

## **Sexual Assault Forensic Examination (SAFE) Commission**

### **Service Plan**

#### **Braxton County**

##### **Local Board/SART Overview**

To meet SAFE Commission standards, Braxton County has formalized a coordinated response through the creation of a local board convened specifically to meet the SAFE Commission's guidelines. Members of this local coordinated response collaboration include:

- Braxton County Prosecuting Attorney
- CAMC Women and Children's Hospital
- Braxton Emergency Medical Services
- Centers Against Violence (CAV)
- West Virginia State Police

The local board/SART meets quarterly with the intent to:

- ☒ Share information and resources
- ☒ Identify gaps in the service delivery system
- ☒ Increase awareness on issues of sexual assault and stalking in the community
- ☒ Increase victim and community safety
- ☒ Develop professional relationships and an understanding of varying roles and responsibilities of first responders
- ☒ Develop, implement, and review county protocol to meet legislative requirements of the SAFE Commission

## ADVOCACY PROTOCOL

### **OVERVIEW**

A victim advocate provides free, confidential and non-judgmental emotional support, information, social service referrals and guidance following a sexual assault. A victim advocate's involvement will begin at the time the victim reports the sexual assault and extend beyond the point when other agencies have terminated their involvement. A victim advocate offers the victim the support needed to understand what is happening and make informed decisions.

Services can only be provided by trained advocates who have received a minimum of 32 hours of specific sexual assault advocacy training that meets the training standards established by the West Virginia Foundation for Rape Information and Services <http://www.fris.org/>.<sup>1</sup>

The following seven advocacy services meet core service standards. The following services exist in our county:

- ☒ 24/7 advocacy, support, and accompaniment during the medical forensic exam, law enforcement investigations and court proceedings
- ☒ Information for victims about reporting/not reporting to law enforcement
- ☒ Crisis intervention and/or emotional support to victims and their families
- ☒ Referrals and coordinated services with other agencies
- ☒ Support for victims through the criminal justice system
- ☒ Replacement clothing for victims after medical forensic exams, if needed
- ☒ Protection of victim privacy and confidentiality

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<sup>[1]</sup> In cases of child abuse perpetrated against an adolescent as defined by WV law, the local Child Advocacy Center may also be contacted for support and/or forensic services.

Advocacy services in our county for adolescent/adult victims are provided by Centers Against Violence (CAV).

If a call is first received by 911/Office of Emergency Services/law enforcement, that agency will contact the CAV advocate at 304-940-2185 (local during business hours) or 304-636-8433 (24/7).

If a victim presents at the hospital, the hospital shall contact CAV. A worker from CAV shall appear at the hospital within 90 minutes upon receiving the call and will provide transportation to CAMC if the victim chooses to have a medical forensic exam.

First responders will be informed of this Advocacy Protocol by:

The Prosecuting Attorney's Office will distribute this protocol to local agency supervisors at OEMS, Braxton County Emergency Ambulance Service Authority, 911, EMS, Centers Against Violence and all law enforcement agencies in the county. The protocol will be reviewed yearly every June by the SART and changes will be made as necessary. Efforts will be made to assist partnering agencies in including this protocol in their staff onboarding procedures.

**Phone numbers of Rape Crisis Center to Activate Advocacy Protocol:**

**Centers Against Violence – Braxton County Office: (304) 940-2185 (M-F; 8-4)**

**1-800-339-1185 (24/7)**

## MEDICAL FORENSIC PROTOCOL

### OVERVIEW

Medical Forensic Services for Adolescent/Adult Victims are not provided by Braxton County Memorial Hospital.

Services are provided by:

CAMC Women and Children's Hospital  
800 Pennsylvania Ave N. Charleston, WV 25302  
Phone (304) 388-5432

Medical forensic exams are provided by SANEs available on-call 24/7.

First responders will be informed of this Medical Forensic Protocol by:

The Prosecuting Attorney's Office will distribute this protocol to local agency supervisors at OEMS, Braxton County Emergency Ambulance Service Authority, 911, EMS, Centers Against Violence and all law enforcement agencies in the county. The protocol will be reviewed yearly every June by the SART and changes will be made as necessary. Efforts will be made to assist partnering agencies in including this protocol in their staff onboarding procedures.

**Phone number to Activate Medical Forensic Protocol: (304) 388-5432**

## **TRANSPORTATION PROTOCOL**

### **OVERVIEW**

The SAFE Commission requires that this transportation protocol must include the following four core components:

1. Accessible transportation, including the ability to transport victims with disabilities
2. Transportation to and from the medical forensic exam regardless of the victim's ability to pay
3. Plan for victim confidentiality
4. Plan to return the victim to his or her point of origin (or an agreed upon safe place) after the medical forensic examination

If the victim is an adult and does not have independent transportation (including transport by family member or friend), then transportation will be provided by the Centers Against Violence advocate.

If the adult victim has a disability and cannot be transported by CAV, then the Braxton County OES will be contacted to provide transport to CAMC, as per the agreement outlined in the MOU at no cost to the victim.

First responders will be informed of this Medical Forensic Protocol by:

The Prosecuting Attorney's Office will distribute this protocol to local agency supervisors at OEMS, Braxton County Emergency Ambulance Service Authority, 911, EMS, Centers Against Violence and all law enforcement agencies in the county. The protocol will be reviewed yearly every June by the SART and changes will be made as necessary. Efforts will be made to assist partnering agencies in including this protocol in their staff onboarding procedures.

### **Phone numbers to Activate Transportation Protocol:**

**For victims with injuries: 911 or (304) 765-7366**

**For victims with no injuries:**

**Centers Against Violence – Braxton County Office: (304) 940-2185 (M-F; 8-4)**

**1-800-339-1185 (24/7)**