



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, January 26, 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, Jessica Banks, Ronnie Barker, Rene Boone, Jennifer Brashear, Sherry Britton-Susino, Linda Brock, Susan Carlini, Kenneth Clark, Dashna Clairissaint, 'Kymberlee Coffindaffer', Cameron Cook, Ellen Craddock-Day, Sharon Daugherty, Kelly Dambra, Monica Gonzalez, Eric Keith, Alexa Lee, Michelle Macy, Tanya Meade, Carol Messam-Gordon, Patty Mika, R. Moschetto, Kathryn Oleksy, Natalie Roberts, Jill Raftery, Kelly Roan, Clifton Smith, Maura Smith, JR Thicklin, Matt Tyler, Elizabeth Marlowe, Louis Potter, Gena Rowlands, Jane Wagley, Margaret Murphy, Christina Silvestri, Brad Jordan, Richardo Jackson, Miranda Jerry, Maria Golvask.

Review/Approval of minutes: November 17, 2016

Members were emailed the minutes and the minutes were approved

On-Going Business: Carol Messam-Gordon and Susan Carlini, OVW Grant Coordinator

- The SART survey results were presented to the SART members. There was a total of 63 responses. 34 % response from law enforcement, 20% advocacy, 15% medical, 21% all other. 76% of members surveyed attend SART meetings. 100% agree there is an effectiveness of SART as a communitywide multidisciplinary coordinating group that promotes a comprehensive response. 100% stated that as a SART member they have formed linkage to other agencies and that the SART team mission to engage in a collaborative victim centered approach is 100%.
- Carol reviewed SART protocol revisions for forensic testing, general orders, general orders summary, and non-reporting as it related to SB 636 and the Child protection team new protocol. The State Attorney's office has officially approved the protocols and today January 26, 2017 the Law Enforcement Planning Council (LEPC) approved for dissemination to all departments. Carol briefly reviewed the changes to each protocol and copies were provided to members. In addition, the new SART/CPT protocol was reviewed and provided to all members.

New Business: Carol Messam-Gordon and Susan Carlini

- 2017 SART OVW Grant: Carol reviewed the 2017 OVW Improving Criminal Justice Responses to Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, and Stalking Grant Program. The grant is designed to encourage partnerships among state, local, and tribal governments, courts, victim service providers, coalitions and rape crisis centers, to ensure that sexual assault,

domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking are treated seriously, requiring the coordinated involvement of the entire criminal justice system and community-based victim service organizations. The Improving Criminal Justice Responses Program challenges the community to work collaboratively to identify problems and share ideas that will result in effective responses to ensure victim safety and offender accountability. A coordinated community response that brings together effective partners from the local government including law enforcement agencies, prosecutors' offices and courts, nonprofit organizations, and population specific organizations is critical to the Improving Criminal Justice Responses Program.

Member Highlight: Jane Wagley, Program advocate, Our Sisters Place, Inc.

- Jane talked about several of the programs and services Our Sisters Place offers: Outreach and advocacy program provides 24/7 crisis line, safety planning, advocacy, individual support, education and weekly support groups. They provide victims who want to relocate with relocation assistance, movers who will pick up and deliver to a victim's new home and for many transitional housing. Victims are assisted with injunctions for protection, court accompaniment and may be provided with an attorney to represent them in court. Our Sisters Place is funded by donations to their thrift store which also provides household and clothing items to victims in need. The program although mainly assisting victims of domestic abuse will also assist a sexual assault victim.

Monica Gonzalez, MEd, LMHC, Palm Beach County Victim Services Licensed Therapist

- *Healing Through the Arts* (A sexual assault survivor art showcase)
Saturday April 1st @ 4pm
Poetry, Dance, Singing. Art pieces (sculpture, canvases, photography), Books, Pieces will continue to be displayed throughout the month throughout the county (library, courthouse, downtown at the Gardens, mall)
- PBCVS Sexual Assault Trauma Support Group: *Pathways to Healing, a sexual assault support group for women* every Tuesday from 4:30 -6:00 pm at the Palm Beach County Main Courthouse.

SANE Report: Sherry Britton-Susino SANE Coordinator

- For the months of November and December all sexual assault exams were performed by Palm Beach County SANE nurses. There were forty-five call outs for sexual assault exams. Palm Beach County SANE nurses responded to all forty-five of these cases. Two cases were non-reporting; Twenty-one exams were conducted at the Butterfly House and fifteen exams in the emergency room. Eight was SANE response no exam.
- Two new SANE SOPs were implemented on December 1, 2016: *Consent for SANE exam* and *non-reporting* steps for SANEs to utilize when doing forensic exams.
- The SANE Coordinator presented on SANE procedures to 31 medical staff.

