

SART CONNECTION

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DIRECTOR'S CORNER

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

SART Highlight	2
SANE Spotlight	3
SAT Highlight	4
Regional SART	5
Campus Roundup	6
Clergy Roundtable	7
DV Awareness Purple Day 2018	8
Hispanic Awareness Event	9
OVW Grantee Orientation	10
Upcoming Events	11
Information	12

I Ask

Sexual Assault Awareness Month 2019

For this newsletter, Director Nicole Bishop would like to share the following message from the National Sexual Violence Resource Center¹ about this year's SAAM theme:

The #MeToo movement has confirmed what those of us doing anti-sexual violence work have known for years — that sexual violence is prevalent, it can happen to anyone, and the impact on survivors is long-lasting. For the general public, however, this information has been a wake-up call that has left many wondering what can be done to prevent another #MeToo story.

The good news is that we can prevent sexual violence — and together, we will. One way that everyone can get involved is by always respecting the personal and emotional boundaries of those around them. We can ensure that others' boundaries aren't crossed by asking for consent. While No Means No or Yes Means Yes messaging has been sharing the importance of consent for more than a decade, there is still a pressing need to not only normalize these conversations — but to also empower people to have them.

At its heart, Sexual Assault Awareness Month is about more than awareness — our ultimate goal is prevention. Since consent is a clear, concrete example of what it takes to end sexual harassment, abuse and assault, it only made sense that this year's theme center on empowering all of us to put consent into practice. The campaign will champion the power of asking — whether it be asking to hold someone's hand, for permission to share personal information with others, or if a partner is interested in sex. I Ask is the statement by which individuals will demonstrate that asking for consent is a healthy, normal, and necessary part of everyday interactions, and it will set an example for their partners, friends, and loved ones. I Ask is the statement by which we will uplift the importance of consent and transform it from being prescriptive to empowering.

NICOLE BISHOP

Director
Division of Victim Services
& Certified Rape Crisis Center



¹ Sullivan, Susan. "I Ask: Sexual Assault Awareness Month Theme Elevates the Consent Conversation." Sexual Assault Statistics | National Sexual Violence Resource Center (NSVRC), National Sexual Violence Resource Center, 20 Aug. 2018, www.nsvrc.org/blogs/saam/i-ask-sexual-assault-awareness-month-theme-elevates-consent-conversation.



SART MEMBER HIGHLIGHT

BY **VICTORIA P. SIEGEL**

Palm Beach County Victim Services Therapist

In this issue of SART connection, we are introduced to **Chief Richard Jenkins** of North Palm Beach Police Department. Chief Jenkins has 30 years of experience in law enforcement, the last seven of which have been with North Palm Beach Police. He began his involvement in coordinating with SART about 6½ years ago out of a curiosity on why more males were not involved. For him, working within the sex crimes unit is a personal mission. Chief Jenkins understands the lifelong impact that assault can have on victims and the importance that coordination between law enforcement and SART have on that process.

Chief Jenkins said that his role has been to try to prepare and define the best course of action to get operational and potential grants. He described two

changes that improved the functionality of SART, which are moving to voluntary compliance through general orders rather than MOUs and expanding the representation in each department. "We have accomplished what we have through honest communication." By coordinating with SART and creating a true partnership, he assisted in creating an efficient checks and balances system. In order to continue progressing in a positive way, Chief Jenkins believes continued victim-centered investigations and technical best practice trainings are necessary.

Chief Jenkins believes that sending victims the message "We believe you" is important. He also recognizes the importance of including the community in the decision-making process. Chief described the collaboration and partnership within SART as the "best in the

nation." And as he looks to the future, he encourages the team to continue to explore how as a group we can continue to do better.

When you meet Chief Jenkins, you quickly notice his dedication to this field, and soon realize that he is also heart-warming, kind, and humble. When discussing how his contributions have improved and enhanced SART, he replied, "It has nothing to do with me. It is mostly because people in Palm Beach County SART are more personally committed than any other county." He described his involvement with SART as a high point in his life. And, SART is beyond grateful to the contributions Chief Jenkins has made to our team and our community in supporting the creation of a unified group that is able to effectively assist victims throughout their experience.

