



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 27, 2017

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

Welcome / Introductions of Members and Guests: Nicole Bishop, Rene Boone, Sherry Britton-Susino, Susan Carlini, Ellen Craddock-Day, Tanya Fresneda, William Genem, Monica Gonzalez, Adrienne Hillman, Joseph Brent, Brenda Kraye, Astrel Labbe, Michael Ladda, Carol Messam-Gordon, Patty Mika, Robin Moschette, Ryan Mugridge, Kathryn Oleksy, Jennifer Rey, Cheryl Sandhoff, Rob Shelt, JR Thicklin, Julie Weil, Steve Wessendorf, Samantha Poje, Michael Piotrowski, Tim Kurdys, Nicole Martinez

Review/Approval of minutes: March 30, 2016

Members were emailed the minutes and the minutes were approved

On-Going Business: Nicole Bishop

Outstanding SART member award 2017

- The Mission of the Sexual Assault Response Team is to promote a community wide response to sexual violence by coordinating a multi- disciplinary team that will ensure victims receive comprehensive, compassionate care. This team is made up of dedicated individuals from local law enforcement, first responders, prosecutors, Crime Lab, advocates, victims, hospitals and many more. This multidisciplinary team has created a "victim centered" response to sex crime allegations and seeks improve the treatment of victims, conviction rates, efficiency and protection of the community. Last year SART instituted what is now an annual award - *The Outstanding SART Member of the Year*. This award gives all those involved in this community wide response the opportunity to recognize someone whom they feel has gone above and beyond to promote the SART Mission. This year's recipient is Investigator Raymond Lagor of Boynton Beach Police Department who was presented the Outstanding SART award at the 2017 Victim Rights Awards Luncheon for his victim centered approach, extensive investigation and successful arrest of a serial rapist.

New Business: Nicole Bishop

- *CS/SB 154: Autism Awareness Training for Law Enforcement Officers:* Requiring the Department of Law Enforcement to establish a continued employment training component relating to autism spectrum disorder, etc. The SART training by AEquitas on May 26, 2017 will address how agencies can implement training relating to autism spectrum disorder.
- EVAWI 2017: Emerging trends and progressive training for SARTs, Review of civil legal remedies and elder sexual assault: detailed information <http://www.evawintl.org>

Member Highlight: Detective Astrel Labbe and K-9 Officer Harley, Boynton Beach Police Department

- Functions of the therapy dog: To provide interaction during investigations to help reduce anxiety and increase communication between victims/witnesses and the investigators and help victims feel more at ease while speaking about their situation
- Therapy dog usage in Law Enforcement: Forensic interviewing, CPT.
- Assisting DCF with child removal. Assisting the State Attorney with depositions of child victims, relocating families of domestic violence. Immediate response to crisis incidents such as shootings, homicide/suicide. Major vehicle accidents, or any other violent act
- Obtaining a therapy dog and the qualification process: The dog must be registered with a nationally recognized therapy dog organization (Harley is registered with Alliance of Therapy Dog/ATD). Observations have to be made for behavioral assessment, dog must be able to complete advanced behavioral training, must be a least 1 year of age, under 50 pounds and great temperament
**Free dogs and free training provided by Brevard County Sheriff Office

SANE Report: Sherry Britton-Susino SANE Coordinator

- For the month of March 2017 all sexual assault exams were performed by Palm Beach County SANE nurses. There were twenty-nine call outs for sexual assault exams. Palm Beach County SANE nurses responded to all twenty-nine of these cases. One cases were non-reporting. Twelve of the exams were conducted at the Butterfly House and ten exams in the emergency room. Seven were SANE response no exam.

Committee Reports: Standing

Community Action Network: Sharon Daugherty, PBCVS Sexual Assault Outreach Coordinator

Training Committee: Susan Carlini

- *SART Sexual Assault Mock Response Training* took place on April 14th at the SART Center.

TRAINERS: SART- Victim Advocate Kelly Roan, Rene Boone, Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner Coordinator Sherry Britton-Susino and SANE nurse Elizabeth Marlowe. Law Enforcement: Detective Jennifer Brashear of Palm Beach Gardens PD and Detective Robert Bragg of Palm Beach County Sheriff Office. Takisha Richardson, Chief of the Special Victims Unit of the SAO as a collaborative approach provided an opportunity to visually see response methods from inception of call, initial fact finding, advocacy, SA exam, interviewing and report writing through a step by step crisis response scenario to teach the participants how to support sexual assault victims through victim-centered care and justice. Sharpen their investigation, documentation, and interview skills in sexual assault cases. All those in attendance stated that they now have a better understanding of response. Because of the success of the mock training SART will be providing another one in the future.

