 0 non-reporting victims. 4 exams were completed at the Butterfly House and 3 were completed at a local Palm Beach County Hospital ER. There were 160 SANE exams thus far for 2020.

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

Alison provided child abuse and child sexual abuse CPT case statistics for October 2020. She explained that there has been a low number of sexual assault cases for the month of October. Nicole asked Alison to provide the SART Members information on the factors that dictates whether or not an exam is performed when a sexual abuse is reported. Alison explained, when a Sexual Assault is reported, there are different factors that dictates whether a forensic exam will be done or whether a SAK will be used. She further explained that some of the determining factors are based on what's being alleged, such as touching over the clothes, touching under the clothes, touching a breast, rubbing a vagina or penetration. She also informed SART members that based on how delayed the report is, an exam can still be done, however, a SAK may not be able to be done.

September 2020

- 983 Abuse Reports Screened
- 108 Cases Opened
- 199 Services Provided
- 4 Sexual Abuse Forensic Medical Exams were completed
- 1 Sexual Assault Kits were completed

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

Julie Sikorsky was unable to attend the SART meeting this month because the Forensic Biology Unit is still in the process of moving to their new building. Kristen Ferguson reported the statistics in place of Julie. She shared statistics on the rape kit backlog, the timeframe for processing sexual assault kits, the number of kits tested and the numbers remaining. Kristen also shared that 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 471 cases, 487 remaining (down 18 cases)
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:
 - ▶ 5 Post SB 636 cases without a SAK
 - ▶ 15 Post SB 636 cases with a SAK
- ▶ Total SA cases reviewed (pre & post SB 636): 10,288 (up 36 cases)
 - ▶ 9,253 analyzed or do not need analysis (up 12 cases)
 - ▶ 142 identified to be outsourced (up 15 cases)
 - ▶ 29 identified to be processed in-house with *Rapid DNA analysis* (up 14 cases)
 - ▶ 54 requested to be processed in-house (screening/DNA)
 - ▶ 20 Other pending (up 3 cases)
 - ▶ 790 cases pending additional review for possible SA evidence for DNA analysis
 - ▶ 485 (up 1 case) are from PBSO or merged agencies
 - ▶ 305 are from non-PBSO agencies (PBSO will need to reach out for these agencies to do research)
- ▶ Pre SB636 Cases
 - ▶ Outsourced: 1679
 - ▶ Profiles entered into CODIS: 845 profiles from 795 cases (no changes)
 - ▶ From evidence: 732
 - ▶ Suspect samples: 113
 - ▶ CODIS hits (across all agencies): 311 (no change)
 - ▶ 13 arrests made: 9=PBSO, 4=WPBPD (no changes)

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

Carol informed SART members that we did not have a SART case staffing for November and that the cases not staffed will be staffed at the next case staffing in December. She encouraged SART members to contact her or SART Supervisor, Rene Boone if they have a case to staff.

Committee Reports:

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

Nicole informed the SART members that Holly was recently promoted and would be transitioning into her new position with Palm Beach County, Youth Services Department. She explained that Carol will be conducting the CAN meetings until someone is hired to replace Holly. Nicole thanked Holly for all her hard work and congratulated her on a job well done.

Holly reported that C.A.N. met on Wednesday, November 18th. In the meeting, they discussed that self-care is important for victims. During COVID, many victims experienced re-traumatization. She encouraged SART members to check in with their survivors and victims and to also practice self-care.

Holly explained that the annual outreach event at St. John Fischer's Church will be postponed until spring 2021, once the COVID numbers have gone down. In lieu of the event that was scheduled for January 2021, a brochure with local resources was created to hand out to the members at St. John Fischer Church.

Training Committee: Kristen Ferguson, PBCVS Grant Coordinator

Kristen informed SART members that a link to the SART Training survey was sent out on Tuesday. The survey will be open until December 17th, 2020. She encouraged everyone to participate in the survey. Results of the survey will be shared at the next training committee meeting scheduled on February 23rd, 2021. A calendar invite for the next training committee meeting will go out in January.

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

Abby informed the SART members that earlier in the week, legislators went to Tallahassee for their bi-annual organization session and they had their swearing-in ceremony. Abby also informed the SART members that they were waiting for committee assignments and that they are hoping that by mid-December they will be assigned. Currently, bills are not being filed. Abby encouraged SART members to feel free to reach out to her or Vickie if they have questions or ideas for legislative proposals.

New Business:

"September 2020 Policy Updates"- Florida Coalition against Sexual Assault

Nicole shared the 2020 policy updates from FCASV. Please see the attached list of policy updates from the Florida Coalition against Sexual Assault.



Sept 2020 Policy
Update.pdf

(PDF is attached in the email)

Community Corner:

"August 2020 Title IX Regulatory Changes"- Lorna Fink, University Compliance Officer and Title IX Coordinator, Lynn University

Ms. Fink reviewed the updated Title IX Regulatory changes. She informed the SART Members of all the new updates and explained that changes may occur. Please see the attached PDF PowerPoint that Ms. Fink presented. Ms. Fink asked for SART members to not reproduce her presentation. Any questions, comments, or concerns about her presentation, you are encouraged to contact her at: LFink@lynn.edu, Contact #: 561-237-7727



PBCVS Title IX
Update.pdf

(PDF is attached in the email)

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

Lucas (Compass) stated that on Friday, November 20th Compass will be hosting their Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDOR) event on Facebook live at 5 pm. He encouraged members to log on, watch and to also spread the word about the event.

Alexa (Behavioral Health Coalition) stated that they will be hosting their annual school bus media contest. This is a poster and video PSA contest that is open for students K-12. Multiple scholarships and prizes will be available. Volunteer hours are also available for students entering the contest; 2 hours for poster entry and 5 hours for the video entry. Winners will be displayed on the school buses and on social media.

www.pbcBusPoster.org

Email: pbcbusposter@pbcbhc.org

Next meeting date: January 28th, 2021 2 pm-3 pm

Thank you!

Happy New Year
2021