Chief Richard Jenkins

North Palm Beach Police Department





SANE SPOTLIGHT

BY **SHERRY BRITTON-SUSINO**
SANE Coordinator

Palm Beach County's SANE Coordinator, **Sherry Britton-Susino**, was selected to serve as on the International Association of Forensic Nurses (IAFN) Board of Directors. She will serve as Director at Large for a three-year term beginning January 1, 2019. The IAFN is governed by the IAFN Foundation Board of Directors. All board members have a legal obligation to exercise care, loyalty and obedience to ensure that the IAFN Foundation is governed in such a way that it fulfills its mission and purpose, the assets are conserved and protected, and that it operates within the law.

The IAFN is the world's largest and most prestigious network of professional forensic nurses. It is comprised of more than 4,000 members who practice and support forensic nursing in over 25 countries. Membership in IAFN



Sherry Britton-Susino
SANE Coordinator

provides practitioners with the resources they need to develop their practice, get recognized, and connect with peers in the profession.

IAFN is the recognized authority on forensic nursing. They are the catalyst for universal access to forensic nursing care for patients impacted by violence and trauma. Members are sought out by the public, policymakers, media, governments and worldwide healthcare systems for their expertise and knowledge. IAFN and its members are valued for their collaborative leadership across systems. The association defines and advances the global research agenda to enhance nursing's evidence-based response to the needs of forensic populations. Regulatory bodies and certifying agencies consult IAFN for guidance on setting standards of care for forensic nursing services in a variety of settings. The association serves as a global network for forensic nurses to exchange ideas, serve as mentors and enhance their practice.

About SANEs

- SANEs are registered nurses with advanced education and clinical preparation in sexual assault forensic medical examinations.
- A sexual assault forensic medical exam addresses the health concerns of a victim as they relate to sexual assault and facilitates the collection and preservation of forensic evidence. While most health care providers are able to provide general medical care, not just anyone can conduct a sexual assault forensic medical exam.
- As a part of post-exam duties when the criminal justice system is involved, SANEs are often called upon to interpret, analyze and present exam findings as they provide factual and/or expert testimony related to the examination. Thorough evidence collection and testimony by SANEs have helped prosecutors obtain increased numbers of guilty pleas from offenders and have increased the number of convictions, resulting in safer communities for all of us.



SURVIVOR ACTION TEAM HIGHLIGHT

BY **SHARON DAUGHERTY**
PBC Victim Services Outreach Coordinator

PBC Victim Services "Survivor Action Team" held a retreat on Saturday, 2.2.19. Eight powerhouse women, all survivors of sexual assault, gathered to deepen connections and bring their superpower gifts to share. We created

masks after Janice's powerful dance of "Masks" where the ultimate authentic self is finally unveiled. We reviewed our participation in "Media Appreciation Day" and "Field of Hope (Survivor Speak Out Event) 4.2.19." Deborah led us in a "Harmony Wheel" to explore the balance we have and seek in our

lives. Sharon led expressive movement to ground and open connections with a poignant goodbye movement piece at the end of the night. Kat led us in creating an avatar and naming our superhero within. We shared insight, bonding, gentle-powerful uplifting of each other and a time to remember.





One hundred and fifteen professional SART members from various disciplines gathered at the Boca Raton Police Training Facility for an interactive training on identifying and preventing gender bias.

PBC Victim Services hosts Southeast Regional SART Training

On September 21, 2018, Palm Beach County Victim Services and Certified Rape Crisis Center hosted the annual Southeast Regional SART training at Boca Raton Police Training Facility. One hundred and fifteen professional SART members from various disciplines gathered for an interactive training on Identifying and Preventing Gender Bias. The attendees included law enforcement, medical staff, forensics, advocates, educators, and state attorneys, each of whom brought a different perspective to the training.

The full-day training, facilitated by National Trainers, the Battered Women's Justice Project and a law enforcement consultant, was comprised of didactic exercises, including group review of police reports, video analysis, and best practices about how to handle biases should the situation present itself. The training was a networking opportunity, as SART members from our neighboring counties, Broward, Miami-Dade, Martin, St. Lucie, Okeechobee, and Indian River joined the group.





