



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, May 26, 2016

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

Welcome / Introductions of Members and Guests: Oren Alter, Marissa Baker, Rene Boone, Linda Brock, Susan Carlini, Ellen Craddock-Day, Sharon Daugherty, Tanya Fresneda, Adrienne Hillman, Ana Jimenez, Alexa Lee, Michelle Macy, Valerie Messineo, Beth Newcomb, Kathryn Oleksy, Natalie Peralta, Jill Raftery, Clarice Redding, Sandy Reynolds, Rob Shelt, Clifton Smith, Maura Smith, Twiler Smith, Joseph Sophie, Carrie Stone, Steven Strivelli, Larry Uber, Julie Weil, Marianne Malky, Crystal Conway, Michelle White, Kelly Roan, Brandon Strassburger, Kelly Garsik.

Review/Approval of minutes: April 28, 2016

Members were emailed the minutes and the minutes were approved

On-Going Business: FCASV Summit: Sharon Daugherty, PBCVS Sexual Assault Outreach Coordinator

- Nicole Bishop and JR Thicklin presented “Bridging the Unspoken Divide: How SART’s can collaborate with Faith Communities. Nicole & JR addressed the divide between secular victim service agencies and faith communities. They discussed building relationships, training/cross training and how to arm faith leaders in how to deal with victims coming forward for help.
- Sharon & Randee presented: “From Victim to Survivor: are we there yet?” They gave a thorough review of cases with insight on the effect trauma has on the victim. The effectiveness of the therapeutic process was highlighted. The formation of a Survivor Action Team was presented from the vetting process to the public speaking aspect.
- Julie Weil was recognized at the Summit as the most Outstanding Survivor Activist. Sharon read some excerpts from her nomination, listing her activities which included being a member of the National Rape Kit Backlog Task force and her work in securing legislation.

New Business: Susan Carlini

A power point created by Dr. Crouse, PBSO Crime Laboratory Director was shown to SART members and the following information was reviewed.

- Effective July 1, 2016, Florida statute §943.326: sexual offense evidence kits collected during a law enforcement investigation must be submitted to the laboratory within 30 days after receipt by the law enforcement agency, or within 30 days of a request being made by the victim or their representative. The request can be made to law enforcement or the medical provider. Testing must be completed within 120 days.
Non-reporting kits will not be tested under this new law unless a victim converts from a non-report to make a report to law enforcement. To test a non-reporting kit would violate the confidentiality and privacy of the victim's health records under HIPPA.
As of June 2016, FCASV will distribute a revised edition of the victim's rights and remedies brochure to include information about a victim's rights with regard to obtaining a forensic exam. F.L. §794.052 requires law enforcement to provide a copy of this brochure to victims reporting sexual offenses.
- SART will develop a subcommittee to work together to review the current protocols related to evidence collection and submission following the new legislation.
In addition the following protocols will be reviewed by the SART subcommittee for revision
 1. **Sexual Battery Investigations, Recommendations regarding forensic testing:**
 - C:** processing sexual battery kits and crime scene evidence- decision to request (or not request) DNA testing of SBECKs and other evidence is the responsibility of the assigned law enforcement investigator)
 - D:** Crime lab- forensic biology unit- cases are generally worked in a request date order.
 - Review of G.** Guidelines for forensic examinations for sexual assault victims not reporting to law enforcement.
 2. **LE General Orders:**
 - M.** If a physical examination is conducted, impound as evidence the exam kit, toxicology kit if used and any other evidence collected during the exam.
 - N.** Provide the victim with the Sexual Battery Victims Rights and Services brochure as required by law (chapter 794, F.S.).
 3. **Non Reporting Protocol – Needs to be finalized and also need to add the language:**
NON-reporting kits will not be tested under this new law unless a victim converts from a non-report to make a report to law enforcement. To test a non-reporting kit would violate the confidentiality and privacy of the victim's health records under HIPPA.

