



**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 23, 2017**

**Call to Order:** Carol Messam-Gordon, Program Coordinator, Palm Beach County Victim Services & Certified Rape Crisis Center (PBCVS)

**Welcome / Introductions of Members and Guests:** Amber Ahern, Rene Boone, Sherry Britton-Susino, Corey Campbell, Susan Carlini, Dashna Clairissaint, Kimberlee Coffindaffer, Sharon Daugherty, Adrienne Hillman, Michael Ladda, Michelle Macy, Carol Messam-Gordon, Valerio Messineo, Kathryn Oleksy, Natalie Peralta, Kelly Roan, Rob Shelt, Clifton Smith, JR Thicklin, Julie Weil, Yesenia Collura, Elizabeth Marlowe, 'Jumorrow Johnson, Ryan Mugridge, Margaret Murphy, Teri Mitze, Louis Potter, Takisha Saffold, Darian Matos, Ileanna Diaz.

**Review/Approval of minutes:** January 26, 2016

Members were emailed the minutes and the minutes were approved

**On-Going Business:** Carol Messam-Gordon

- Outstanding SART member award 2017:  
The SART member outstanding award nominations forms were sent out to members. To qualify for this award, the nominated member must be a standing member of the SART in 2016. The purpose of the SART member is to strengthen relationships, build agency collaborations, and increase communication and clarification that will ultimately result in the best possible outcome for the Sexual Assault victims we serve. The member shall be an individual who has promoted the mission of SART and shown exemplary dedication to the victim centered approach.  
Carol read the nominations from of the SART members:  
Detective Schack of Lake Clarke Shores Police Department, Detective Yesenia Collura of North Palm Beach Police Department, Survivor Advocate Julie Weil, CILO Victim Advocate Tanya Meade and Investigator Ray Lagor of Boynton Beach Police Department. Members were encourage to vote at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/sartaward> and place your vote. Voting will be open until March 17, 2017 @ 5:00 pm.

## **New Business:** Carol Messam-Gordon

- SART website launch- Susan Carlini, SART Coordinator

Members were introduced to the SART website. The website will provide members with access to the SART strategic plan, most current protocols, links to member agencies, training videos, SART, SART training committee and CAN meeting agendas, minutes and schedule. There is a section for all upcoming trainings with links to register. The SART newsletters will also be accessible through the website. <http://pbcsart.org>

- National Victims' Rights Week "Strength, Resilience, Justice", Upcoming Events April 2 – 8, 2017 "Week-At-A-Glance"

➤ April 2, 2017 "Thrive; From Struggle to Survivor", 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM

Presenter: Coalition for Independent Living Options (CILO)

➤ April 3, 2017 "Opening Ceremony Press Conference"

April 4, 2017 "*How NOT To Be A Victim*"

Presenter: Delray Beach Police Department/Investigative & Training Divisions

➤ April 5, 2017 "Green Dot" Overview of Palm Beach County's Green Dot Program

Presenters: Clarice Redding & Sandy Reynolds

➤ April 6, 2017 "*Ceremony in the Garden*" ~ *Honoring All Crime Victims in Palm Beach County*

Presenter: Palm Beach County Victim Services & Certified Rape Crisis Center

➤ April 7, 2017 "37th Annual Crime Victim Rights Week Awards Luncheon"

➤ April 8, 2017 "*Walk For Victim's Rights*"

- SAAM: Sexual Assault Awareness Month- Carol Messam-Gordon

Carol stated she will be preparing a Proclamation to be sponsored by a commissioner declaring April sexual Assault Awareness Month.

Sexual Assault Awareness Month Day of Action is scheduled for Tuesday April 4th this year. This is nationally recognized in the United States as a specific day to focus awareness on Sexual assault prevention. Through coordinated planning of special events, we can raise awareness, media attention and national momentum for ending and preventing sexual violence. On Tuesday, April 4th we will be kicking off the day of action here at SART with the Field of Hope (see attached flyer)

Healing through the art will be Friday April 4<sup>th</sup>. (See attached flyer)

Denim Day is Wednesday April 26- This day of action is recognized all over the world where you will be taking action and Wearing jeans with a purpose, to support survivors, and to educate yourself and others about sexual assault.

### **Member Highlight:** Amber Ahern, South Florida Link Coalition

- The South Florida Link Coalition is a multi-disciplinary, collaborative initiative created to increase education and awareness, address public policy, create programs, and lead research on The Link between animal cruelty and human violence. A correlation between animal cruelty, family violence, and other forms of interpersonal violence has been established through diligent research. By this research, we have studied not only the relationship between these social problems, but also the numerous affects that this relationship has on children, individuals, families, society, the criminal justice and health care systems, and more. Family and animal protection professionals, law enforcement, and prosecutors have recognized The Link® in their work, noting that abuse of both people and animals is connected in a self-perpetuating cycle of violence. When animals in a home are abused or neglected, it is a warning sign that others in the household may not be safe. It is with this knowledge we can help to break the cycle of violence in households and in communities. The South Florida Link Coalition facilitates community and social change regarding Link issues by working to bring members of the community, government, criminal justice system, health care system, animal welfare agencies, and human services together, in order to foster healthy relationships between people and animals and reach goals that will positively impact public health and safety. Hotline 1-877-999-5374  
<https://www.thesouthfloridalinkcoalition.org/>

### **SANE Report:** Sherry Britton-Susino SANE Coordinator

- For the month of February 2017 all sexual assault exams were performed by Palm Beach County SANE nurses. There were thirty-two call outs for sexual assault exams. Palm Beach County SANE nurses responded to all thirty-two of these cases. Four cases were non-reporting. Nine of the exams were conducted at the Butterfly House and fifteen exams in the emergency room. Eight were SANE response no exam.
- Two new SANE SOPs were submitted for approval. *Sexually Transmitted Infection Prophylaxis* and *Emergency Contraception for Sexual Assault Victims and HIV Postexposure Prophylaxis for Sexual Assault Victims*
- Seven nurses at West Boca Medical Center were trained and eight at Bethesda West Medical Center.