Campus Round Up 4

Working Better Together

BY **SHARON DAUGHERTY**
PBC Victim Services Outreach Coordinator

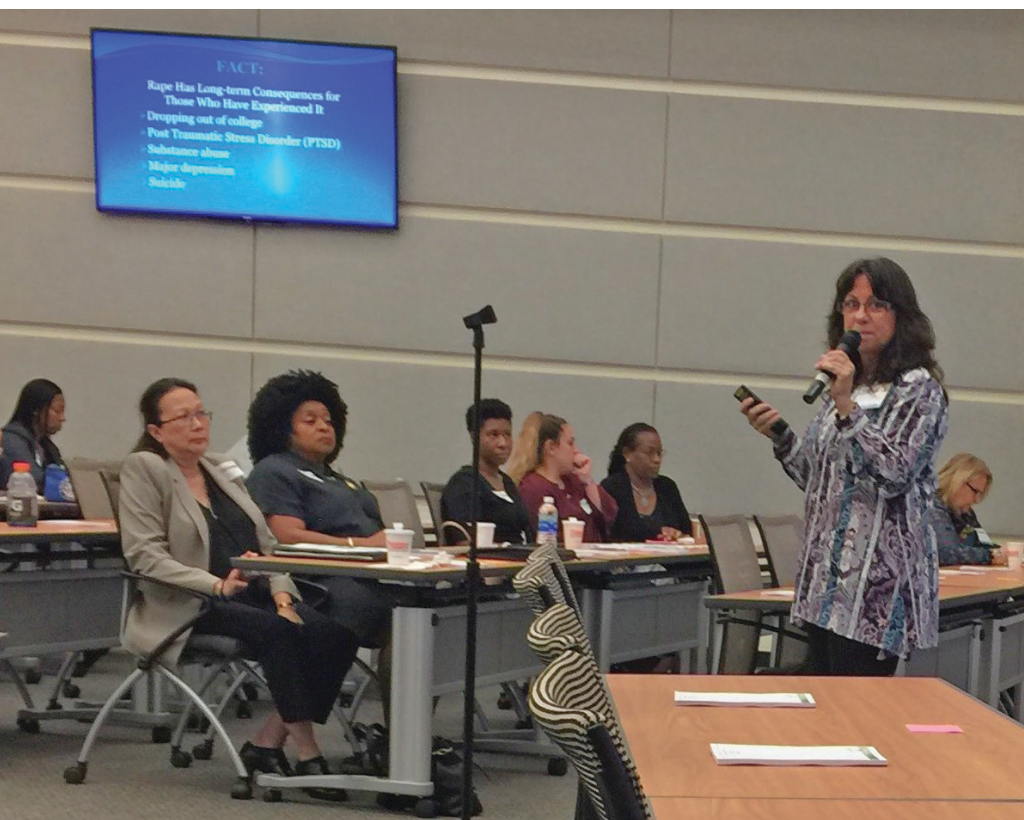
Campus Round Up 4 was held on November 16, 2018, as part of the ongoing Palm Beach County Victim Services campus initiative. As always, we answer the needs of the student and staff community to strengthen services and increase public safety. Attendees gained understanding on responding to victims of sexual assault regarding the Office of

Civil Rights (OCR), Title IX, Clery Act, Florida Statutes; the sources to reach out to for decision making in the best interest of the victim and deepened collaboration with the multi-agencies involved in the investigation of campus sexual assault.

To begin the event, Nicole Bishop, Director of Victim Services, shared these sentiments, "It's important to continue

to grow our relationships, understand each other's roles and learn how to work together seamlessly because this is how we can best serve the students. We want to ensure the legacy of safe schools for all the children of our County. We are continuously improving our system here in Palm Beach County through trainings such as today. I'm excited about what we're doing here as a team in Palm Beach County. Hope you gain valuable information and enjoy today's training."

The training concluded with an interactive panel discussion that gave the participants best practices tips to work better with various underserved populations. It is the hope that all will apply the knowledge gained to their position upon return to their respective workplaces.



PBC Victim Services Outreach Coordinator Sharon Daugherty educates attendees at Campus Round Up 4, a initiative raising awareness about campus sexual assault.

