



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 30, 2017

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

Welcome / Introductions of Members and Guests: Oren Alter, Brandon Biedenman, Nicole Bishop, Rene Boone, Sherry Britton-Susino, Susan Carlini, Crystal Conway, Cameron Cook, Quasia Cowan, Sharon Daugherty, Tanya Fresneda, William Genem, Monica Gonzalez, Brittany Gutin, Adrienne Hillman, Richard Jenkins, Michael Ladda, Tanya Meade, Carol Messam-Gordon, Patty Mika, Ryan Mugridge, Chase Picotte, Jill Raftery, Natalie Roberts, Takisha Saffold, Christine Silvestri, Clifton Smith, Maura Smith, Brandon Strassburger, Julie Weil, Yesenia Collura, Samantha Poje, Jahasmya Sosa, Nicole Kenig, Bambi Fanto, Tessy Lacroix, Shayla Black

Review/Approval of minutes: February 23, 2016

Members were emailed the minutes and the minutes were approved

On-Going Business: Nicole Bishop

- **Outstanding SART member award 2017:** The SART member outstanding award voting ballots were sent out to members. To qualify for this award, the nominated member must be a standing member of the SART in 2016. The member shall be an individual who has promoted the mission of SART and shown exemplary dedication to the victim centered approach. SART members voted and the winner will be announced on April 7, 2017 at the 37th Annual Crime Victim Rights Week Awards Luncheon.

New Business: Nicole Bishop

Current legislative bills pending in relation to sexual assault:

- **SB 1182: Rape Crisis Centers: Rape Crisis Centers:** Revising the definitions of the terms “rape crisis center” and “trained volunteer”, etc.
- **SB 1274: Residential Tenancies: Residential Tenancies:** Prohibiting a landlord from evicting a tenant or terminating a residential rental agreement because the tenant or the tenant’s minor child is a victim of actual or threatened domestic violence, dating violence,

sexual violence, or stalking; authorizing a victim of such actual or threatened violence or stalking to terminate a residential rental agreement under certain circumstances; specifying that a tenant does not forfeit any deposit money or advance rent paid to the landlord for terminating the rental agreement under certain circumstances, etc.

- **CS/SB 852: Human Trafficking:** 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.
- **SB 970: Florida Compensation Trust Fund for Survivors of Human Trafficking:** Florida Compensation Trust Fund for Survivors of Human Trafficking/Department of Law Enforcement; Creating the Florida Compensation Trust Fund for Survivors of Human Trafficking within the Department of Law Enforcement; providing for future review and termination or re-creation of the trust fund, etc.
- **SB 286: Human Trafficking Education in Schools:** Human Trafficking Education in Schools; Revising the required health education in public schools to include information regarding the dangers and signs of human trafficking, etc.
- **SB 518: Elder Abuse Fatality Review Teams:** Elder Abuse Fatality Review Teams; Authorizing the establishment of elder abuse fatality review teams to review fatal and near-fatal incidents of elder abuse; exempting certain information and records acquired by a review team from discovery or introduction into evidence in specified actions or proceedings; prohibiting a person from being required to testify regarding records or information produced or presented during meetings or other activities of a review team; assigning the review teams to the Department of Children and Families for administrative purposes, etc.
- **CS/CS/SB 416: Use of Animals in Proceedings Involving Minors**
- Use of Animals in Proceedings Involving Minors; Specifying that the court may allow the use of therapy animals or facility dogs in certain proceedings; removing the requirement that certain animals be registered; defining terms, etc.
- **SB 1208: Sexual Crimes:** Sexual Crimes; Redefining the term "sexual battery" to include the intentional touching in a lewd or lascivious manner upon specified areas or the clothing covering such areas; defining the term "disabled person" as it relates to lewd or lascivious offenses committed upon or in the presence of a disabled person; authorizing the Department of Legal Affairs to award relocation assistance to victims of specified sexual offenses, rather than only sexual battery, etc.
- **SB 754: Trauma-informed Services for Children:** Trauma-informed Services for Children; Prohibiting a child who has suffered sexual exploitation from being placed in a generic shelter setting when safe-harbor or trauma-informed housing is not available, etc.
- **CS/SB 192: Juvenile Justice:** Juvenile Justice; Creating an exception to the suspension of civil rights upon the conviction of a felony for children convicted as adults; deleting provisions requiring that a state attorney request the court to transfer and certify a child for prosecution as an adult under certain circumstances; requiring the Department of Juvenile Justice, beginning on a certain date, to collect specified information relating to children who qualify for prosecution as adults and for children who are transferred for criminal prosecution as adults, etc.

