



March 2017

Volume 2, Issue 1

# SART Connection

## Sexual Assault Awareness Month 2017

### Engaging New Voices

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April is recognized as Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM). During this time advocates work to raise awareness about sexual violence and educate communities about how to prevent sexual assault. This year's national campaign calls on new voices, like coaches, parents and faith leaders, to join the movement. These groups can help the next generation foster attitudes that promote healthy relationships, equality and respect.

Palm Beach County SART has been proactively working in the Faith Community through our own local expert, Pastor J.R. Thicklin or the last 3 years. He has held several roundtable training sessions with local clergy, who were genuinely interested in how they could help. The role of faith is central to many survivors, and clergy are often first responders. They are often looking for opportunities to help followers in their everyday lives. Our training explains why churches should partner with Victim Services and how we can better collaborate to be more effective in supporting victims. We have developed a Clergy Point Card with strategies and important information used by clergy when encountering victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence and stalking.



Director: Nicole Bishop

It is our hope that by reaching out to new groups, like members of the clergy, that we not only improve survivor safety but expand our reach to work toward a cultural change. For a list of our SAAM activities, please see page 8.



## SART Member Highlight

In this issue of SART Connection, meet Tanya Meade. Tanya works as an advocate for CILO (Coalition for Independent Living Options). and is the chairperson for the Human Trafficking Task Force. For the last 18 months, Tanya has worked as an advocate for CILO. In this position, she assists people who are disabled and become victims of crime and individuals who acquire a disability due to the result of a crime. She works diligently by helping these individuals prepare restraining order paperwork and ensuring that necessary accommodations are made for these individuals in court. As an advocate she also accompanies individuals to court and advocates on their behalf.

In addition to all her hard work at CILO, Tanya is also the chairperson for the Human Trafficking Task Force. Tanya got involved with the Human Trafficking Coalition in 2012 with the goal of helping to bring awareness to this issue. She explained that main thing that the coalition is engaged in is awareness and training. She feels that this is key because, 'everyone needs to understand what human trafficking looks like so they can identify it when they see it and make a report'. She shared that most of the tips that are called into the National Human Trafficking hotline are from community members and emphasized how importance raising awareness is to combating this issue.



Tanya Meade

Recently, the Coalition connected the Armory Art Center with service providers and helped to facilitate the relationships that fostered an art therapy program for survivors of human trafficking. Tanya is committed and dedicated to continuing to help bring awareness and educate the public about Human Trafficking. She would also like to focus on prevention and helping people to identify what makes someone a target. Tanya is hopeful that the Coalition will continue to make a lasting impact in our community.

*Written by: Therapist Kelly Dambra*

## Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM) Proclamation

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM). The goal of SAAM is to raise public awareness about sexual violence and to educate communities on how to prevent it.

To support the efforts, Commissioner McKinlay who was instrumental in Palm Beach County Victims Services Sexual Assault response team opening of the Butterfly House sponsored and signed this year's SAAM Proclamation on March 14, 2017, declaring April, Sexual Assault Awareness Month.



Staff at Palm Beach County Victim Services



## SANE's Corner

Obtaining written informed consent to conduct a forensic exam is an integral component of the forensic exam process. In order for the forensic exam process to proceed the sexual assault victim must be willing to cooperate and able to comprehend the benefits of participating in the forensic exam process. They must also have the ability to understand the disadvantages associated with refusal of consent when declining certain components of the forensic evidence collection process.

On December 1<sup>st</sup>, PBC SANEs began using a new and innovative consent form that was created with the intention of allowing the exam to be more victim-centered and trauma informed. The new consent form delineates each component of the forensic exam process and allows victims to decide on each component of the exam individually verses a blanket consent inclusive of all components.

