



**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, April 28, 2016**

**Call to Order:** Nicole Bishop, Director Palm Beach County Victim Services & Certified Rape Crisis Center (PBCVS)

**Welcome / Introductions of Members and Guests:** Oren Alter, Kristen Archuleta, Belinda Barr, Nicole Bishop, Jennifer Brashear, Sherry Britton-Susino, Linda Brock, Susan Carlini, Kenneth Clark, Kymberlee Coffindaffer, Sharon Daugherty, Monica Gonzalez, Katherine Hatos, Sharon Herrou, Ana Jimenez, Ann Juhasz, Michelle Macy, Tanya Meade, Carol Messam-Gordon, Valerie Messineo, R. Moschetto, Beth Newcomb, Kathryn Oleksy, Cheryl Sandhoff, Rob Shelt, Susan Sims, Liisa Spinello, Mark Vertefeuille, Julie Weil, Carrie Stone, Joseph Sophie, Stephanie Sejnoha, Catherine Montfort, Emanuela Speal, Ashley Mckeithan, Larry Uber

**Review/Approval of minutes:** March 31, 2016

Members were emailed the minutes and the minutes were approved.

**On-Going Business:** Nicole Bishop

- SART presented the 1st SART outstanding member of the year award at the April 15, 2016 Victim Rights Coalition luncheon. To qualify for this award the nominee had to be an individual who has promoted the mission of SART and shown exemplary dedication to the victim centered approach. Assistant State Attorney, Jessica Kahn, Chief of SVU was the recipient of the 2016 SART member of the year award. It was highlighted that she assisted with the SART protocols and the vetting process. Ms. Kahn spearheaded the *Start by Believing* campaign and is always willing to participate in SART trainings. She presented at Campus Round-Up 3 utilizing the *Start by Believing* approach. She also conducted a series of trainings to facilitate the transformation of SANE testimony providing the SANEs opportunity to be the first certified SANE expert witnesses in the State. She has shown passion and enthusiasm toward achieving the best possible outcome for all sexual assault victims.

**New Business:** Nicole Bishop

- PBCVS submitted a *Whisper to Roar* short film that represents advocates and survivors in the anti-sexual violence movement to have communities acknowledge the impact of sexual violence and help survivors share their stories. “What was once a whispered-about topic is now being revealed” The film is posted on the SART blog, Victim Services Face book, and the FCASV website. The video was presented to SART members.
- SART members will be presenting at the 2016 Florida Council against Sexual Violence training summit. Nicole Bishop and JR Thicklin of Destiny by Choice will be presenting on Special Populations Track – Bridging the Unspoken Divide: How SARTs Can Collaborate with Faith Communities. Sharon Daugherty and Randee Kogan will present on Human Trafficking Mini-Track – From Victim to Survivor: Are We There Yet?

**Member Highlight:** Belinda Barr, 211 Resource Center Supervisor & Sharon L’Herrou, Director of Programs

- Sharon talked about 211 being a non-profit organization Private, non-profit agency (501-c-3)
- 5 County Service area: Palm Beach, Martin, St. Lucie, Okeechobee, Indian River
- Variety of funding: United Way, County, State, Foundations, Contracts, grants, & donations.
- Examples of calls: Suicidal, Stressed teens, Elderly caller concerned about health or a depressed friend, Parent of a child struggling with substance abuse or behavioral problems , Rape/ Domestic Violence.
- Services include a Resource Center and Advocacy/ Navigation programs that provides a Helpline: 24 hour, seven days per week information, referral, crisis intervention and telephone counseling toll free serving all of Palm Beach. Chat, text, and e-mail information is also accessible to those seeking assistance. There is counseling, suicide prevention, crisis prevention, advocacy and navigation. A call can range from a basic question to suicide prevention. Sharon stated there is a real time board that shows an average of 300 calls a day. All call takers are accredited by the American Association Of Suicidology. Call takers for the SART hotline are certified through FCASV.
- Belinda talked about several help line programs available to the public. There is the Elder program, the Sunshine Daily program is available to seniors who are over 60 or the housebound or disabled special needs. There are resources for Healthcare, help me grow, and a chat line for teens and suicide. In addition to the help line there are the hotlines for sexual assault, domestic violence, and PREA (prison elimination act) 24 Hour Crisis Hotline number is 866-891-7273.

**SANE Report:** Sherry Britton-Susino, SART SANE coordinator

- SANE report for the month of March 2016: There were 14 Sexual Assault call outs, 11 exams completed and the SANE response was 100 % for this reporting period. All sexual assault exams were performed by SANEs.
- The SANE nurse coordinator presented at the nurses forum.

- The SANE nurses conducted mock trial to help enhance their examination skills.
- The SANE nurse team will be doing a mock trial with the State Attorney Office as part three for SANE certification to provide expert testimony. The SART center will be the first in the State of Florida to have SANE nurses certified in expert testimony.

