



**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 25, 2017**

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

**Welcome / Introductions of Members and Guests:** Nicole Bishop, Sherry Britton-Susino, Cameron Cook, Ellen Craddock-Day, Sharon Daugherty, Monica Gonzalez, Brittney Gutin, Adrienne Hillman, Michael Ladda, Nicole Martinez, Tanya Meade, Carol Messam-Gordon, Valerie Messineo, Robin Moschetto, Kathryn Oleksy, Samantha Poje, Clarice Redding, Kelly Roan, Rob Shelt, Christina Silvestri, Brandon Strassburger, Julie Weil, Yesenia Collura, Elayne Gooding, Michael Barbera, Kimsal Lazarus, Lavidah Johnson, Dee Rohe.

**Review/Approval of minutes:** April 27, 2016. Minutes will be sent out next week.

**On-Going Business:** Nicole Bishop, SART Strategic Plan Update

- SART identified a new gap in current protocols based on Florida Statute 942.236 in accordance with Senate Bill 636: Sexual offense evidence kits collected during a law enforcement investigation must be submitted to the laboratory within 30 days after receipt. Non-Reporting victims will not be tested and should not be submitted.
- SART protocol sub-committee consisting of 9 law enforcement agencies, military personnel, forensics, Office of the State Attorney, and SART staff met for eight weeks to evaluate and successfully revise SART protocols in accordance with Fl. Statute 942.236.
- SART maintains quarterly law enforcement roll call trainings reach an average of 600 officers each quarter.
- Law enforcement and the Office of the State Attorney presence has expanded with both collaborating to train with SART to show a completed prospective on response.
- SART member's representation at SART meetings increased to 32.6% law enforcement, 10% non-profit agencies, 3 % legal aid, 5 % military, 42% other professionals, survivors, and victim service providers.
- SART maintains a regular schedule for the FDLE advanced training academy to law enforcement. SART provided 5 advanced training academy trainings to 120 law enforcement officers on Sex Crimes, Sex Crimes against Children, Human Trafficking, and Introduction to Criminal Investigations with an emphasis on sexual assault response protocol.
- SART provided three 4-hour collaborative block trainings with SART OVV partners, SART sexual assault nurse examiner coordinator, Office of the State Attorney, and the child protection team to 561 law enforcement officers. Victim Services is participating in PBSO new hire training.

- SART OVW partner Coalition for Independent Living Options (CILO) provided training on responding to sexual assault victims with disabilities to 187 officers. CILO provided agencies trained with the OVW approved booklet 'A guide to responding to victims of crime with disabilities. CILO facilitated trainings on testimony of victims with disabilities to judges and prosecutors.
- SART facilitates case bi-weekly staffing's to acknowledge excellent SART responses, utilize problem solving techniques for difficult cases, discuss delivery of services, learn from each other, and facilitate a smooth process.
- SART OVW partner Destiny by Choice (DBC) has focused training outreach to the community, clergy, and multi-disciplinary victim services. DBC has reached 1,725 members of the community and clergy through a weekly radio show. DBC has coordinated clergy roundtables for clergy to meet and discuss the gaps in services between clergy and resource services. In addition to in person outreach and training, DBC disseminates the SART Clergy 7 step point card on the role of clergy, domestic violence facts, dynamics of an abusive relationship, impact on victims (signs & symptoms), do's & don'ts, safety planning & resources to the African American Diaspora Clergy Alliance each month. The SART Clergy 7 step point card is now available in Spanish with 250 disseminated to clergy throughout the county.
- The SART SANE program responds to an average of 30 cases per month with 100% covered by the SANE program and staffed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. There is also a SANE backup schedule to assure victims are always provided with victim centered forensic exams. The SANE program provides regular training to hospital medical staff and nursing students on the program and protocols.

**New Business:** Elayne Gooding, Victim Services Specialist, Office of the Attorney General

- Bureau of Victim Compensation seven programs:  
Property Loss (PL), Sexual Battery Forensic Examination (SB), State Institution Claims (SI), Domestic Violence Relocation (DV), Sexual Battery Relocation (RS), Human Trafficking Relocation (HT)
- Victim Compensation Program Benefits:  
Medical/Mental Health Treatment, Wage Loss, Disability, Catastrophic Disability, Funeral/Burial, Loss of Support, Grief Counseling.
- Treatment expenses for medical or non-medical remedial care are paid up to one year from the date of crime. Providers are paid at 50%-66.667% (based on the date of crime) of the billed amount which can be reduced without notice depending on the availability of funds. Medical benefits include prescriptions, eyeglasses, contact lenses, dentures or any other prosthetic device which needs to be purchased or replaced as a result of the crime and which the victim/applicant has already paid for with personal funds. Medical benefits also include reimbursement for travel costs based on a reasonable estimate of the mileage between the victim/applicant's residence and the treatment provider via a usually-traveled route. Wage loss is available to victims who missed work as a result of physical injuries caused by the crime. Compensable funeral/burial expenses can be paid up to \$7,500 for crimes on or after 09/23/2015. Loss of support benefits are available for persons who were principally dependent upon a deceased victim who was employed or earned income at the time of the crime. Bureau of Victim Compensation Toll-Free Victim Services Information and Referral Line (800) 226-6667