Member Highlight: Aid to Victims of Domestic Violence, Tessy Lacroix, Nicola Kenig and Jahasmyna Sosa

- AVDA's new collaborative grant with The Center for Child Counseling is a project to increase access to mental health services for survivors of domestic violence. AVDA's Life Skills Educator and Youth Advocate provide supportive advocacy services to increase the emotional health and well-being of survivors and The Center for Child Counseling co-locates a therapist onsite at AVDA's emergency shelter to provide crisis counseling for survivors. The collaborative project also developed a training for service providers on the intersection of domestic violence and mental health that will be available at no cost to service providers, once approved for distribution. In the near future, AVDA hopes to expand these services to our Outreach Center.
- Enhanced Collaborative Task Force to Combat Human Trafficking, Christina Silvestri, Palm Beach County Catholic Charities
- 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.
- According to the International Labor Organization (2015):
Human Trafficking is a \$150 Billion Dollar Industry
- According to the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (2015): 1 out of 5 endangered runways reported were likely child sex trafficking victims, Florida ranks #3 in the nation for trafficking activity reported to the Hotline. Palm Beach County Considerations: Home to Palm Beach International Airport and Serves over 6 million travelers annually. Located just 50 miles north of Miami International Airport with One of Top Entry Points in U.S. for Foreign Human Trafficking Victims.
Key Project Objectives: Develop a Multi-Disciplinary Human Trafficking Task Force
 1. Make Data-Driven Decisions
 2. Identify Victims of All Types of Human Trafficking
 3. Conduct Proactive, Specialized Investigative Operations
 4. Provide a Comprehensive Array of Victim ServicesThrough this Project & Grant Funding:
 - Established Designated Anti-Human Trafficking Program
 - One Full Time Case Manager
 - One Full Time Data Management Specialist
 - Specialized Human Trafficking Training for Staff
 - Collaboration with multiple community service provider organizations

SANE Report: Sherry Britton-Susino SANE Coordinator

- For the month of March 2017 all sexual assault exams were performed by Palm Beach County SANE nurses. There were twenty-nine call outs for sexual assault exams. Palm Beach County SANE nurses responded to all twenty-nine of these cases. One cases were non-reporting. Twelve of the exams were conducted at the Butterfly House and ten exams in the emergency room. Seven were SANE response no exam.

Committee Reports: Standing

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

- Julie Weil announced she will be the keynote speaker for opening ceremony of victim rights week with the Governor of Florida.
- Julie bought tee-shirts for SART members to wear during SAAM events.
- Discussed strong media support for SAAM events
- Reported on the *Field of Hope* & encouraged all to attend and bring survivors for the opportunity to speak out. Mayor Mouio & Chief Sarah Mooney will be presenting.
- Monica reported on *Healing thru the Arts*. 4/7/17
- Valerie reported on the PBC SAAM book display to be held in 7 library locations
- Valerie & Monica are going to be distributing bar coasters to 4 bars at city place “Think before u drink”
- Denim Day is April 26th -The jeans display will be on the SART building fence and all are requested to wear jeans that day in support.

Training Committee: Susan Carlini

- *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. REGISTRATION INSTRUCTIONS: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ZSB57F9>
- *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 PURPOSE: Criminal justice professionals working to improve their response to crimes of sexual violence must be properly equipped for their encounters with victims having developmental disabilities or other special needs. This training will identify some of the unique challenges faced by survivors with disabilities and will provide effective resources and strategies for professionals responsible for investigating and prosecuting their cases. Putting these concepts into practice can improve our ability to come full circle from initial contact through investigation and prosecution of the case.

REGISTRATION INSTRUCTIONS: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/AEquitas>

Campus Committee: Sharon Daugherty

- Nothing to report at this time

Legislative:

- Reviewed in New Business

SART Case Staffing's: Carol Messam Gordon

- **SART case staffing, March 10, 2017:** We had two separate case staffing for the Month of March. At the first case staffing we were able to staff two cases at the request of law enforcement. One case involved evidence collection without a forensic exam and the other case involved information provided to a victim and the advocate by law enforcement. We were able to review the county wide & CPT protocol as it relates to evidence collection and the Start by Believing Campaign. All involved in the cases were able to review their internal procedure and provide appropriate recommendations for providing services to victims.

The second case involved a victim who needed assistance from both Victim Services and the Health Department. All parties involved in the case worked collaboratively on behalf of the victim to obtain, shelter and relocation funding. As a result of this case, Victim Services staff will be scheduled to visit the Health Department to provide information about services available to victims.

❖ The next case staffing is scheduled for Friday, April 14, 2017

Ad Hoc:

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

Member field discussion:

- South Florida Link Coalition: *Walk for the Link*, co-sponsor PBSO on April 29th, 8-11AM. Register @ <http://goo.gl/s9k4ba>
-
- Coalition for Independent Living Options: *Thrive, from Struggle to Survivor*, April 2nd, 4-6 PM @ The Brewhouse Gallery in Lake Park.

Next Meeting: April 27, 2017 from 2:00 – 3:00 PM