



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 June 29, 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: Zac Aldridge, Oren Alter, Brandon Biedenman, Rene Boone, Sherry Britton-Susino, Corey Campbell, Susan Carlini, Crystal Conway, Ellen Craddock-Day, Sharon Daugherty, Holly DiBenedetto, Tanya Fresneda, William Genem, Monica Gonzalez, Brittany Gutin, Jumorrow Johnson, Lazarus Kimsal, Nicole Martinez, Evelyn Gorfido, Carol Messam-Gordon, Valerie Messineo, Robin Moschetto, Kathryn Oleksy, Kelly Roan, Christina Silvestri, Susan Sims, Clifton Smith, Glenn Stahl, Mark Vertefeuille, Steve Wessendorf, Linda Roman, Mary Villamil, Barbara Rodriquez-Nanero, Betzy Rega, Kimberly Shields, Ariana Ciancio, Vaness O'Steen.

Review/Approval of minutes: May 25, 2016, minutes were approved by members

On-Going Business: Carol Messam-Gordon

- Prison Release Elimination Act (PREA) Update: Florida Department and Palm Beach County agree to provide services to incarcerated victims of sexual violence in Palm Beach County, in a manner that aligns with the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) standards established by the U.S. Department of Justice, best practice standards in the field of sexual violence victim services, and what is adequate with services available to sexual violence victims in the community at large.
- **Responsibilities of the Department:** Any time that an incident or allegation of sexual abuse is discovered or reported that requires a the activation of this agreement, the Department will call (if requested by the inmate victim) the County to request a victim advocate respond to accompany the inmate during the sexual assault forensic exam and provide other advocacy services; Provide a 24/7 rape crisis helpline, staffed by certified rape crisis victim advocates; Provide a mailing address for inmate victims to send correspondence; Provide a certified rape crisis victim advocate to respond to requests for advocacy and accompaniment during sexual assault forensic exams and investigatory interviews; Provide follow-up advocacy services and crisis intervention to inmate victims of sexual assault, as resources allow; Provide the Department with the name of the advocate responding to accompany the inmate on the forensic exam, investigatory interview or individual counseling/advocacy/follow-up session; Maintain privileged communication with clients as required by state and federal law and the County's policies;

- Victim Services staff visited SAGO Palm Re-Entry facility to meet staff and to know where they will be responding to provide assistance to victims.
- Florida Council Against Sexual Violence (FCASV) Coordinating Council: The Statewide SART (Sexual Assault Response Team) Advisory Committee is a statewide group coordinated by FCASV and comprised of representatives from a broad range of disciplines whose work brings them into contact with rape survivors. The committee works to assess and improve Florida's response to survivors of sexual violence at the state and local level. The 2016-2017 session of the Statewide SART advisory committee worked together to formulate a report on the systemic response to SA. The committee's report will be released in June 2017. For update on this report: <https://www.fcasv.org/new-statewide-sart-advisory-committee>

New Business: Carol Messam-Gordon

- FCASV update 2017 survey results on immigration survivors of sexual assault, domestic violence, and human trafficking: Congress created important protections for immigrant survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault and human trafficking in the Violence against women Act (VAWA) and Trafficking Victims Prevention ACT (TPVA) in the express recognition that abusers often exploit a victim's lack of immigration status as a tactic of abuse. Many advocates are hearing from immigrant survivors that they have increased fear and concerns about reaching out for help. In some places advocates are reporting a decrease in immigrant survivors contacting their agencies for assistance. The "2017 Advocate and Legal Service Survey Regarding Immigrant Survivors" was conducted last month by a coalition of national organizations focused on domestic violence and sexual assault.
To better understand these concerns, a coalition of national organizations sent out a survey in April asking for feedback. The group collected responses from 715 advocates and attorneys from 46 states and district of Columbia asking them about the issues confronting immigrant survivors seeking services and information about specific incidents. They found that a majority of respondents are seeing an increase in fear among their immigrant clients, some of whom are fearful of even calling 911 or seeking medical assistance.
 - 62% of respondents—a group that includes both social and legal services providers—said they have seen an increase in immigration-related questions from survivors;
 - 78% of respondents said that survivors had expressed concerns about contacting police due to fears that it would open them up to deportation;
 - 75% said that survivors had expressed concerns about going to court for a matter related to their abuser, a concern that was likely exacerbated by the highly reported courthouse arrest of a domestic violence victim seeking a protective order against her abuser earlier this year;
- 43% of respondents also said that the survivors they have worked with have dropped criminal or civil cases related to their abuse because they were fearful of potentially opening themselves up to enforcement. For further information: [survey findings](#)

Member Highlight: Christina Silvestri, Program Administrator, Catholic Charities Diocese of Palm Beach

Enhanced Collaborative Task Force to Combat Human Trafficking

Collaborative Initiative through the Department of Justice- Bureau of Justice Assistance & Office for Victims of Crime.

Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office: Law Enforcement Partner, Catholic Charities of Diocese of Palm Beach: Victim Service Provider Partner, Barry University: Program Evaluation Partner

Key Project Objectives: Develop a Multi-Disciplinary Human Trafficking Task Force, Make Data-Driven Decisions, Identify Victims of All Types of Human Trafficking, Conduct Proactive, Specialized Investigative Operations, Provide a Comprehensive Array of Victim Services.

Comprehensive Case Management Model: Once a survivor has been identified by PBSO, a CCDPB Case Manager meets with the survivor; completes a thorough intake and needs assessment; and ensures that the survivor makes an informed decision about the support and services needed.

