



**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, September 27, 2016**

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

**Welcome / Introductions of Members and Guests:** Amber Ahern, Oren Alter, Nicole Bishop, Rene Boone, Jennifer Brashear, Linda Brock, Susan Carlini, Kim Cesark, Angela Dallesandro, Sharon Daugherty, Tanya Fresneda, Monica Gonzalez, Jan Hansen, Michael Ladda, Carol Messam-Gordon, Valerie Messineo, Patty Mika, Pam O'Brien, Natalie Roberts, Jill Raftery, Clarice Redding, Betzy Rega, Jennifer Rey, Sandy Reynolds, Rob Rizzotto, Kelly roan, Rob Shelt, Clifton Smith, Liisa Spinello, Brandon Strassburger, JR Thicklin, Jacqueline Valerio, Collura Yesenia, William Vaughan, Taryn Wallon, Corey Campbell, Dashne Clairissaint.

**Review/Approval of minutes:** August 25, 2016

Members were emailed the minutes and the minutes were approved

**On-Going Business:** Nicole Bishop

2016 SE Regional SART Overview and the expectation for the 2017 Regional SART:

- 104 attended, 51 PBC SART members  
PBC SART presented on 5 of the 7 presentation: Survivor Action team, Forensics Evidence, Victim Notification of Testing Kits, Cultural Diversity, Green Dot.
- The majority of the surveys stated that they want more on cultural diversity and new laws pertaining to SA.
- Many stated they would like more interactive activities.
- Want more information on start by believing and how it relates to SA.
- Several suggested a mock scenario.

**New Business:** Nicole Bishop

- 2015-2016 FCASV Statewide SART recommendations: SART members Nicole Bishop and Rob Shelt were members of the committee in 2015-16. SART members Carol Messam-Gordon and Sherry Britton-Susino are the new committee members for 2017-2018. Nicole reviewed the fiscal & facilities management, management of non-reported examinations, recruitment and retention, and special care subcommittee reports.  
(See attached for full report)

- Jennifer Rey, Program Services Director- Aid to Victims of Domestic Abuse Sexual Assault screening for domestic violence victims: Jen Rey discussed the SART OVW grant partnership and how part of the grant is to assess for intimate partner violence. AVDA did several focus groups to assess if and how agencies are screening. Upon completion of the focus groups AVDA concluded there would be three screening questions and they are now in their database. AVDA will also have the ability to run numbers state-wide. AVDA will share the questions with other agencies and also explain how to use them.
- **Member Highlight:** SART advocate Rene Boone, Natalie Roberts presented on the role of the advocate from crisis response to assistance working with the survivor throughout the case. The advocates stated the average case is open for two plus years. Therapist Monica Gonzalez presented on the role of the therapist discussed the many support groups that are available to clients and that all therapy services are from a licensed therapist. Services are free and a client does not need to have an open case to receive therapy or support group services.  
Rene Boone presented a poem:

**I AM A SART ADVOCATE**  
**I AM A SART ADVOCATE**  
**WHAT DOES THAT MEAN**  
**I'M PART OF A SEXUAL ASSAULT RESPONSE TEAM**  
  
**WHEN THE CALL COMES DAY OR NIGHT**  
**I'M READY TO FIGHT**  
**FOR VICTIMS' RIGHTS**  
  
**I DON'T WEAR A CAPE OR**  
**HAVE SUPER POWERS**  
**BUT I'M AVAILABLE AT ALL HOURS**  
  
**I'LL START BY BELIEVING**  
**WHAT YOU SAY**  
**WE'LL DISCUSS YOUR OPTIONS**  
**AND I'LL LET YOU LEAD THE WAY**  
  
**I'LL HOLD YOU HAND**  
**WHILE THE SANE DOES THE EXAM**  
  
**I'LL SIT BY YOUR SIDE**  
**AS YOU GIVE THE DETAILS OF THE CRIME**  
**I'LL MAKE SURE YOU RECEIVE MEDICAL FOLLOW UP CARE**  
**CRISIS INTERVENTION, REFERRALS AND THERAPY**  
**YOU'RE NOT ALONE ON THIS RIDE**  
  
**IF YOUR CASE GOES TO COURT**  
**I'LL BE THERE FOR SUPPORT**  
  
**I'M PART OF A SEXUAL ASSAULT RESPONSE TEAM**  
  
**WE ARE SART**

**ARE YOU READY TO START**

**SANE Report:** Susan Carlini, SART/OVW Grant Coordinator OBO Sherry Britton-Susino  
SANE Coordinator

SANE report for the month of August 2016:

- Twenty five call-outs for SANE exams.
- 100% covered by PBC SANEs.
- Eleven exams at Butterfly House.
- Thirteen exams in hospital emergency rooms.
- One non-reporting exam.
- SANE Coordinator Sherry Britton-Susino trained Palm Beach Gardens ER nurses on response.

