



October 2016

Volume 1, Issue 3

SART Connection

Domestic Violence Awareness Month- How does Sexual Assault fit in?

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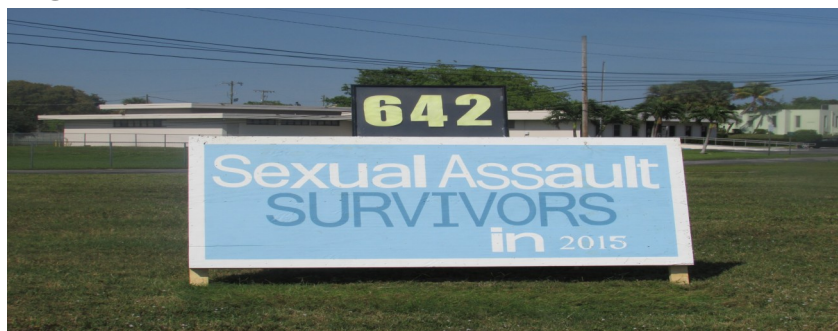
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Domestic Violence Awareness Month is observed annually in October. During this month we reaffirm our dedication to forging a society where no one suffers the hurt and hardship that domestic violence causes -- and we recommit to doing everything in our power to uphold the basic human right to be free from violence and abuse. One of the most often overlooked types of domestic violence is intimate partner sexual assault (IPSV). IPSV is a complicated, heart-wrenching form of abuse that has been overlooked by the criminal justice system and service providers until recent years. Simply stated, IPSV exists whenever sexualized violence is present along with any form of violence within an intimate relationship. Survivors often have difficulty recognizing this form of sexual violence as a crime and have special needs for assistance and recovery. IPSV often occurs repeatedly within a violent relationship and affects people of all ages, ethnicities, sexual orientations and gender identities.



Director: Nicole Bishop

As part of a Department of Justice Grant, Victim Services has partnered with Aid to Victims of Sexual Assault to develop screening tools and trainings to address this issue head on. If you are interested in further information please contact Jennifer Rey at Aid to Victim's of Domestic Violence (AVDA) jrey@avda-fl.com



Director's Corner

SART Member Highlight's

Meet survivor turned survivor advocate, Julie Weil. In October 2002, while picking her daughter up from preschool, she was brutally attacked and raped in front of her two young children. In 2007, after a long journey through the justice system, her attacker was sentenced to 7 consecutive life sentences. Since then, Julie has dedicated her life to advocating for other survivors and speaks frequently about her experiences as a sexual assault survivor.

Julie is currently the survivor representative on the SART team and works actively to help raise awareness and educate the community about how to respond to victims. She helps to provide all victims who come to the Butterfly House with comfort care items, such as a change of clothes, toiletries and food through her non-profit, Not Just Me Foundation. She has been influential in the justice system and has helped to pass the Safer Act and House Bill 636. Julie is also actively involved in first responder trainings, SANE trainings for the state, in-service training for law enforcement and the State Attorney's office on how to respond to victims.



Recently, Julie was invited to speak to the NYPD and the DNA field to help them understand why solving the backlog of rape kits is so important. She explained that it is important for them to know that it is not just another sample or slide, "there are people attached to them" "...that is a person's whole life." During her visit to New York, she was also invited to meet the case of 'Law and Order: SVU.' Julie has worked with Mariska Hargitay's charity Joyful Heart Foundation, on the Rape Kit Action Project to help fight the backlog issue. Even though their visit was brief, Julie stated it was "awesome" and that Mariska thanked her for all her hard work and dedication.

Julie continues to fight for all the people who do not have access to SANE nurses or rape crisis centers like we have in Florida. She is hopeful that she can continue to help pass legislation in additional states to fight against the existing rape culture.

Written by: Therapist Kelly Dambra



SANE's Corner

Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANE's) continue to sharpen their skills as well as those of community health care providers. SANEs completed an in-service on photography. A crime scene photographer came to the SART Center and provided the SANEs with information on "getting the best photo." SANEs also, participated in mock SANE exams and attended part 3 of a 3 part series on SANE expert witness testimony. Sixty-one ER nurses and seventy one nursing students were educated on SANE response in Palm Beach County.