**Law Enforcement response to Sexual Battery:** Detective Kenneth Clark, Palm Beach County School District Police Department.

- Detective Clark retired from Coral Springs Police Department and has worked with the PBC School Board Police for the past five years. Ken states that working with PBC School Board Police and focusing on interviewing 12- 18 year old juvenile victims is different. He said that there are many wrongful convictions due to false confessions because the brain is still in development to age mid-late 20s. He further stated that a teenagers judgment, problem solving, and decision-making can be activated by fear; making involuntary or false statements. There are many wrongful convictions due to false confessions because the brain is still in development to ages mid-late 20s. A teenager's judgment, problem solving, and decision making can be activated by fear; making involuntary or false statements. It is also important to know when is the best time of the day to interview juveniles which can also impact the result. For further information on interviewing techniques: <http://iacp.elearning.courses.net>, [www.ojjdp.gov/pubs](http://www.ojjdp.gov/pubs)

**Committee Reports:** Standing

**Community Action Network:** Sharon Daugherty, SART Outreach Coordinator

SAAM: Denim Day was honored on April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2016 <http://denimdayinfo.org/>

Victim Services hung jeans with messages from sexual assault survivors painted on them on the fence outside SART

Start by Believing Campaign:

All agencies were invited to take a poster for any of their events where attendees would be invited to sign. A sample was shown from Tanya Meade, "Rescue Upstream" from a Delray Beach Weekend event she attended. She remarked how engaging and positive the attendee's reactions were and how simple it made as a gateway for conversation.

Survivor Action Team:

Julie Weil was invited by governor's office to speak for a few minutes at the ceremonial bill signing in Tampa for her work on the rape kit backlog bill.

She has also been contacted by Cairo Egypt officials regarding setting up a rape center in Egypt.

**Training Committee:** Susan Carlini, SART/OVW Grant Coordinator

1. FDLE advanced training academy *Introduction to Criminal Investigations*, June 6, 2016. SART will train on initial response and a victim centered approach.

2. June 27, 2016, SART and OVW partner Destiny by Choice will provide training to local clergy on sexual assault/domestic violence and the intersection with clergy.
3. Florida Sex Crimes Conference July 31- August 5<sup>th</sup> at Jupiter Beach Resort. Training announcement sent to all SART members.

**Campus Committee:** Sharon Daugherty

Nothing to report at this time

**Legislative:**

Joseph Sophie, Palm Beach County Legislative Delegation Aide

- This week, a bipartisan group of senators held a press conference to gain momentum for the Campus Accountability and Safety Act (S. 590, sponsored by Sen. Clair McCaskill). The bill has 36 co-sponsors but it has not yet been brought up for a vote by the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

According to the senators, the bill would “ensure campus sexual assault cases are handled with professionalism and fairness to better protect and empower students, and would provide colleges and universities with incentives to solve the problem of sexual assault on their campuses.”

Under the legislation, the Department of Education would be allowed to fine schools up to 1 percent of their operating budgets for Title IX violations. Also, the legislation would require every college and university to survey student’s experiences with sexual assault and harassment on campus; this would allow students to report their experiences instead of relying on the reporting of university officials.

The senators in attendance at the press conference were Democrats Claire McCaskill, Kirsten Gillibrand, Amy Klobuchar, Sheldon Whitehouse, and Ron Wyden and Republicans Kelly Ayotte, Lindsey Graham, Dan Sullivan, Shelley Moore Capito, Charles Grassley, and Joni Ernst.

- **SART Case Staffing’s:** Carol Messam-Gordon, Sexual Assault Program Coordinator  
*The goal of the SART Staffing is to review complex cases, learn from each other, set structure, and facilitate a smooth process...*

SART case staffing was held on March 11, 2016. Victim Services staff and SANE requested to staff three cases. One case involved a victim that was seen at multiple locations and needed services. Victim was beaten up, strangled and requested services from multiple staff at three of the Victim Services Locations. Staff wanted to meet and compare notes to provide the best service for this victim. SANE was also concerned about the nature of victim’s injuries and wanted to staff the services provided during the forensic exam. On another case the victim in the case was arrested on a warrant and staff wanted to discuss safety for all staff on non-reporting sexual assault cases. SART members were encouraged to bring forth cases to be staffed. Case staffings are scheduled on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of each month at 10:00 AM. The next SART case staffing: Friday April 8, 2016 @ 10:00 AM at the SART Center.

**AdHoc:**

- **Non-Reporting:** In progress
- **Walk in Their Shoes:** In progress

**Member field discussion:**

- Events for the Victim Rights Week start April 10 and go through April 16, 2016.  
Members were provided with a booklet of scheduled events.

**Next Meeting:** June 30, 2016 from 2:00 – 3:00 PM