Provide Comprehensive Restorative Services to Human Trafficking Survivors: Comprehensive Services Offered:

Intake and Eligibility Assessment

Intensive Case Management

Sustenance (Food and Clothing)

Housing (Emergency, Transitional, Long-Term)

Interpreter-Translator Services

Legal Immigration Services

Legal Assistance on Family and Civil Matters Assistance in achieving HHS Certification for Foreign-Born Survivors

Victim Advocacy/Emotional Support

Literacy Education, Job Training, GED Assistance, Employment Services

Orientation and Life Skills Training

24-Hour Response

Counseling Services

Substance Abuse Services

Transportation

Medical Appointments

Email: csilvestri@ccdpb.org for further information and services

SANE Report: Sherry Britton-Susino, PBCVS SANE Coordinator

- For the month of May 2017 all sexual assault exams were performed by Palm Beach County SANE nurses. There were Thirty call outs for sexual assault exams. Palm Beach County SANE nurses responded to all thirty of these cases. One case was non-reporting. Fourteen of the exams were conducted at the Butterfly House and eleven exams in the emergency room. Five were SANE response no exam. Sherry created an ER Nurse pocket point card to guide nurses in caring for victims of sexual assault and improving evidence collection.

Committee Reports: Sharon Daugherty, Palm Beach County Victim Services Sexual Assault Outreach Coordinator

Standing

- Survivor Action Team: A tentative meeting is scheduled for Saturday, July 29, 2017 at SART. Refer empowered survivors
Our PSA won the Telly award (see my write up –attached)
- Rape Aggression Defense training/RAD - Jumorrow from FAU connected Rene. Jumorrow got approval from Captain Bramer before SART meeting ended.
- Safety Videos – 30 second videos on safety tips. One tip per PSA. Attendees were asked & submitted one safety tip to Sharon
- Brochures: Carol called her connection @ the Human Trafficking Task Force who confirmed they are creating a HT brochure for victims.
- Events on the yearly calendar: Street Painting: Review to assess feasibility. Pride fest: planning to participate Jupiter Jubilee: will be tabling

- [Palm Beach County Public Safety & Public Affairs take home the bronze!!](#)
Palm Beach County SART Public Service Announcement has won a national award, the Bronze Telly in the General-Public Interest/Awareness category. Palm Beach County's Survivor Action Team worked with Channel 20 TV Producer/Director John Rouse to create the award winning public service announcement. The frank, open & uplifting message for victims of sexual assault had the intended impact. The Survivor Action Team, an outspoken & inspiring team of sexual assault survivors is part of our Sexual Assault Response Team. New York City, NY - June 13, 2017 - The Winners of the 38th Annual Telly Awards have been announced. With over 12,000 entries from all 50 states and 5 continents, this year's competition has been one of the most successful and competitive in the long history of the Telly Awards. "We are extremely proud to once again recognize outstanding productions in the film and video industry" said Executive Director Linda Day. "The quality of work submitted each season continues to exceed our expectations." Founded in 1979, the Telly Awards is the premier award honoring outstanding content for TV and Cable, Digital and Streaming, and Non-Broadcast distribution.
Link: <https://youtu.be/NX70niENNtY?list=PLzzGjJBhOB1p0PhLpU7q3HaeU9V3YMKH->

Training Committee: Susan Carlini, PBCVS Grant/SART Coordinator

- *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. Criminal justice professionals were provided a seven-hour training on working to improve their response to crimes of sexual violence for victims having developmental disabilities or other special needs. The training identified some of the unique challenges faced by survivors with disabilities, provided effective resources and strategies for the Seventy-Nine professionals in attendance with tools for investigating and prosecuting their cases. Seven CLEs were provided for attorney's.
- June 8, 2017 Hispanic Clergy workshop: PBCVS, Destiny by Choice, AVDA and the Rivera Beach Police Department provided a collaborative workshop to forty-eight clergy titled; *'Family Strong' The intersection between Clergy & Domestic Violence*. The purpose was to provide the tools to assist clergy with resources for the church.
- Florida Sex Crimes Investigator's Association 2017 training conference will be held at the Jupiter Beach Resort from July 31, 2017 through August 4, 2017. The cost is \$300.00 for the full five-day conference. For registration: www.fscia.org/conference
- The 2017 Regional SART will be hosted by Nancy J. Cotterman Center in Broward on October 19, 2017. The conference will take place at the Broward Long Key Natural Area. PBCVS SART is part of the planning committee and will provide updates to SART members.

Campus Committee: Sharon Daugherty

- PBCVS will be presenting to the Keiser Athletic Dept & athletes in August or September

Legislative: Susan Carlini

- The Office of the State Courts Administrator (OSCA), Office of Court Improvement (OCI), in collaboration with the Sexual Violence Benchbook Advisory Committee and the Florida Council Against Sexual Violence (FCASV), developed Florida's Sexual Violence Benchbook to update the 2011 Sexual Violence Benchbook and address the important and unique issues present in sexual violence cases. <https://www.fcasv.org/news/new-sexual-violence-benchbook-now-available>

SART Case Staffing's: Carol Messam-Gordon

- SART case staffing, Jun 9, 2017:
We staffed a case involving a victim who was seen at a local hospital complaining of chest pains and did not initially disclose that she was sexually assaulted. After speaking to the ER nurse the victim disclosed that she was sexually assaulted. Hospital staff immediately called Victim Services, an advocate responded and immediately utilized the victim centered approach realizing that the victim had to be in a private room for the forensic exam. ER was very busy and there were unexpected interruptions making it difficult to maintain the privacy of the victim. The Victim Advocate ran interference to make sure no one entered the room to interrupt or disturb the forensic exam.
- July 14, 2017

Ad Hoc:

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

Member field discussion: Nothing at this time.

Next Meeting: August 31, 2017, 2017 from 2:00 – 3:00 PM (NO JULY MEETING)