



SART Connection

February 2016

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HISTORY OF SART

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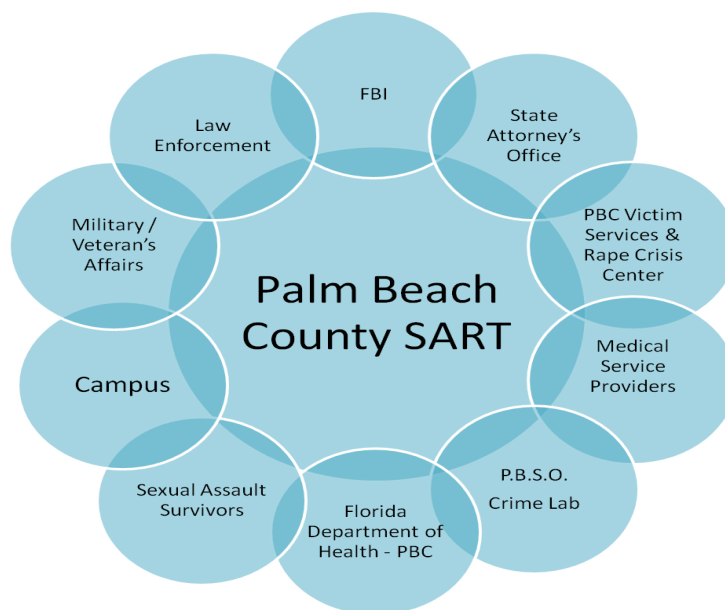
In 2010, there was a concentrated effort to step up the system for providing a coordinated comprehensive approach to victims of sexual assault.

Palm Beach County Victim Services applied and received a grant to establish a SART and enhance the SANE Program from the Office on Violence Against Woman (OVW). This grant led to the formation of PBC SART, a community-wide multidisciplinary coordinating group that meets monthly to promote a comprehensive response to sexual assault by ensuring victims have the best and most comprehensive services available.

SART has achieved this through structuring and instituting a victim-centered approach for improved treatment of victims from the crisis response to the final case disposition.

SART established the Butterfly House and SANE program, improving significantly the medical care of the victim and forensic evidence collection process.

In 2014, SART was awarded the FCASV Outstanding SART Award.



SART Member Highlight's

In this issue of SART Connection, meet the fearless leader of the Sexual Assault Response Team (SART), Nicole Bishop. Nicole has served as the Director of Palm Beach County Victim Services and Certified Rape Crisis Center since 2010 and as the Director of Justice Services since 2007. In the 5 short years that Nicole has been paving the way, she has helped to create and establish a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) program and the Butterfly House forensic exam facility; design and implement community-wide victim centered sexual assault protocols; establish a training committee; led numerous outreach and awareness projects that have promoted positive impact for the rights of crime victims, and more. Recently, she secured \$625,000 for new prevention efforts. In Nicole's time as the Director of Victim Services, she has added 17 new staff members to accommodate the growth of these programs and increased the budget with over one million dollars annually of new grant funding.

It is with committed and intelligent guidance that Nicole has created a strong SART network and led us to reach so many of SART's projected goals. SART has received significant recognition for these milestones, including winning the Outstanding SART award from the Florida Counsel Against Sexual Violence (FCASV) in 2014. It is not a surprise that Nicole herself has received recognition on a state level and more. In 2012, during National Crime Victims' Rights Week, Nicole received a special tribute, Advocate of the Year Award from Attorney General Pam Bondi acknowledging her dedicated service to victims of crime in Florida. Also in 2012, Nicole won the Golden Palm Award from the County Administrator (the highest level of recognition possible for a Palm Beach County employee).

When asked about the future of SART, Nicole's focus continues to be a victim-centered one; "Positively affecting how victims are treated and understood in the criminal justice system and increasing prosecution rates is always our priority." Nicole hopes to achieve this through the continued growth and institutionalization of the SART.



SANE's Corner

Forensic Nurse Appreciation:

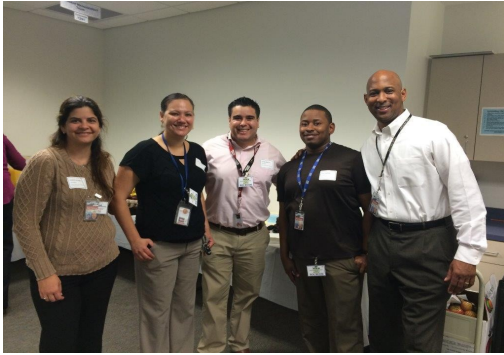
Seven Palm Beach County Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANE's) were recognized during the 2015 National Forensics Nurse's Week which ran November 9-13th. Each SANE was given a thank you card and a forensic nurse angel lapel pin to recognize them for their dedication to sexual assault victims in Palm Beach County. It is through this commitment that more than 240 victims of sexual assault in 2015 were provided with exams, many conducted during night and weekend times.