Member Highlight: Alexa Lee, Substance Abuse Director of Programs

- Palm Beach County Substance Awareness Coalition meets the 3rd Thursday of the month to review programs focusing on recovery, Rx drug/emerging issues, underage drinking, and the teen coalition in action. Alexa reviewed the many programs that encourage and engage teenagers to participate. Alexa provided information on what are the most popular drug teen's use, what is currently trending, and e-cigarettes. 'Dabbing' is popular and is identified as small amounts of super high concentrated cannabis resin in which the plant material is removed and what's left is between 50-80% active ingredients. (such as THC) The Flakka trend is declining in 2016 but prior statistics were high with emergency Room visits hitting 20 per day in Broward County of Spring 2015, 63 Flakka Users Died in Fort

Lauderdale in 16 months, 17 people died in Palm Beach County in 2015. Alcohol use statistics among teens shows a decline with fewer Palm Beach County youth drinking today than at any point in the past ten years. However Marijuana use among PBC high schools increased between 2012 and 2014 and is significantly higher than the state average.

SANE Report: Sherry Britton-Susino, SART SANE coordinator

- SANE report for the month of April 2016: There were 14 Sexual Assault call outs, 11 exams completed and the SANE response was 100 % for this reporting period. All sexual assault exams were performed by SANEs. The SANE nurse coordinator presented at the nurses forum. The SANE nurses conducted mock trial to help enhance their examination skills.
The SANE nurse team completed a mock trial with five state attorneys participating as part three for SANE education necessary to provide expert testimony during sexual assault trials.

Committee Reports: Standing

Community Action Network: Sharon Daugherty

- Social Media/Face book: Rene Boone, SART lead Advocate reported this past week a post was put up about the Compass presentation at SART and this set off a chain reaction that increased our face book site on that date by 94%. Compass liked our post and then put up their post on their face book about SART which generated more traffic. SART members were encouraged to like our page, work together to post events and messages to get more information out via social media.
- Jeremy Crumb gave a tutorial on “Increasing your social media presence” to the Can members. He has offered to give a one hour presentation as a highly requested follow up.
- Ashley Foster gave 2 well received presentations to the teens last month at the PBC Substance Abuse Awareness Coalition “Youth Summit.”

Training Committee: Susan Carlini, SART/OVW Grant Coordinator

- SART training committee will be reviewing the FDLE *Signal 35*, four hour block training for updates. The training is scheduled for September 30, 2016. Registration is open through Palm Beach State College criminal justice site.
- OVW SART partner CILO has completed a responding to victims with disabilities hand book. There will be scheduled trainings to SART members and law enforcement by request. The booklets will be disseminated as part of the trainings. An email will be sent to all SART members with further information.
- On June 27th, SART and SART OVW partners Destiny by Choice and Aid to victims of Domestic Violence along with Riviera Beach Police Department will join together for a clergy workshop titled ‘*Family Strong*’ *The Intersection between Clergy and Domestic Violence*.
- SART will be providing training on response to sexual assault on June 8, 2016 at FDLE *Introduction to Criminal Investigations*.

Campus Committee: Sharon Daugherty
Nothing to report at this time

Legislative: Joseph Sophie, Palm Beach County Legislative Delegation Aide

- The Senate unanimously voted this week for the Adam Walsh Reauthorization Act, sponsored by Sen. Chuck Grassley. This bill would reauthorize the Sex Offender Management Assistance Program, a federal grant program to assist law enforcement agencies in improving sex offender registries, and reauthorize resources from the U.S. Marshals Service to assist state and local law enforcement to find and capture offenders who do not comply with registration requirements.
Included as an amendment to the bill was the Sexual Assault Survivors' Rights Act, sponsored by Sen. Jeanne Shaheen. The legislation creates a right for victims of sexual assault to be informed of the test results of their rape kit as well as the right for such kit to be preserved without cost until the relevant state's statute of limitations has run out. Furthermore, the legislation establishes a working group to disseminate best practices on the treatment of sexual assault survivors.
There is separate legislation in the House that addresses the testing of rape kits. This would encourage states to pass their own legislation creating a sexual assault survivors' bill of rights, but it by itself does not establish those rights as the Senate bill does.

- **SART Case Staffing's:** Rene Boone, SART Lead Advocate

The goal of the SART Staffing is to review complex cases, learn from each other, set structure, and facilitate a smooth process...

The SA staffing was held on May 13. Three cases were staffed and a recurring issue was discussed. Advocates discussed that when they go on cases where the victims are homeless or they can't return to where they were staying before the assault, there is lack of services available for sexual assault victims for emergency shelter.

In the month of April 2016, SART advocates accompanied six sexual assault clients to trial. There were five guilty verdicts and one not guilty.

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: June 30, 2016 from 2:00 – 3:00 PM