

Sexual Assault Forensic Examination (SAFE) Commission

Service Plan

Brooke County

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304-737-4185

Local Board/SART Overview

To meet SAFE Commission standards, Brooke County has formalized a coordinated response through the creation of a Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) serving as the local board convened specifically to meet the SAFE Commission's guidelines. Members of this local coordinated response collaboration include:

- Brooke County Prosecuting Attorney
- Brooke County Sheriff's Department
- Weirton Police Department
- WV State Police
- Upper Ohio Valley Sexual Assault Help Center, Inc.
- WVU Wheeling Hospital
- Weirton Medical Center
- Comfort House
- Lighthouse
- DHHR Child Protective Services

The local board/SART meets/plans to meet monthly 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

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

First responders will be informed of this Advocacy Protocol and an annual review will be conducted at the first SART meeting of each year to ensure all partners are updated.

Once someone presents as a victim of sexual assault or sexual abuse, the hospital will initiate the sexual assault advocacy protocols and contact the Sexual Assault Help Center's 24/7 hotline at 304-234-1783. An advocate will appear within 1 hour and provide support and information to the victim if desired. The advocate will be present and available to the victim for the duration of the forensic examination.

First responders will be informed of this Protocol through a variety of methods. Members of the team and identified first responding agencies will receive copies (print and electronic) and will incorporate the protocol into their new staff/officer orientation practices. The team will annually review the protocol at the first SART meeting of each calendar year. Our County facilitates a monthly Sexual Assault Response Team Meetings that includes the Prosecuting Attorney's Office, representatives from all county law enforcement agencies, and EMS. Their liaisons will be briefed on the Protocol and copies of the Protocol will be provided to their respective employees.

Phone number to activate advocacy protocol: Sexual Assault Help Center: 800-884-7242

MEDICAL FORENSIC PROTOCOL

OVERVIEW

Medical forensic services for adolescent/adult Victims are provided by regional SANEs which are available on-call 24/7. SAHC will verify a SANE is present first before transporting a victim.

Weirton Medical Center

304-797-6000

601 Colliers Way

Weirton, WV 26062

WVU Medicine Wheeling Hospital

304-243-3000

1 Medical Park Rd

Wheeling, WV 26003

WVU Reynolds Hospital

304-845-3211

800 Wheeling Ave

Glen Dale, WV 26038

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

First responders will be informed of this Protocol through a variety of methods. Members of the team and identified first responding agencies will receive copies (print and electronic) and will incorporate the protocol into their new staff/officer orientation practices. The team will annually review the protocol at the first SART meeting of each calendar year. Our County facilitates a monthly Sexual Assault Response Team Meetings that includes the Prosecuting Attorney's Office, representatives from all county law enforcement agencies, and EMS. Their liaisons will be briefed on the Protocol and copies of the Protocol will be provided to their respective employees.

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

1. 911 Call With Injuries.

- If a sexual assault victim calls 911 needing emergent medical care, EMS and the appropriate law enforcement agency will both respond. EMS will transport the victim to the appropriate medical facility.
- If the victim chooses to initiate a police investigation, the responding Law Enforcement Officer will document and report the incident. Law Enforcement (LE) will stay at the medical facility, if necessary, for the safety of the victim, or return when the medical forensic exam is completed to transport the victim to a safe location if needed.
- If the victim chooses NOT to initiate a police investigation, LE will determine the immediate safety and security of the victim and provide contact information should the victim decide to make a report at a later date. If LE is unable to provide transportation, LE can contact the Sexual Assault Help Center at 1-800-884-7242 for assistance. SAHC and the medical facility will provide confidential transportation options.

2. 911 Call With No Injuries.

- If a sexual assault victim calls to report a sexual assault, is safe, and does NOT need emergency medical care, the appropriate LE agency will be contacted and proceed to the identified location. The victim will be informed by the LE officer of the medical forensic exam and LE report/non-report options.
- If the victim chooses to have a medical forensic exam, initiate a police investigation, and does not have transportation, LE will provide transportation to the appropriate medical facility. SAHC and WVU Wheeling Hospital or Weirton Medical Center will provide confidential return transportation options.

- If the victim chooses NOT to initiate a police investigation, LE will determine the immediate safety and security of the victim, and provide contact information should the victim decide to make a report at a later date. If LE is unable to provide transportation, LE can contact the Sexual Assault Help Center at 1-800-884-7242 for assistance. SAHC and WVU Wheeling Hospital or Weirton Medical Center will provide confidential transportation options.
- If a victim has a disability and needs a different form of transportation. LE can contact the Sexual Assault Help Center at 1(800)884-7242 for assistance. SAHC will provide confidential transportation options at no cost to the victim.

3. Call to Rape Crisis Center. 1(800) 884-7242.

If the victim has emergent medical needs, the advocate will ensure 911 is called. The advocate will inform them of the medical forensic exam and Law Enforcement report/non-report options, and provide confidential transportation to the hospital.

First responders will be informed of this Transportation Protocol by:

First responders will be informed of this Protocol through a variety of methods. Members of the team and identified first responding agencies will receive copies (print and electronic) and will incorporate the protocol into their new staff/officer orientation practices. The team will annually review the protocol at the first SART meeting of each calendar year. Our County facilitates a monthly Sexual Assault Response Team Meetings that includes the Prosecuting Attorney's Office, representatives from all county law enforcement agencies, and EMS. Their liaisons will be briefed on the Protocol and copies of the Protocol will be provided to their respective employees.

Phone number to Activate Transportation Protocol: Sexual Assault Help Center, Inc.: 800-884-7242 or 911