**Committee Reports:** Standing

**Community Action Network:** Sharon Daugherty, PBCVS Outreach Coordinator

**Events for SAAM:**

**Healing Through the Arts Start:** Saturday April 1<sup>st</sup> 4pm

- Poetry, Dance, Singing
- Jeans including kids and baby jeans
- Art pieces (sculpture, canvases, photography)
- Books
- Pieces will continue to be displayed throughout the month throughout the county (library, courthouse, downtown at the Gardens, mall)
- Palm Beach Awareness Walk Week: pending approval Tentative Date: Saturday, April 29, 2017
- Audrie & Daisy film screening: 3 screenings: 2 in house /Victim Services staff. 1 community showing/Keiser

**Training Committee:** Susan Carlini, SART/OVW Grant Coordinator

- September 30, 2016, FDLE *Signal 35*, four hour block training. The State Attorney, PBSO Detective, and CPT have been added to the agenda. Law enforcement will receive CEUs. Registration is full and SART will provide a second class.
- October 14, 2016, FDLE Investigative Techniques of Human Trafficking.
- November 14, 2016, Investigating Crimes against Children.
- The training committee met on September 26, 2016.  
Reviewed OVW/TA for trainings, the committee suggested: underserved, disabled, neurobiology, LGBTQ, gender bias and cultural diversity.
- The SART on-line designation course is near completion and currently awaiting approval for updated protocols to implement in the curriculum.
- SART partner PBSO victim advocate attended the *National Training Institute on Protection order for attorneys and advocates* in New Orleans through the OVW grant.
- SART partner CILO and El Sol will attend *Addressing Culture: Systemic response to underserved immigrant populations*.

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

**Legislative:** Susan Carlini OBO Joseph Sophie, Palm Beach County Legislative Delegation Aide.

- The Survivors' Bill of Rights is expected to be signed by President Obama, after the House approved it unanimously earlier this month. The Senate had previously passed it unanimously. The bill provides survivors the right to receive a copy of their own police report and their right to be notified of the rights granted to them as survivors in their particular state. It also deals with rape kit protocol, specifying that survivors will not be prevented from receiving the kit or being charged for it. They must also be informed of the test results. Any evidence collected must be preserved for twenty years. Additionally, survivors must be notified at least two months prior to the date their kit is scheduled for destruction and would be able to ask for it to be preserved through email. The law only applies to cases tried in federal court or for those committed in national parks, tribal lands, or on federal property.

- The Obama administration is tackling sexual trauma in K-12 schools. It released an online interactive tool called A Safe Place to Learn, as well as released guidance for school districts to consider when constructing their own sexual misconduct policies. The online tools and guidance can be found at [www.notalone.gov](http://www.notalone.gov).

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

- SART Case Staffing was held on September 9, 2016 at the SART Center. Advocates and SANE were present and requested to staff 2 cases at the case staffing. The first case involved a non-verbal adult autistic male victim who was sexually assaulted by another autistic male who was in the same program in a school he attends daily. Victim's mother reported the assault and also wanted her son to be examined and treated. Victim advocate reported that law enforcement contacted DCF and they declined taking a report. She also reported that CPT was also contacted and was not available to see this victim. Victim was taken to an area hospital and was examined by an emergency room physician. Advocate had some concerns that we did not have any one specialized to do the exam for this victim. At the case staffing we also recognized that this is a population that is underserved and further discussion should continue. Victim Advocate contacted CILO and referred victim for additional assistance. Next victim reported that he went to go meet a friend to check on him and was abducted and held for four days. Victim reported that he remembered waking up in his car in a different location with different clothes on and it was four days later. He also had memory of being sexually assaulted at different times. Victim is a former veteran and went to the VA Medical center for treatment. Victim initially did not report the sexual assault only the abduction. With the excellent services received while he was at the VA medical center victim was able to report the assault. Victim Advocate was contacted and responded with the SANE to the VA Medical Center where a forensic exam was done by a SANE. Law enforcement also responded to do a taped statement. The advocate also reported that Law enforcement was also concerned that this victims was being trafficked. Victim is continuing therapy services with the VA. Case is still being investigated.

**AdHoc:**

- **CPT protocol:** The subcommittee has met and a draft of response protocols to include after hours response is in progress.
- **Non-Reporting:** In progress
- **Walk in Their Shoes:** In progress

**Member field discussion:**

- JR Thicklin: October 27, 2016 Clergy Roundtable at St. Johns Missionary Baptist Church.
- ADVA announced VAWA funding for transition housing.

**Next Meeting:** October 24, 2016 from 2:00 – 3:00 PM