Clergy in West Palm Beach are engaged to learn about Domestic and Sexual Violence

Destiny by Choice (DBC) and Palm Beach County Victim Services (PBCVS) continue to share information about Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault with the faith community. A powerful message about the role of ministers and the church working to resolve the issue of domestic and sexual violence was shared during a clergy roundtable. St. Paul AME Church in West Palm Beach hosted the event on October 11, 2018. The theme, Be Empowered: "What Ministers Need to Know in Addressing Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, The Journey to Wholeness," was well received.

J.R. Thicklin, CEO of Destiny by Choice, was joined by partners Palm Beach County Victim Services, Aid to Victims of Domestic Abuse, and Center for Independent Living Options. Each of the agencies provided information about their services and the referral process. Reverend Dr. J.R. Thicklin talked about how the

partnership between the faith community and the provider agencies in attendance has worked well for him. His message encouraged the leaders to reach out to the providers with questions and invite him to train the other leaders in their respective churches. He shared an overview of what topics the indepth training would include, such as why pastors struggle, the role of the church, what ministers need to know, and hope and healing on the road to wholeness.

The roundtable ended with a pastor sharing his personal story about violence and how Victim Services came to his aid. Other ministers committed to seek more information about the subject matter and consider hosting a training at their church. To find out details about the next event, contact J.R. Thicklin at manofpurpose2000@gmail.com.



Left to Right: Reverend Dr. J.R. Thicklin, Destiny by Choice, CEO; Reverend Dr. Charles Scott, St. Paul AME; and Carol Messam-Gordon, Palm Beach County Victim Services



NATIONAL WEAR PURPLE DAY 10.25.18



On average, 20 people per minute are physically abused by an intimate partner in the United States, according to the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCADV). October marks Domestic Violence Awareness Month, and in honor of this occasion, members of the Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) chose to show their support for victims of domestic violence by wearing purple on National Wear Purple Day, October 25, 2018. The idea is to show victims of these crimes that they live in a community where people will stand with them in solidarity.



Hispanic Awareness Day

BY **NICOLE MARTINEZ**

Advocate, Aid to Victims of Domestic Abuse

Aid to Victims of Domestic Abuse, Inc. (AVDA), partnered with Palm Beach County Victims Services and SART Project community members to support West Palm Beach Police Department's 4th annual community outreach event for the Latino community in the city of West Palm Beach. The event was organized after local police expressed concerns about sexual assault rates in the Latino community and a needs assessment revealed that a lack of knowledge about resources contributed to the few community members accessing services when in need.

The event was held at a local West Palm Beach church, St. John Fisher, and was aimed at preventing violent crimes, including sexual and domestic violence. Approximately 500 community members received resource information, promotional materials, and were engaged in learning through games and other interactive activities.

The attendees of Latino families continue to increase each year, highlighting the need to continue to connect with the community and strengthen our coordinated response to violence in Palm Beach County. The event is well received by the community and creates positive impacts to the relationships we build with each other. The success of the event has led to future workshops, trainings, and events within the community to expand prevention efforts and increase safety. We were able to connect and help bridge the gap between those in need and the providers.

Left to Right: **Melanie Rodriguez, AVDA; Nicole Martinez, AVDA; and Bambi Fanto, PBC Victim Services.**



Victim Services and grant partners attend DOJ's Improving Criminal Justice Response (ICJR) grantee orientation

The Improving Criminal Justice Response (ICJR) grantee orientation was held at the Florida Hotel and Conference Center in Orlando, Florida, January 29–31, 2019.

This year was a joint meeting for FY17 and FY18 award recipients and focused on OVW funded training and technical assistance that is available to ICJR grantees. Attendees had an opportunity to meet and hear from many of the Technical Assistance providers about trainings offered and how to ar-

range them. Grantee peer-to-peer support time allotted gave participants opportunity to share best practices. Additional time was set to allow participants to meet with their assigned Program Specialist from the Department of Justice (DOJ).

Aisha Battle, Palm Beach County's Specialist, graciously joined the team for a group photo!