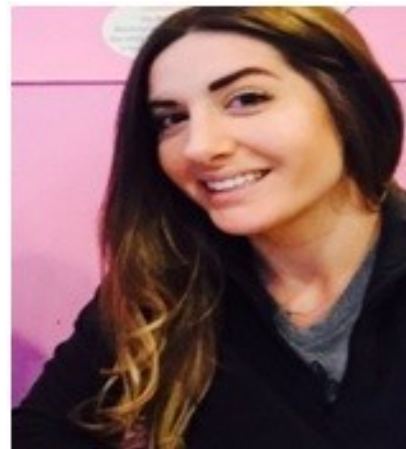
During the months of November, December and January, seventy victims of sexual assault requested the services of a SANE. All victims consenting to a forensic examination were seen and cared for by Palm Beach County SANE nurses at either the Butterfly House or various hospitals across the county.

*Written by: SANE Coordinator Sherry Britton-Susino*

## SANE Member Highlight

Elections for the 2017 Florida IAFN Board were recently held and Palm Beach County Division of Victim Services' own Elizabeth Marlowe, RN, SANE-A, was voted President-elect. Elizabeth serves as an on-call Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) for Palm Beach County Division of Victim Services and Certified Rape Crisis Center. Elizabeth states, "I'm honored to be chosen among my peer for this position." She continues, "I can't wait to get my hands on as many activities as possible to further promote forensic nursing." The first chapter meeting of 2017 is to be held in January where Elizabeth will learn more about the new job and start planning the 2017 FL State Conference.

The International Association of Forensic Nurses (IAFN) is divided into U.S. state chapters. IAFN is an international membership organization comprised of forensic nurses working around the world and other professionals who support and complement the work of forensic nursing. The FL Chapter President-Elect holds their elected position for one year, moving into the position of President for one year and finally into the position of Immediate Past President for one year, for a total commitment period of three years. The Chapter President-Elect, in the absence or



Elizabeth Marlow, RN, SANE-A



## Forensic Nurses Week

November 7, 2016 marks the beginning of “Forensic Nurses Week,” a week honoring select nurses who are dedicated to providing care to victims of violence and sexual assault.

Sexual assault victims require specialized, compassionate care from a healthcare professional trained to treat the trauma associated with sexual assault. These healthcare professionals are known as sexual assault nurse examiners (SANEs).

SANEs play a vital role in our community by providing victim-centered, trauma informed nursing care to victims of sexual assault while also collecting evidence and working with the judicial system to bring perpetrators to justice.

Palm Beach County Victim Services has a team of nine SANEs who are on call 24/7 to provide sexual assault forensic examinations to victims of sexual assault. PBC SANEs have responded to over 240 victims of sexual assault this year.



Elizabeth Marlow, Sherry Britton-Susino, Linda Brock

In celebration of Forensic Nurses Week 2016, PBC SANEs were recognized with a certificate of appreciation, a personalized portfolio and a SANE hand-bag during a lunch and learn event on November 10, 2016. One SANE described the event by saying, "Being appreciated and gaining invaluable education at the same time, all while brainstorming with other local SANEs--couldn't ask for a better Forensic Nurses Week! Thank you!"

## SART Website Launch

At our February 23, 2017 monthly SART meeting members were presented with the long awaited SART website. SART members asked for an easy access all-inclusive link to all things SART. All SART members have easy linkage to other members with one click. Members can now go to the site and find out meeting times, agendas and minutes for our all of our monthly meetings. In addition, there are links to all SART protocols and SART members that can now be accessed and printed. Training videos are available and members can link to registration for upcoming trainings.

<http://pbcsart.org>



## 2017 FCASV Leadership Summit

Palm Beach County Victim Services & Certified Rape Crisis Center staff Carol Messam-Gordon, Sexual Assault Program Coordinator and Rene Boone, Lead Advocate SART attend the 2017 FCASV Leadership Summit held February 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>, 2017 in Tallahassee, FL. The first day of the Leadership Summit was held at Florida Council Against Sexual Violence Headquarters where Grace France and Jennifer Dritt of FCASV discussed Certification Standards and local implementation updates (achievements, challenges and changes in services) and Theresa Prichard reviewed 2017 National Sexual Assault Policy updates. There were three Innovation Spotlight presentations (Providing Services to All Genders, Building Relationships in the Haitian Community & Working with Behavioral Health & Substance Abuse Organizations). Several Round Robin discussion groups were held with various subjects related to sexual assault and serving sexual assault. Carol Messam-Gordon, Sexual Assault Program Coordinator presented a Round Robin discussion on SART challenges and solutions. This summit was attended by various agencies throughout the State of Florida.