During the months of May, June and July eighty-nine victims of sexual assault requested the services of a SANE. All victim received forensic examinations by Palm Beach County SANE nurses at either the Butterfly House or various hospitals across the county.



Written by: SANE Coordinator Sherry Britton-Susino

Clergy Training

In an effort to educate the African American faith based community who come in contact with victims of sexual assault and domestic violence, Victim Services and partners Destiny by Choice, Aid to Victims of Domestic Violence, and Riviera Beach Police Department came together to provide a workshop titled 'Family Strong, the Intersection between Domestic Violence & Clergy'.

The focus of the workshop was to build a stronger collaboration between clergy leaders and secular services with the common goal of keeping families safe and strong. The workshop spoke to the importance of Clergy and faith in addressing the issue of domestic violence and sexual violence, demonstrated the prevalence of domestic and sexual violence, and how it impacts women, children, men, and families. The intention was to ensure clergy and Faith leaders understand the dynamics and how to be a bridge rather than a barrier in addressing the issue with congregants.

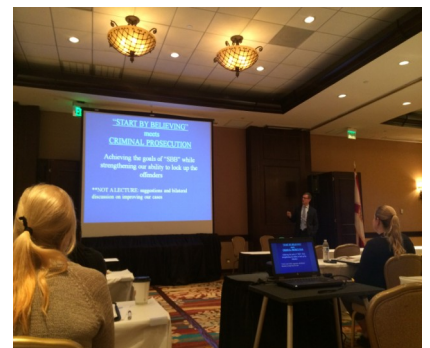
Clergy were educated on resources that can best assist them and families in need. Thirty one clergy and community resource individuals were in attendance. PBCVS created a 7 step clergy point card for clergy to refer to when assisting victims. Upon completion of the workshop, clergy stated they recognized the vital importance of working with secular services to provide the safest outcome for their church members and 3 clients were referred for services the day after the workshop.



There will be ongoing services to the community and future clergy workshops to reach as many churches as possible in the county.

Florida Sex Crimes Investigators Association Conference

On August 3, 2016 SART provided a four hour collaborative training at the Florida Sex Crimes Investigator's Conference. 120 attendees from various states learned about how to "Build your Toolkit" with a presentation on the infrastructure of SART functions and the impact on a survivor. There was a presentation on the SANE role and the steps involved in conducting a forensic exam. The Office of the State Attorney presented how to strengthen criminal cases using the "Start by Believing" approach; Increase inter-agency communication; Strategies to strengthen sex offense prosecutions from the initiation of the case. Attendees gained insight and sensitivity into the experience of being a survivor in the military, who is also part of law enforcement facing gender issues and an understanding of the strengths of one survivor who helped change the Florida statute of limitations and is seeking national change now. Palm Beach County Sheriff's office Forensic Biology Unit and the Special Victims Unit introduced the recently passed Florida Senate Bill 636, its requirements for the testing of sexual assault kits, and the implementation strategy of the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office.



Presenters:

Ashley Foster
Justin Hoover
Julie Sikorsky
Sergeant Eric Keith
Sherri Britton Susino
Susan Carlini
Sharon Daugherty

Battered Woman's Justice Project Training San Diego

It was a great opportunity to see how other states are utilizing danger assessments, to hear about studies that used offenders data that show the actual threat of lethality was much greater than the victim believed it to be and what professionals using only their clinical judgment believed it to be. The Gold Standard would be to use clinical assessments (professional opinion) and actuarial (utilizes statistical markers) together.

The conference focused on using assessments to help get a better picture of the real violence victims are in and the likelihood of the abuse becoming a homicide. When assessments are used correctly we as service providers will then be better prepared to provide services that are appropriate and more effective for the victims in reducing the number of homicides, the lethal violence, and enhancing their safety in the short and long terms.

Evidence also showed the Gateway to becoming Sexual Assault Perpetrators: Childhood witnessing of domestic violence in the home and/or child abuse involving emotional or verbal abuse that contributes to their "standard of behavior" that becomes virtually unchangeable later in life.

The conference went over a variety of issues and there were different opportunities for people with specialized interests, plenty of information for everyone that might be interested.



