



**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, February 25, 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, Belinda Barr, Nicole Bishop, Rene Boone, David Bradford, Jennifer Brashear, Linda Brock, Susan Carlini, Ellen Craddock-Day, Brittany Gutin, Katherine Hatos, Adrienne Hillman, Ana Jimenez, Frank Katen, Astrel Labbe, Michelle Macy, Clare McKinlay, Tanya Meade, Carol Messam-Gordon, Kathryn Oleksy, Quinn Paton, Natalie Peralta, Cheryl Sandhoff, Rob Shelt, Susan Sims, Clifton Smith, Liisa Spinello, JR Thicklin, Jacqueline Valerio, Steve Wessendorf, Alyssa Hyman, Marissa Baker, Joseph Brent, Mary Tumer, Karen Reyes, Kimberly Perez

**Review/Approval of minutes:** January 28, 2016

Members were emailed the minutes and the minutes were approved.

**On-Going Business:** Nicole Bishop

- SART Newsletter- The 1<sup>st</sup> edition of the SART newsletter was presented to SART members.
- SART 2015 Strategic Plan: 95% of the SART goals and objectives were met. Fifty three SART members participated in the construction of the SART 2016- 2017 Strategic Plan. Members will receive a formal strategic plan by email. Briefing of goals and objectives were reviewed.
- Start by Believing campaign- Sharon Daugherty, SART Outreach Coordinator  
State Attorney Dave Aronberg along with Nicole Bishop, Director of Palm Beach County Victim Services & Certified Rape Crisis Center (PBCVS) invited the chiefs of police and sheriff's office to sign on to support the Start by Believing Campaign. On February 25, 2016 22 Chiefs of Police at the Law Enforcement Planning Council signed the pledge. This campaign was adopted by the Sexual Assault Response Team and will continue to grow and include all community agencies leading in the fight against sexual violence in our community.

### **Goal 1: Increase initial responders knowledge**

- Continue to identify gaps and continue to develop protocols.
- Survey law enforcement on training needs and set up in service trainings
- Update the FDLE Block training Signal 35 to include a part 2 for advanced SA responders.
- Create a training simulation for responding.
- Work on EMS video on best practices.
- Complete disability guide and train.
- Campus LE response training for persons with disabilities.
- Design training on preserving evidence and cross contamination during initial stages.
- Create structured hyperlink to protocols within SART website.
- Identify OVW Technical Assistance providers to conduct training for PBC SART.
- Provide funding for SART members to attend conferences to obtain best-practice information and resources.

### **Goal 2: Increase victim trust through improved SART response.**

- Continue to reach out to the disabled community to provide education and assistance with access to services;
- Provide training to the judicial to improve handling of sexual assault and domestic violence cases.

### **Goal 3: Improve evidence collection.**

- Create power point training for law enforcement when collecting evidence at crime scenes with an emphasis on critical thinking.
- Provide in-service training to ER staff on kit collection instructions and related protocols to ensure uniformity of evidence collection.
- Develop a hospital resource guide/flow chart for accessing established resources to assist victims.

### **Goal 4: Increase sensitivity to survivors from underserved/marginalized populations.**

- Incorporate diversity and cultural awareness into SART Signal 35 trainings.
- Hold faith-based training events for African American/Diaspora churches to increase knowledge.
- Provide training with SART and OVW partners to African American/Diaspora clergy on sexual assault, domestic violence, and intimate partner violence.
- Implement a process for domestic violence providers to screen for sexual violence: provide trainings to direct service provider community.

### **Goal 5: Structure SART to meet the needs of the community.**

- Hold regularly scheduled monthly meetings.
- Review training committee's goals for 2016 & 2017 via review of goals and objectives.
- Maintain SART member website. Post all protocols, amendments to protocols, SART training video, meeting updates.
- Re-evaluate topics of interest/preferred meeting schedule of SART members via survey.
- Increase participation of culturally specific and first responder community organizations serving underserved populations at SART.

### **Goal 6: Maintain the capability of the SANE program to respond 24/7.**

- Update existing SANE staff of training opportunities (webinars, conferences, etc).

- Together with the State Attorney's Office (Special Victims Unit) train SANEs on providing expert witness testimony.
- Conduct quality assurance reviews of charts to identify training needs.
- Offer simulation training for nurses to maintain skill.