Carol Messam-Gordon, Lori Berman, Rene Boone, Abby Ross

On February 8<sup>th</sup> Legislative Advocacy Day was held at the State Capital, staff attended this and met with Senators and House Representatives to say thank you and give them information on Florida Council Against Sexual Violence, Palm Beach County Victim Services & Certified Rape Crisis Center and our local SART program.

### Contact Information

#### Postal Mail

FCASV  
1820 E. Park Avenue  
Suite 100  
Tallahassee, FL 32301

#### Telephone

850-297-2000

#### Fax

850-297-2002

#### Email

[information@fcasv.org](mailto:information@fcasv.org)

#### Toll-Free Information Line

888-956-7273



## The Battered Women's Justice Project



Palm Beach County Victim Services & Certified Rape Crisis Center Program Coordinator Holly DiBenedetto, Grant Coordinator Susan Carlini and Legal Aid Supervising Attorney Kathryn Oleksy attended The Battered Women's Justice Project: *What Works: Identifying and preventing gender bias in the criminal justice response to domestic violence and sexual assault.*

“The two-and-a-half-day conference examined how biases can impede identification of the appropriate assailant, through reporting and investigation, and effective consistent prosecution. Developing policies and practices that support an agency culture that centers victims and share promising practices that lead to culture change within agencies and the communities.”

The objectives were to learn how to recognize and address biases, assumptions and stereotypes about victims and how to develop and implement a consistent and intentional process that identifies and prevents gender bias.

[National Domestic Violence Hotline](#)

at

[800-799-7233](#) or TTY [800-787-3224](#).



Holly Dibenedetto, Kathryn Olesky, Sujata Warriar, Susan Carlini

# Therapy




“Anyone can hide. Facing up to things, working through them, that's what makes you strong.”  
— Sarah Dessen

## SUPPORT GROUPS

Palm Beach County  
Board of County Commissioners  
Department of Public Safety  
Division of Victim Services &  
Certified Rape Crisis Center



### Camino a la Paz: Grupo de Apoyo para Mujeres

4210 North Australian Ave.  
West Palm Beach, FL 33407

**Mondays**  
5:00 to 6:30 p.m.

Spanish-speaking

### Bridge to Empowerment: A Trauma Support Group for Men

Palm Beach County Main Courthouse  
205 North Dixie Highway, Suite 5.1100  
West Palm Beach, FL 33401

**Mondays**  
4:30 to 6:00 p.m.

English-speaking

### Pathways to Healing: A Sexual Assault Support Group for Women

Palm Beach County Main Courthouse  
205 North Dixie Highway, Suite 5.1100  
West Palm Beach, FL 33401

**Tuesdays**  
4:30 to 6:00 p.m.

English-speaking

### Restore and Renew on the Avenue: A Trauma Support Group for Women

South County Courthouse  
200 West Atlantic Ave., Suite 1E-301  
Delray Beach, FL 33444

**Wednesdays**  
3:30 to 5:00 p.m.

English-speaking

### Hope, Healing and Harmony: A Trauma Support Group for Women

Palm Beach County Main Courthouse  
205 North Dixie Highway, Suite 5.1100  
West Palm Beach, FL 33401

**Thursdays**  
3:30 to 5:00 p.m.

English-speaking

### Strength and Spirit: A Homicide Support Group

West County Victim Services Office  
2976 State Road 15, 2nd Floor  
Belle Glade, FL 33430

**First Thursday  
of the month**  
4:30 to 6:00 p.m.

English-speaking

► For more information, call (561) 355-2418 option 3.