Committee Reports: Standing

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

Hispanic Guatemalan community event: Palm Beach County reached out to 288 citizens during a special Hispanic Guatemalan community event on January 22. The community-based partnership event held at St. John Fisher Church in West Palm Beach emphasized crime prevention, and resources and

services available to crime victims through building trust from a working relationship between the Hispanic Guatemalan population and the dedicated agencies represented at the event. Representatives included Palm Beach County Victim Services & Certified Rape Center, the West Palm Beach Police Department, the city of West Palm Beach, West Palm Beach Police Explorers & Cadets, the Center for Independent Living Options/CILO, Aid to Victims of Domestic Abuse/AVDA, El Sol, Catholic Charities, the Legal Aid Society of Palm Beach County, Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies, the Boys & Girls Clubs, Rybovich Yacht Builders, and the Honorary Consul of Guatemala in Palm Beach County. Each met with the members of the Hispanic Guatemalan community on a one-to-one basis and through small group discussions. Attendees learned about the rights of crime victims and services available to them and received a special, personal commitment from West Palm Beach Mayor Jeri Muoio who was on hand to give her support.

Survivor Action Team: Palm Beach County Victim Services & Certified Rape Crisis Center joined Rescue Upstream and the Palm Beach State College Human Trafficking Committee on their Lake Worth campus to raise awareness. The "Out of the Shadows" daytime event included presentations about human trafficking with an emphasis on the direct link of pornography with trafficking. Camera Hall, Survivor Action Team member and founder of Stolen People, gave a powerful spoken word performance of, "You are not forgotten", depicting the invisibility of trafficking victims hidden in plain sight.

The evening segment provided a Human Trafficking documentary followed by discussion with the audience. There was specific outreach to male survivors by providing a speaker panel with Randy LaPierre, Brent Berman, Psychotherapist, also **Survivor Action Team** members and Amy Schafer, PBCVS therapist

Training Committee: Susan Carlini

- SART Sexual Assault Mock Response Training
DATE: Friday, April 14, 2017
TIME: 8:30 am – 12:30 pm
LOCATION: SART Center @ 4210 N. Australian Ave, WPB 33407
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>
- Responding to Persons with Disabilities: Tentative May 26, 2017. Trainers will be AEquitas, The Prosecutors' Resource on Violence against Women and Dr. Bev Frantz of Temple University. Members will be sent updated registration information.

Campus Committee: Sharon Daugherty

- Nothing to report at this time

Legislative: Susan Carlini

- Joseph Sophie, Legislative Aide to County Commissioner Melissa McKinlay provided an article titled *Congressional Republicans will be looking to reverse some of the Obama administration's moves on college sexual assault*: Susan briefed the article from members.
<http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2017/01/12/congressional-republicans-look-to-rein-in-obamas-actions-on-college-sexual-assault.html>

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

- On January 11, 2017 at the request of CPT a case involving 2 minor runaway victims was staffed at CPT with representatives from CPT, DCF, Multilingual Psychotherapy Counseling Center, Miami Dade Police Department, Victim Services Advocate, Program Coordinators and SANE Nurse Coordinator. Victims ran away from their home in West Palm Beach and were transported to Miami where they were trafficked and sexually assaulted. Victims were located by Miami Police Department, were interviewed without an advocate and a forensic exam was not done. After the interviews, victims were turned over to DCF and their legal guardians. Victims returned to this county and while in this county one parent brought one victim to an area hospital and the other to CPT for a forensic exam. Victim advocate assigned to one victim was able to coordinate with her supervisor and an administrator at CPT for both victims to be seen at CPT. At the staffing we were able to review the roles of all involved in this case. We also contacted the FBI to participate in the investigation. Assigned advocate will continue to provide services to victims as it relates to therapy and advocacy while they are living in this county. If victims have to go to court for the criminal case, assigned advocate in this county will coordinate court accompaniment services with Miami Victim Services.

Ad Hoc:

- The CPT protocol subcommittee and the non-reporting subcommittee has completed tasks.
- **Walk in Their Shoes:** In progress

Member field discussion: Nothing at this time.

Next Meeting: February 23, 2017 from 2:00 – 3:00 PM