**Member Highlight:** Captain Michael Barbera, Jupiter Police Department Special Needs Registry

- The Special Needs Registry is an initiative of the Jupiter Police Department. Its purpose is to compile and maintain a list of individuals who have "special needs" due to mental or neurological disabilities and who may reside or frequently visit the Town of Jupiter. Residents are invited to

proactively provide information about a loved one with special needs of any age, who may require special assistance in an emergency or interaction with Jupiter Police Officers. The registration is completely voluntary. To register for the Special Needs Registry, complete the Special Needs Registry Form and turn it into the Jupiter Police Department. Parents and caregivers may voluntarily enroll a person with a medical condition or disability, such as Autism Spectrum Disorder, Alzheimer's or Dementia, Bipolar Disorder, and Down Syndrome. Adults with special needs may also enroll themselves. When a Police Officer has contact with the person on this form, our 911 center can provide us with the information needed to successfully interact and communicate with your loved one, as well as provide us with your contact information. The registry has been developed with the intent to serve all members (adult or juvenile) of our community or people who frequent our community who have a "special need" and want to register with the Jupiter Police Department.

**SANE Report:** Sherry Britton-Susino, PBCVS SANE Coordinator

- For the month of April 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. Three cases were non-reporting. Sixteen of the exams were conducted at the Butterfly House and eight exams in the emergency room. Five were SANE response no exam.

**Committee Reports:** Standing

**Community Action Network:** Monica Gonzalez, PBCVS Licensed Therapist

- CAN reviewed the effectiveness of the awareness events for Sexual Assault Awareness Month including the bar coaster project. A hotline call came in from a victim that saw the hotline number on the coaster and reported that she was sexually assaulted. In the month of May, SART has seen an increase in reported sexual assaults. More awareness events throughout the year not just during April was discussed, including increasing the distribution of the coasters throughout the county targeting downtown areas and campuses (Lake Worth, Delray, Gardens).

**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 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. There is currently eighty-eight registered. Seven CLEs will be provided for attorney's.  
**REGISTRATION INSTRUCTIONS:** <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/AEquitas>
- June 8, 2017 Hispanic Clergy workshop: A collaborate workshop with PBCVS, Destiny by Choice, AVDA and the Rivera Beach Police Department. 'Family Strong' The intersection between Clergy & Domestic Violence. To strengthen our families within our churches and communities in a coordinated response and collaboration on domestic violence.

**Campus Committee:** Sharon Daugherty, PBCVS Sexual Assault Outreach Coordinator

- Nothing new at this time.

**Legislative:** Nicole Bishop

• Current legislative bills in relation to sexual assault:

- 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; revising the continuing medical education course requirements for certain re-licensure or recertification's to include a course in human trafficking; adding human trafficking to the list of crimes requiring pretrial detention of the defendant. 5/5/17 Senate –Died in Education
- 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. 5/5/17 Senate- died in Criminal Justice
- 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. 5/5/17 Senate- died in Children, Families, and Elder Affairs.

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

- The case staffing was held on April 21, 2017. At this case staffing we staffed two cases. One case involved a 17-year-old victim who reported on 2 separate occasions that her dad sexually assaulted her. Everyone involved including the victim advocates, CPT, law enforcement, victim's mother and siblings believed the victim. She was immediately separated from her father and placed with her grandparents. Victim recanted the first case and the 2nd case that occurred almost 1 year later, almost the same incident is being investigated by law enforcement. The team felt that victim needed psychological counseling and the parents were also trying to get psychological counseling for her.
- Second case involved another 17-year-old victim who was sexually assaulted by her aunt's boyfriend. Victim reported the case to a family member who contacted the police. Advocate was at Butterfly House doing inventory and found a deputy inside doing a fact finding interview with the victim without an advocate present. Deputy told the advocate that the hospital security let him in. Advocate explained the procedure to the officer, reported it to Carol Messam-Gordon who contacted a Sargent that will review the protocol with the deputy. The code to the Butterfly house has changed; Wellington Hospital security was advised not to let anyone into Butterfly House without permission from Victim Services staff.

**Ad Hoc:**

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

**Member field discussion:**

**Next Meeting:** June 29, 2017 from 2:00 – 3:00 PM