



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, March 31, 2016

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

Welcome / Introductions of Members and Guests: Belinda Barr, Nicole Bishop, Rene Boone, Brent Joseph, Sherry Britton-Susino, Linda Brock, Dylan Brooks, Susan Carlini, Ellen Craddock-Day, Angela Dallesandro, Holly DiBenedetto, Brittney Gutin, Adrienne Hillman, Shreya 'Kuntawala, Brandy Macaluso, Tanya Meade, Leonard Mitchell, Stephanie Myron Cagnet, Jill Raftery, Jennifer Rey, Susan Sims, Clifton Smith, Joseph Sophie, JR Thicklin, Jacqueline Valerio, Kenneth Velazquez, Julie Weil, Steve Wessendorf, Tate Yeatman, Antonio Perez, Jumorrow Johnson.

Review/Approval of minutes: February 25, 2016

Members were emailed the minutes and the minutes were approved.

On-Going Business: Nicole Bishop

- Survivor & Advocate, Julie Weil discussed the Justice for all Act. The Justice for All Act of 2004 was enacted to protect crime victims' rights, eliminate the substantial backlog of DNA samples collected from crime scenes and convicted offenders, improve and expand the DNA testing capacity of federal, state, and local crime laboratories. The Act enumerates eight specified rights that crime victims have. The Act requires prosecutors to let victims know that they can seek the advice of an attorney about the rights established by the Act; allows victims to file motions to reopen a plea or a sentence in certain circumstances; and mandates that victims have the right to be reasonably heard at any public proceeding involving release, plea, or sentencing.
- Start by Believing campaign - Sharon Daugherty, SART Outreach Coordinator announced that the kickoff of the Start By Believing campaign will be held at the Flash Mob on April 1, 2016. SART members were invited to sign the Start by Believing poster. Certificates of support were given to members to have their directors sign and return to SART. All returned and signed Start by Believing certificates will be displayed on a

dedicated wall located at the SART Center. Members will be given a framed color copy of their certificate to display at their agency.

New Business: Nicole Bishop

- SART will present the 1st SART outstanding member of the year award at the April 15, 2016 Victim Rights Coalition luncheon. To qualify for this award the nominated member must be a SART member in good standing in 2015. The purpose of SART 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 served. A SART member shall be an individual who has promoted the mission of SART and shown exemplary dedication to the victim centered approach. All nominations are due by 5:00pm on Wednesday April 6, 2016. The nominations will be placed into the survey monkey where SART members will be given an opportunity to vote on the top 2016 SART member of the year. All votes must be submitted by 5pm on Tuesday, April 12, 2016.

Member Highlight: Compass - Dylan Brooks, Mpowerment/Entourage Program Coordinator

- In 1988 Compass was awarded a 4 year grant from the Center for Disease Control (CDC) to provide HIV testing and education as the Stop AIDS Project of South Florida. Compass, West Palm Beach facility is the largest center in the Southeastern United States serving 25,000 clients. They employ 15 to 16 employees and have 12,000 volunteers. Compass provides services at the gay and lesbian community center in Palm Beach County. They provide several support groups: Coming Out, good Orderly AA, Grief and Loss, Libertad, Overeaters Anonymous PBC gender support, Peer Navigation pflag, Positive Connection, Positively Dynamite, Sober Sisters AA, trans youth group

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

- SANE report for the month of February 2016: There were 20 Sexual Assault call outs, 18 exams completed and the SANE response was 100 % for this reporting period. Five SANE nurses attended part 2 of training on Expert Witness Testimony conducted by Assistant State Attorney, Jessica Kahn. A mock trial is forthcoming.

Law Enforcement response to Sexual Battery: Detective Jill Raftery, Boynton Beach Police Department,

- Detective Raftery attended the 2016 EVAWI International conference on sexual assault, domestic violence, and engaging men & boys. Detective Raftery presented on the *Neurobiology of sexual assault* by Dr. Rebecca Campbell as it relates to detectives responding to victims of sexual assault. She presented on the current findings from the fields of psychiatry, psychology, nursing, and neuroscience. She described the process in the brain and body that occurs in response to major trauma. The presentation assisted in identifying neurobiological structures and physiological processes in traumatic events; how trauma affects victim's emotions and behavioral presentations, memory encoding and recall. She also said that common interviewing techniques may be inadvisable to victims.

Committee Reports: Standing

- **Community Action Network:** Sharon Daugherty, SART Outreach Coordinator
Flash Mob 2016: Friday April 1, 2016 @ 5 pm.
Where: City Place in front of fountain
attire: your uniform or business attire - or wear teal
Participants will 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. Participant should register at:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FLASHMOB2016>
Flyers were distributed at the meeting.

- **Training Committee:** Susan Carlini, SART/OVW Grant Coordinator
 1. FDLE advanced training academy: April 1, 2016 on Advanced Techniques of human trafficking.
 2. Florida Sex Crimes Conference July 31- August 5th at Jupiter Beach Resort. Training announcement sent to all SART members.
 3. Training committee preparing to evaluate all current protocols for any needed updates.
 4. SART training committee will be reviewing and updating current protocols. They will identify gaps and develop new protocols identified.

- **Campus Committee:** Sharon Daugherty
Nothing to report at this time

- **Legislative:**
Joseph Sophie, Palm Beach County Legislative Delegation Aide
 1. HB 179 (Adkins)/SB (Benacquisto)-Evidence Collection in Sexual Assault Investigations. SB 636 signed by Governor on March 23, 2016.
 2. HB 75 (Torres)/SB 954 (Simmons) – Electronic Monitoring Devices. HB 75 signed by Governor on March 8, 2016.
 3. HB 101 (Rodriquez)/SB 380 (Abruzzo) – Violation of Injunction for Protection. SB 380 passed both chambers unanimously; Governor has until April 6, 2016 to sign.
 4. HB 545 (Spano)/SB 784 (Flores) – Human Trafficking. HB 545 signed by Governor on March 8, 2016.
 5. HB 1367 (Nunez)/SB 1294 (Flores) – Offenses Involving Minors and Vulnerable Persons. SB 1294 passed both chambers unanimously; Governor has until April 6, 2016 to sign.

6. HB 1333 (Baxley)/SB 1662 (Bradley) – Sexual Offenders. HB 1333 signed by Governor on March 24, 2016.

(See attachment for full description of bills)

Shreya 'Kuntawala, Legislative Assistant to Senator Joseph Abruzzo

An act relating to violation of an injunction for protection; amending ss. 741.31, 784.047, and 784.0487, F.S.; providing enhanced criminal penalties for a third or subsequent violation of an injunction for protection against specified acts of violence or a foreign protection order issued under specified provisions; providing an effective date.

- **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...

Victim Services Staff and SANE requested to staff 3 cases. One case involved a victim that was seen at multiple locations and needed services. Victim was beaten up, strangled and requested services from multiple staff at 3 of the Victim Services locations. Staff wanted to meet and compare notes to provide the best service for this victim. SANE was also concerned about the nature of victim's injuries and wanted to staff the services provided during the forensic exam. On another case the victim in the case was arrested on a warrant and staff wanted to discuss safety for all staff on non-reporting sexual cases.

SART members were encouraged to contact Carol to staff sexual assault cases.

Sexual Assault case staffings are scheduled on the 2nd Friday of each month at 10am. The next case staffing is Friday, April 8, 10am here at the SART Center.

AdHoc:

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

Member field discussion:

- Events for the Victim Rights Week start April 10 and go through April 16, 2016. Members were provided with a booklet of scheduled events.

Next Meeting: April 28, 2016 from 2:00 – 3:00 PM