**New Business:** Nicole Bishop

- National Institute of Justice: Notifying sexual assault victims after testing: Testing SAKs in older cases can raise complex legal and psychological issues for the victim. Notifying victims can trigger memories and feelings regarding the assault, and this re-traumatization can cause flashbacks and other symptoms, exacerbate post-traumatic stress disorder and other mental health issues, and affect substance use or abuse. Therefore, the Houston and Detroit multidisciplinary teams made it a goal to develop "victim centered," "trauma-informed" protocols for notifying victims regarding the testing of their SAKs. (See Attachment: U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs *National Institute of Justice*)

**Member Highlight:** FoundCare Inc., Project Coordinator, Quinn Paton and HIV Testing Coordinator, Marissa Baker

- Quinn Paton discussed the Substance Abuse Prevention/HIV prevention Intervention project (SAMHSA). The project will target minority 18-24 year olds in the 33407 West Palm Beach and 33401 Boynton Beach communities. The goal is to identify the key factors in implementation and evaluation of a community-focused prevention/intervention protocol that encourages and enables adolescents/young adults and women who are at risk for HIV/AIDS to reduce high-risk behaviors and practices. Develop and test reliable and valid outcome measures, at both the individual and community levels, to assess the effectiveness of the intervention in reducing high-risk behaviors among adolescents/young adults and women. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). The purpose of Project SHIELD is to develop and test, under real-world conditions, relatively brief behavior change interventions aimed at two subgroups at high risk for HIV infection: adolescents/young adults and women. Participants in the survey will receive gift cards.
- Marissa Baker discussed the services of CAP which offers a variety of prevention education programs for the community to learn about HIV/AIDS, educate individuals how to reduce the risk of infection, and how to practice safe sex. CAP programs teach community members to recognize their individual risk of infection and make healthier decisions. CAP staff participates in health fairs, street fairs, workshops, forums, and conduct street outreach in high-risk neighborhoods. CAP collaborates with local businesses to promote prevention and education  
CAP offers a FREE HIV 104 class to healthcare professionals and the public. The HIV 104 session is a 4-hour class that is designed to provide individuals with a basic understanding of the history, origin, immunology, transmission, testing, prevention, medical treatment, social, and legal issues relating to HIV and AIDS. SART members were provided with a training schedule, registration, and contact information.

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

- SANE report for the month of January 2016: There were 26 Sexual Assault call outs, 21 exams completed and the SANE response was 97% for this reporting period.

**Committee Reports:** Standing

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

FLASH MOB 2016: FRIDAY APRIL 1, 2016 @ 5 PM.

WHERE: CITYPLACE IN FRONT OF FOUNTAIN

ATTIRE: YOUR UNIFORM OR BUSINESS ATTIRE - OR WEAR TEAL

All those who would like to participate are to meet in the center staging area of City Place. The flash mob will start promptly at 6:00 PM. GStar High School of the arts will be participating, assisting with the choreography, and videotaping the event. Registration for the event can be done at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FLASHMOB2016>

Flyers distributed to members at meeting.

Valerie Messineo, SART sexual assault advocate spoke about Lauren's Walk on March 21, 2016, @ 10:30am at Palm Beach County Victim Services' SART office. Lauren's Kids Foundation will be presenting *A Guide to Hope & Healing*. This one-hour presentation will provide information to help families begin the healing process following a child's disclosure of sexual abuse. They are inviting advocates, therapists, case coordinators, or social work professionals who work with parents or children of sexual abuse. This training is only open to 50 people so please register at

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SMTWKRJ>

12:30pm – 2:30pm, they will be hosting a FREE community event at the Palm Beach County Historical Society in downtown West Palm Beach. This event is open to professionals, families, children, and Lauren's Walk participants. Lauren's Walk will begin at 3:00pm from the Palm Beach County Historical Society. The walk will include a 4.2 mile loop that will begin and end at the same location. It will conclude at approximately 4:30pm. The walk is open to anyone in Palm Beach County. To register please go to: <https://laurenkids.org/Walk/> Each walk participant is \$15 or sign up any (2) or more walkers for \$25 total. All other events are free. This includes drawstring bag, t-shirt, wristband, and other goodies! (SART members were provided with flyers)

- **Training Committee:** Susan Carlini, SART/OVW Grant Coordinator
  1. The training committee continues to work on the SART voluntary designation curriculum for Train-U with an expectation of completion by March 21, 2016. Filming for Train-U is ongoing.
  2. February 9, 10, 11<sup>th</sup>, SART advocates provided roll call training to 60 officers and detectives of the Riviera Beach Police Department.

3. FDLE update: SART trained on *Crimes against Children* at the FDLE advanced training academy on February 17, 2016. The next SART training at the academy, *Human Trafficking* on April 1, 2016.
  4. Florida Sex Crimes Conference will be July 31 thru August 6, 2016 at the Jupiter Beach Resort. SART members were emailed registration details.
  5. Florida Council against Sexual Violence *Whisper to Roar* training summit will be on May 11 – May 13, 2016 in Jacksonville Florida.
- **Campus Committee:** Sharon Daugherty  
Nothing to report at this time.