### **Committee Reports:** Standing

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

- Survivor Action Team: presented at the Rescue Upstream event, “Out of the Shadow” on PBSC campus. Male survivor panel comprised of Michael Dolce, Randy LaPierre & Brent Berman, with PBCVS therapist Amy Schaffer. Camara Hall presented the spoken word performance of, “You are not forgotten.”
- PBC Book Display: Six locations are chosen and the book list has been created.

Lauren's Walk (LW): FCASV, Nancy Cotterman Center & LW are partnering to create a "Walk in my Shoes" event April 19-21 at the Capitol Rotunda in Tallahassee. Monica reported on extensive & time consuming requirements to send actual shoes.

**Training Committee:** Susan Carlini

- February 15, 2017- SART OVW grant partner Coalition for Independent Living Options will provide a four hour *Responding to persons with disabilities* training for PBCSO Hostage Negotiation Team.
- February 21- provided training to South Palm Beach PD
- Friday, April 14, 2017 -SART Sexual Assault Mock Response Training from 8:30 am – 12:30 pm @ the SART Center. PURPOSE: Support sexual assault victims through victim-centered care and justice. Sharpen your investigation, documentation, and interview skills in sexual assault cases. Training is an opportunity to visually see response methods from inception of call, initial fact finding, advocacy, SA exam, interviewing and report writing. TRAINERS: SART- Victim Advocate, Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner Coordinator, Law Enforcement and Chief of the Special Victims Unit of the SAO.  
TARGET AUDIENCE: Law Enforcement and PBCVS advocates (LIMIT 50 Seats)  
REGISTRATION INSTRUCTIONS: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ZSB57F9>
- Friday May 26 -Working with victims with disabilities: Aequitas attorney advisors, The prosecutors resource on violence against women. Dr Bev Frantz, (Temple University Institute on Disabilities): Dr. Frantz coordinates the Sexual Health and Criminal Justice initiatives at the Institute. She has published numerous personal safety/sexual abuse curricula, peer reviewed journal articles, and is a nationally recognized speaker. Dr. Frantz is the co-founder of A Woman's Place, a domestic violence shelter, serves on the faculty of the PA Victim Assistance Academy, and is a Vera Institute of Justice Associate. Retired Duluth Minnesota Deputy Chief John Beyer: specializes in training and safety assessment, investigating and developing a coordinated response to DV and SA.

**Campus Committee:** Sharon Daugherty

- Nothing to report at this time

**Legislative:** Susan Carlini

- File bills now in session:

SB 628: Transmission of Disease Through Bodily Fluids

GENERAL BILL by [Garcia](#) ; (CO-INTRODUCERS) [Campbell](#) Transmission of Disease Through Bodily Fluids; Reclassifying a criminal offense relating to the donation of blood, plasma, organs, skin, or other human tissue; expanding the scope of unlawful acts by a person infected with a sexually transmissible disease; requiring that a person who commits, rather than one who attempts to commit, an offense involving the transmission of semen or vaginal secretions must undergo HIV testing, etc.

- SB 684: Internet Identifiers

GENERAL BILL by [Baxley](#) Internet Identifiers; Requiring a sexual predator to register each Internet identifier's corresponding website homepage or application software name with the Department of Law Enforcement through the sheriff's office; requiring a sexual offender, upon initial registration, to report in person at the sheriff's office; requiring a

sexual offender to report any change to certain information after initial in-person registration in a specified manner, etc.

- CS/SB 852: Human Trafficking  
GENERAL BILL by Criminal Justice ; [Garcia](#) ; (CO-INTRODUCERS) [Benacquisto](#) ; [Flores](#) ; [Campbell](#) 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; defining the term "commercial sexual exploitation"; adding human trafficking to the list of crimes requiring pretrial detention of the defendant, etc.

#### **SART Case Staffing's:** Carol Messam Gordon

- The SART case staffing was held on February 13, 2017 here at the SART Center location. At this case staffing we staffed 2 cases. One case involved a 40-year-old male victim who was sexually assaulted and required HIV medication. We were able to review our policy on assisting with the HIV prophylaxis. We have met with Walgreens to work out a procedure for the HIV medication to be easily available to victims in our county. Victim is receiving coordinated advocacy, therapy and medical follow-up services from our office. The 2<sup>nd</sup> case involved a victim who has reported being sexually assaulted approximately 6 times during the month of January. Staff is concerned about this victims well-being based on the frequency of victims reported sexual assault and providing no information when the advocate and SANE respond. Staff wanted to staff this case for the purpose of coordinating services for this victim. The next case staff is scheduled for Friday, March 10, 10am to 12pm

#### **Ad Hoc:**

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

**Member field discussion:** Nothing at this time.

**Next Meeting:** March 30, 2017 from 2:00 – 3:00 PM