- *Coming Full Circle: Responding to Cases of Sexual Violence Involving Victims with Disabilities*; May 26, 2017: John Wilkinson, Attorney Advisor, Dr. Bev Frantz, Temple University and Deputy Chief John Beyer, Duluth Police Department, Retired PURPOSE: Criminal justice professionals working to improve their response to crimes of sexual violence must be properly equipped for their encounters with victims having developmental disabilities or other special needs. This training will identify some of the unique challenges faced by survivors with disabilities and will provide effective resources and strategies for professionals responsible for investigating and prosecuting their cases. Putting these concepts into practice can improve our ability to come full circle from initial contact through investigation and prosecution of the case.

REGISTRATION INSTRUCTIONS: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/AEquitas>

Campus Committee: Sharon Daugherty

- Nothing to report at this time

Legislative: Nicole Bishop

- Current legislative bills pending in relation to sexual assault:

CS/SB 852: Human Trafficking: Human Trafficking: Requiring the Department of Children and Families or a sheriff's office to conduct a multidisciplinary staffing on child victims of commercial sexual exploitation to determine the child's service and placement needs; revising the continuing medical education course requirements for certain re-licensure or recertification's to include a course in human trafficking; adding human trafficking to the list of crimes requiring pretrial detention of the defendant, etc. 4/20/2017 House, Placed on Special Order Calendar, 04/25/17

CS/SB 970: Trust Fund for Victims of Human Trafficking and Prevention/Department of Legal Affairs: Trust Fund for Victims of Human Trafficking and Prevention/Department of Legal Affairs; Creating the Trust Fund for Victims of Human Trafficking and Prevention within the Department of Legal Affairs; providing for future review and termination or re-creation of the trust fund, etc. 4/20/2017 Senate • Now in Appropriations

SB 286: Human Trafficking Education in Schools: Human Trafficking Education in Schools; Revising the required health education in public schools to include information regarding the dangers and signs of human trafficking, etc. 3/22/2017 Senate • Now in Education -SJ 243

CS/CS/HB 151: Proceedings Involving Minors or Certain Other Persons: Proceedings Involving Minors or Certain Other Persons; Provides that judges may allow use of certain therapy animals or facility dogs in proceedings involving abuse, abandonment, or neglect; allows such animals to be used when taking testimony of certain other persons. Effective Date: 7/1/2017 Location: Final Passage

SB 1208: Sexual Crimes: Sexual Crimes; Redefining the term "sexual battery" to include the intentional touching in a lewd or lascivious manner upon specified areas or the clothing covering such areas; defining the term "disabled person" as it relates to lewd or lascivious offenses committed upon or in the presence of a disabled person; authorizing the Department of Legal Affairs to award relocation assistance to victims of specified sexual offenses, rather than only sexual battery, etc. Location: In committee/council (CJ) Criminal Justice

SB 754: Trauma-informed Services for Children: Trauma-informed Services for Children; Prohibiting a child who has suffered sexual exploitation from being placed in a generic shelter setting when safe-harbor or trauma-informed housing is not available, etc. Location: In committee/council (CF) Children and Families

SART Case Staffing's: Carol Messam Gordon

- The case staffing was held on April 21, 2017. At this case staffing we staffed two cases. One case involved a 17-year-old victim who reported on 2 separate occasions that her dad sexually assaulted her. Everyone involved including the victim advocates, CPT, law enforcement, victim's mother and siblings believed the victim. She was immediately separated from her father and placed with her grandparents. Victim recanted the first case and the 2nd case that occurred almost 1 year later, almost the same incident is being investigated by law enforcement. The team felt that victim needed psychological counseling and the parents were also trying to get psychological counseling for her.

- Second case involved another 17-year-old victim who was sexually assaulted by her aunt's boyfriend. Victim reported the case to a family member who contacted the police. Advocate was at Butterfly House doing inventory and found a deputy inside doing a fact finding interview with the victim without an advocate present. Deputy told the advocate that the hospital security let him in. Advocate explained the procedure to the officer and I also contacted a Sargent who will review the protocol with the deputy. I also changed the code to the Butterfly House and contacted the security department at Wellington Hospital and advised them not to let anyone into Butterfly House with permission from Victim Services staff.

Ad Hoc:

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

Member field discussion: Sgt. Wessendorf of BBPD asked for information from SART members on information regarding a trafficking victim.

Our Sisters Place invite to the Great Give Celebration at McCarthy's Pub on May 17, 2017 as part of the United Way of PBC designed to raise as much money as possible for nonprofits in one day.

Next Meeting: May 25, 2017 from 2:00 – 3:00 PM