- **Legislative Committee:** Nicole Bishop

**1. HB 179 (Adkins)/SB 636 (Benacquisto) – Evidence Collected in Sexual Assault Investigations**

The bill creates s. 943.326, F.S., to require a Sexual Offense Evidence Kit, or other DNA evidence if such kit is not collected, to be submitted to a member of the statewide criminal analysis laboratory system for forensic testing within the earlier of 30 days after: Receipt of the evidence by a law enforcement agency if a report of the sexual offense is made to the agency; or A request to have the evidence tested is made by the alleged victim or a specified representative of the victim. The bill further requires that an alleged victim or certain representatives of the victim be informed of the purpose for and right to demand testing of such evidence. It also requires testing of SOEKs be completed within 120 days, and requires FDLE and others to adopt guidelines for the collection, submission, and testing of DNA evidence and specifies that the section does not create certain causes of action or rights.

House and Senate bills unanimously passed their final committees on 2/18.

**2. HB 75 (Torres)/SB 954 (Simmons) – Electronic Monitoring Devices**

Prohibits person from removing, destroying, altering, tampering with, damaging, or circumventing operation of electronic monitoring device being worn or used pursuant to court order or order by Florida Commission on Offender Review; prohibits request, authorization, or solicitation of person to perform such act; specifies that DOC may electronically monitor offender sentenced to community control when court has imposed electronic monitoring as condition of community control

House bill is on 2<sup>nd</sup> reading calendar. Senate bill has passed its final committee.

**3. HB 101 (Rodriguez)/SB 380 (Abruzzo) – Violation of an Injunction for Protection**

Provide enhanced criminal penalties for a person who commits a third or subsequent violation of an injunction for protection or a foreign protection order against domestic

violence, repeat violence, sexual violence, dating violence, stalking or cyber stalking by making such violation a third degree felony.

House bill is on 2<sup>nd</sup> reading calendar. Senate bill passed the Senate 40-0 on 2/11.

**4. HB 545 (Spano)/SB 784 (Flores) –Human Trafficking**

Includes human trafficking as predicate offense for felony murder; prohibits permanently branding, or directing permanent branding, of victim of human trafficking; requires DOH to suspend license of massage therapist or massage establishment for specified violations in conjunction with establishment; provides that licensed massage therapist may not receive new or renewal license if applicant is convicted of certain prostitution offenses in conjunction with massage establishment; provides that licensed massage establishment may not receive new or renewal license if specified persons connected with establishment are convicted of certain prostitution offenses in conjunction with establishment; provides that minors may not be charged with specified prostitution offenses; requires person convicted of specified racketeering offenses to register as sexual predator or sexual offender; reenacts various provisions.

House bill on 2<sup>nd</sup> reading calendar. Senate bill passed its final committee on 2/17

**5. HB 1367 (Nunez)/SB 1294 (Grimsley) – Offenses Involving Minors and Vulnerable Persons**

Increasing the maximum age at which a victim or witness may be allowed to testify via closed circuit television rather than in a courtroom in certain circumstances; including human trafficking as an underlying felony offense to support a felony murder conviction; providing increased criminal penalties for human trafficking offenses if the victim suffers great bodily harm, permanent disability, or permanent disfigurement, etc

House bill yet to be heard in first of three committees. Senate bill passed its second of three committees on 2/16.

**6. HB 1333 (Baxley)/SB 1662 (Bradley) – Sexual Offenders**

Revises sexual predator & offender criteria; revises reporting & registration requirements; revises elements of offense of loitering or prowling by certain offenders in close proximity to children; revises provisions relating for venue for proceedings for seeking removal of requirement to register as sexual predator or offender; requires that removal of registration requirement not conflict with federal law requirement; revises requirements concerning information to be released by DOC & DJJ regarding sexual offenders being released.

House bill in final committee. Senate bill passed its second of three committees on 2/16.

- **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...*

2/12/16 case staffing: 6 complex cases were staffed. Advocates, law enforcement, and SANE discussed the cases, reviewed appropriate services. Law enforcement and SART staff discussed consistency of calling an advocate for control calls, interviews, follow up interviews, and for photo line-ups to ensure and utilize the victim centered approach. Case staffing's held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of each month. Law enforcement was encouraged to bring forth cases to be staffed.

**AdHoc:**

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

**Member field discussion:**

- Rob Shelt, Victims Services Program Manager announced the Green Dot Grant position, 1 full time coordinator and 1 part time position will be posted starting March 29, 2016.
- Rene Boone, SART Lead Advocate praised PBSO for a great job of team work, a victim centered approach, and coordination on 3 cases that were back to back.

**Next Meeting:** March 31, 2016 from 2:00 – 3:00 PM