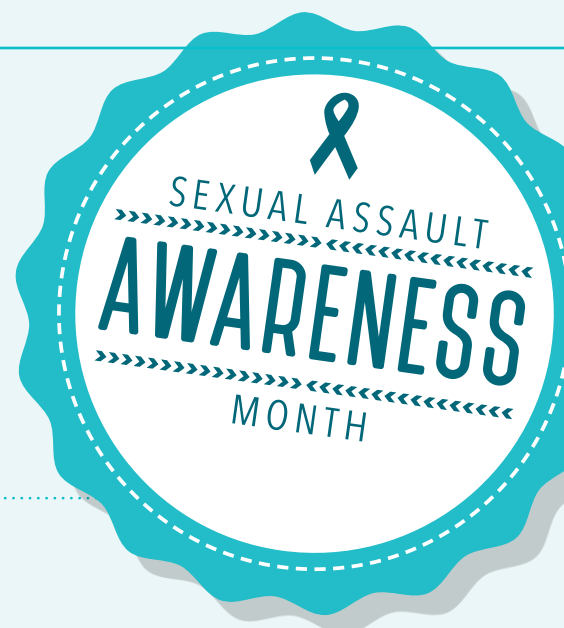


(L-R) Serenia Beckton, PBC Victim Services; Tanya Meade, Center for Independent Living Options (CILO); Carol Messam Gordon, PBC Victim Services; Aisha Battle, Department of Justice; and Nicole Martinez, Aid to Victims of Domestic Abuse (AVDA).

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sexual Assault Awareness Month

April 2019



Victims Rights' Week

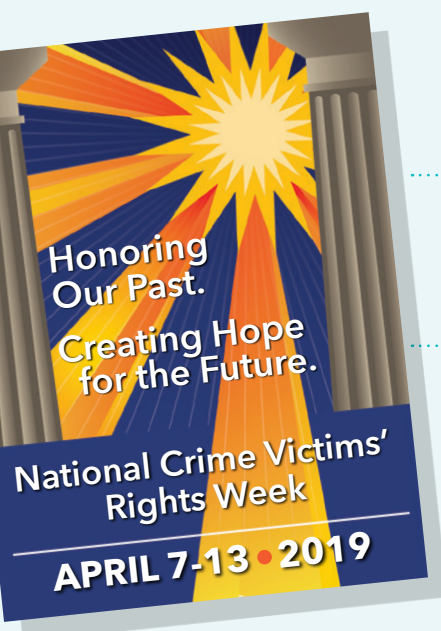
April 7–13, 2019

Trauma Informed Training

June 19, 2019

8:30am–4:30pm

Clayton Hutchinson Center
559 N. Military Trail, WPB



3rd Annual

Field OF Hope

I Ask: Consent is Everything

Survivors are invited to write personal messages in the Field of Hope as a symbol of reclaiming their power and providing hope to others.

Music • Food • Activities

SAVE THE DATE!

4.2.19
5–7PM

To:
Survivors of Sexual Assault and their supporters

Address:
4210 North Australian Avenue
West Palm Beach, FL 33407

When:
Tuesday, April 2 • 5pm–7pm

Any questions:
Sharon Daugherty
sdaughter@pbcgov.org or (561) 625-2568

Please register at:
www.SurveyMonkey.com/r/FOH2019

Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners
Mack Bernard, Mayor; Dave Kerner, Vice Mayor
Hal R. Valeche, Gregg K. Weiss, Robert S. Weinroth
Mary Lou Berger, Melissa McKinlay
Verdenia C. Baker, County Administrator

PALM BEACH COUNTY FLORIDA

PALM BEACH COUNTY SEXUAL ASSAULT SART RESPONSE TEAM FLORIDA

Victim Services SART Center

4210 North Australian Avenue
West Palm Beach, FL 33407
(561) 625-2568

24/7 Rape Crisis Violent Crime Hotline

HOTLINE (561) 833-7273
TOLL FREE (866) 891-7273
TTY (561) 355-1772



<https://www.facebook.com/PBCVictimServices>



<https://twitter.com/pbcdvs>

Check out our YouTube videos:
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCmrtj0Ju42lue8U9FvgAeOQ>

Visit us at www.pbcsart.org



VISION & MISSION

VISION

Justice for all Crime Victims

MISSION

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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**Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners
Department of Public Safety
Division of Victim Services & Certified Rape Crisis Center
Sexual Assault Response Team (SART)**



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