For the month of November and December, PBC SANE's provided 100% of adult/adolescent exams.

Regional SART September 17th, 2015

On 17 September 2015, Palm Beach County SART teamed up with the Southeast region of SARTs for an informational training to 120 members from the six SART agencies, sixty members of PBC SART attended from advocacy organizations, law enforcement, forensic exam providers, State Attorney's Office, legal aid partners, survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence, and local schools and universities attended the 8 hr. training at the FDLE in Miami.

The training objective was for participants to learn about the importance of a multi-disciplinary approach to providing support for sexual assault survivors. PBC SART members presented on protocol/implementation, campus response, underserved populations, and moderated the survivor panel.



MIAMI-DADE CSI TEAM



PBC SART TEAM

AEquitas Training October 23, 2015

SART and the Office of the State Attorney, 15th Circuit hosted an 8 hr. training Under the Radar Investigating, Advocating, and Prosecuting Intimate Partner Violence on October 23, 2015.

One hundred and ten SART members from Law Enforcement, Advocates, Mental Health staff, and 15th & 17th Circuit State Attorneys attended. The trainers from AEquitas are the prosecutors national resource on violence against women. The purpose is to provide law enforcement with procedural justice techniques for investigation; identify the predominant aggressor and lethality factors, secure important evidence to strengthen, and enhance the case. Prosecutors were presented with tools and strategies for successful prosecution to try domestic violence cases where the victim advocates and mental health professionals learned to identify factors associated with increased risk of homicide.

Participants received CLEs and CEUs.

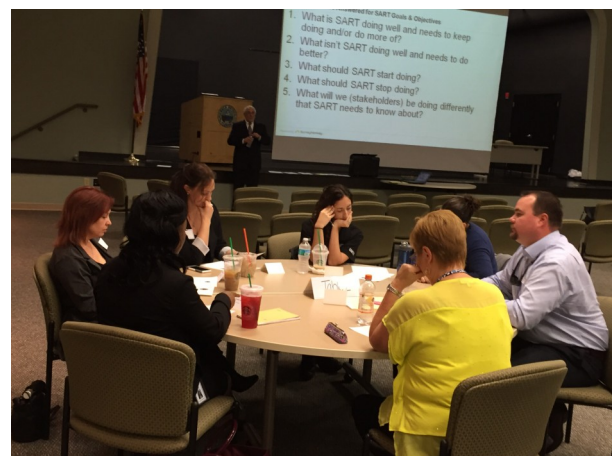
“Being able to provide high-caliber training to our area and receive a great number of participants, reflects the commitment of Palm Beach County and the SART Community to improving the response to sexual assault,” said Susan Carlini, SART / OVW Grant Coordinator.

Strategic Planning Workshop

The SART strategic planning workshop was hosted by Boca Raton Police Department.

On Dec. 8, 2015, fifty-five SART members from law enforcement, SANEs, forensic units, victim advocates, state attorneys, campus, military, and survivors attended the workshop to identify system gaps and training needs to ensure victim centered coordinated community response.

- Increase initial responder's knowledge.
- Increase Victim Trust through improved SART response.
- Improve evidence collection.
- Increase sensitivity to survivors from underserved populations.
- Increase availability of SANE's (Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners)
- Structure SART to meet the needs of the community.





- NO MORE Week of Action, March 6th-12th 2016. Celebrating NO MORE's birthday with a week long campaign empowering individuals to take action to help end domestic violence and sexual assault.
- Lauren's Walk March 21, 2016 8AM-5PM, Over the past six years, tens of thousands of Floridians, including thousands of survivors, have come out to walk with Lauren to show their support for her mission to end child sexual abuse and help survivors heal.
- EVAWI International Conference on Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, and engaging men and boys. March 22-24 2016 Washington D.C.
- Denim Day Flag Display April 1, 2016
- Flash Mob City Place, April 1, 2016
- FCASV Whisper to Roar May Biennial Training Event 11-13 2016 Hyatt Regency, Jacksonville Riverfront
- National Crime Victims Rights Week, April 10 through 16, Serving Victims, Building Trust, Restoring Hope



<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 Compassions 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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