[www.pbcgov.com/publicsafety/victim\\_services](http://www.pbcgov.com/publicsafety/victim_services)

f [PBCVictimServices](#)



# Upcoming EVENTS

## National Crime Victims' Rights Week “**STRENGTH** \* **RESILIENCE** \* **JUSTICE**” April 2 – 8, 2017 Week-At-A-Glance

- **April 2, 2017 “Thrive; From Struggle to Survivor”** 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM **Location:** Brewhouse Gallery, 720 Park Avenue, Lake Park, FL 33403 **Presenter:** Coalition for Independent Living Options (CILO)
- **April 3, 2017 “Opening Ceremony Press Conference”** 8:30 AM – 9:00 AM **Meet & Greet** 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM **Program Location:** West Palm Beach Police Department, Community Room, 600 Banyan Blvd., WPB, FL 33401 **Presenters:** Palm Beach Victims' Rights Coalition **Contact:** Amy Shaffer at (561) 355-2418 option #3
- **April 4, 2017 “How NOT To Be A Victim”** 9:00 AM – 12:15 PM **Location:** Delray Beach Public Library, 100 West Atlantic Ave., Delray Beach, FL 33444 **Presenter:** Delray Beach Police Department/Investigative & Training Divisions **Contact:** Dawn Terrizzi, 561-243-7850 or terrizzi@mydelraybeach.com
- **April 5, 2017 “Green Dot” Overview of Palm Beach County’s Green Dot Program** 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM **Location:** Children’s Services Council, 2300 High Ridge Rd., Boynton Beach, FL 33426 **Presenters:** Clarice Redding & Sandy Reynolds **Contact:** Clarice Redding & Sandy Reynolds credding@pbcgov.org 561-625-2560
- **April 6, 2017 “Ceremony in the Garden” ~ Honoring All Crime Victims in Palm Beach County** 8:45 AM – 11:30 AM **Location:** Mounts Botanical Garden & Clayton Hutcheson Agricultural Center at 559 N. Military Trail, West Palm Beach, FL **Presenter:** Palm Beach County Victim Services & Certified Rape Crisis Center **Contact:** Ellen Craddock-Day at 561-274-1500 or Amy Shaffer at (561) 355-2418 opt #3
- **April 7, 2017 “37th Annual Crime Victim Rights Week Awards Luncheon”** **Location:** Embassy Suites – Palm Beach Central, 1601 Belvedere Rd., WPB, FL 33406 **Presenter:** Palm Beach Victims' Rights Coalition **Contact:** Amy Shaffer at (561) 355-2418 option #3 **Registration:** Pre-Registration is \$27 per person until March 31st, 2017; April 1st – April 4th will be \$30
- **April 8, 2017 “Walk For Victim’s Rights”** 8:00 AM **Registration** 8:30 AM **Walk Commences Location:** Currie Park, 2400 N. Flagler Dr., West Palm Beach, FL 33407 **Presenter:** State Attorney’s Office, Fifteenth Judicial Circuit **Contact:** Annette Andre: 355-7142 or Ellen Mark: 355-7275 **Register:** Online @ Office of the State Attorney 15th Judicial Circuit website [www.sa15.org](http://www.sa15.org)
- **April 4, 2017 “Field of Hope” National Day of Action event for Sexual Assault Awareness Month** 8:30 AM – 10:00 AM **Location:** Palm Beach County Victim Services SART Office, 4210 No. Australian Ave., WPB **Presenter:** Palm Beach County Victim Services & Certified Rape Crisis Center **Contact:** Sharon Daugherty [sdaugher@pbcgov.org](mailto:sdaugher@pbcgov.org) 561-325-2568
- **April 7, 2017 “Healing Through the Arts” Sexual Assault Awareness Month** 4:30 PM – 7:00 PM **Location:** City Place, 700 South Rosemary Ave., West Palm Beach **Presenter:** Palm Beach County Victim Services & Certified Rape Crisis Center **Contact:** Monica Gonzalez at [mgonzale@pbcgov.org](mailto:mgonzale@pbcgov.org) 561-625-2568

**STRENGTH** ★ **RESILIENCE** ★ **JUSTICE**





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

<http://pbcsart.org>

## 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.



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