Cristi Wilson, PBSO Captain Steven Strivelli, & Susan Williams

Written by: Advocate Susan Williams

Signal 35

As part of an ongoing goal of the Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) to educate responders on the most current protocols and national best practices regarding sexual assault cases SART provides a yearly four hour block training. Signal 35: How to survive the call (A toolkit for Law Enforcement) is a SART class approved by FDLE for continuing education credits for law enforcement.

This year's class was held on September 30th with fifty in attendance. The class was an all inclusive SART collaboration. Victim services partnered with the Office of the State Attorney special victims unit division chief, the Child Protection Team, Destiny by Choice, Coalition for Independent Living Options, and Aid to Victims of Domestic Violence. Participants were provided updated knowledge to assist in guiding response actions in a way that will ultimately lead to increased arrests and prosecutions as part of a coordinated effort within our criminal justice system.



Regional SART



On September 15, 2016 the annual South East Regional SART came together 120 strong representing SARTs from Miami to Ft. Pierce. The SE Regional SART is an opportunity for law enforcement, medical staff, forensics, advocates, and state attorneys to learn from each other and provide trainings on their expert subject. This year Palm Beach County (PBCVS) SART provided action team presented a theatrical component titled "Our Healing Journey." PBCVS SART members from Palm Beach County Sheriff forensics lab joined with SART Sexual Assault Nurse Coordinator to train on Forensics evidence from the exam to the lab. The Florida Council of Sexual Violence provided an interactive webinar on victim notification of testing kits.

PBCVS SANE Coordinator, Sherry Britton-Susino, Forensics Evidence Lab Coordinator, Julie Sikorsky, JR Thicklin of Destiny by Choice, and PBCVS Survivor Action Team members Mindi Fetterman,

Julie Weil, Janice O'Boyle and Robyn Sobrane. The Florida Council of Sexual Violence provided an interactive webinar on victim notification of testing kits.

Fifty-Five Palm Beach County SART Members attended the 2016 Regional SART



Monthly SART General Meeting

Palm Beach County Victim Services & Certified Rape Crisis Center (SART)

- What:** Sexual Assault Response Team Meeting
- Date:** Last Thursday of the month unless otherwise noted
- Time:** 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. unless otherwise noted
- Address:** Palm Beach County Victim Services/SART:
4120 N. Australian Ave., WPB 33407

Please Contact:

Susan Carlini at scarlini@pbcgov.org for more information



Mission: To promote a community-wide response to sexual violence by coordinating a multi-disciplinary team that will ensure victims receive comprehensive, compassionate care.



Shine the Light on Domestic Violence Oct 20th 7 PM
Jupiter Lighthouse Parking lot

Domestic Violence Tea Talk Oct 26th 2-4 PM South County Courthouse
200 W. Atlantic Ave Delray Beach

Clergy Roundtable Oct 27th 9-12 PM St. Johns Missionary Baptist Church
900 S. Seacrest BLVD Boynton Beach

SART FDLE Trainings:

November 14, 2016 Investigating Crimes against Children

December 12, 2016 Introduction to Criminal Investigations

Get involved with your community!!



Who: Anyone who interacts with victims or communities

What: To Engage Our Community in Awareness and Prevention of Sexual Violence

When: The 3rd Wednesday of the month 10-11:30a

Where: SART Office – 4210 N. Australian Ave, WPB

Please contact Victim Services (Sharon Daugherty) for additional information at 561-625-2568 or visit our website:

www.PalmBeachCAN.wordpress.com



<https://palmbeachcan.wordpress.com/>

Victim Services SART Center

4210 North Australian Ave.
West Palm Beach, FL 33407
(561) 625-2595

24/7 Rape Crisis Violent Crime Hotline

HOTLINE: (561) 833-7273

TOLL FREE: (866) 891-7273

TTY: (561) 355-1772

Vision: Justice for all Crime Victims

Mission Statement:

With Compassion and respect, we assist victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, homicide, and other violent crimes through crisis response, advocacy, therapy, and community awareness.



“This project was supported by Grant No 2014-WE-AX-0011 awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this publication/program/exhibition are those of the author (s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women.”