

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

### **Calhoun County Service Plan**

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

To meet SAFE Commission standards, Calhoun County has formalized a coordinated response through the Domestic Abuse Response Team, STOP Team, convened specifically to meet the SAFE Commission's guidelines. Members of this local coordinated response collaboration include:

- Prosecuting Attorney
- Calhoun County Sheriff
- CEO Minnie Hamilton Health System (MHHS)
- MHHS EMS
- Magistrate
- Department of Human Services, Child Protective Services
- Family Crisis Intervention Center (FCIC)
- Family Resource Network
- Calhoun County 911
- WV State Police

The local board/SART meets/plans to meet annually 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

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 Certified 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

Advocacy services in Calhoun County are provided by the Family Crisis Intervention Center.

- Advocate will be contacted 24/7 by law enforcement, MHHS, FCIC staff or any other agency in need of services for victims. 304-354-9254.
- Service will be provided within an hour of call.

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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 or support will be contacted, and forensic services.

First responders will be informed of this Advocacy Protocol by:

The Prosecuting Attorney's office will send out a memo to all first responders, inviting them to an annual information session in May. At this meeting, the plan will be read and reviewed, and responders will be provided copies of the plan and asked to share it with their staff. The Prosecuting Attorney's office will then send the plan to all first responding agencies not attending the meeting. The SART will work with first responders to add the plan to agency onboarding procedures.

**Phone numbers of Rape Crisis Center to Activate Protocol:  
FCIC Office 24/7: 304-354-9254 or the 24-hour hotline at 1-800-794-2335**

### **MEDICAL FORENSIC PROTOCOL**

For medical forensic services for adolescent/adult victims within our county will be provided by a medical facility located in our county.

Minnie Hamilton Health System  
186 Hospital Drive  
Grantsville, WV 26147  
304-354-9244

Exams will be provided by physicians available 24/7 and SANEs when available.

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

The Prosecuting Attorney's office will send out a memo to all first responders, inviting them to an annual information session in May. At this meeting, the plan will be read and reviewed, and responders will be provided copies of the plan and asked to share it with their staff. The Prosecuting Attorney's office will then send the plan to all first responding agencies not attending the meeting. The SART will work with first responders to add the plan to agency onboarding procedures.

**Phone Number to Activate the Medical Forensic Protocol: 304-354-9244**

## TRANSPORTATION PROTOCOL

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 pay 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 (at no direct cost to the victim) to the appropriate medical facility **MHHS**.
  - IF the victim chooses to initiate a police investigation, the responding Law Enforcement Officer will document and report the incident. Law Enforcement will stay at the medical facility, if necessary for the safety of the victim, or return when the medical forensic exams are completed to transport the victim to a safe location if needed.
  - IF the victim chooses NOT to initiate a police investigation, law enforcement will determine the immediate safety and security of the victim, provide contact information should the victim decide to make a report later, and transport the victim to a safe location if needed following the medical forensic exam.
  - Victims with disabilities will be transported by MHHS EMS at NO direct cost to the victim.
2. **911 Call with No Injuries.** If a sexual assault victim calls 911 or contacts the Calhoun County Sheriff's Department or the West Virginia State Police to report a sexual assault, is safe and does NOT need emergent medical care, the appropriate law enforcement agency will be contacted and proceed to the identified location. The victim will be informed by the Calhoun County Sheriff's Department or the West Virginia State Police officer of the medical forensic exam and report/non-report options.
  - IF the victim chooses to have a medical forensic exam and initiates a police investigation and does not have transportation, the Calhoun County Sheriff's Department or the West Virginia State Police will provide transportation to the appropriate medical facility, MHHS. The responding

Law Enforcement Officer will document and report the incident. Law Enforcement will stay at the medical facility, if necessary for the safety of the victim, or return when the medical forensic exam is complete to transport the victim to a safe location.

- If the victim chooses NOT to initiate a police investigation and does not have transportation for the medical forensic exam, the Calhoun County Sheriff's Department or the West Virginia State Police will respond and provide transportation to the appropriate medical facility, MHHS. The responding Law Enforcement Officer will determine the immediate safety and security of the victim and provide contact information should the victim decide to make a report later. Law Enforcement will return when the medical forensic exam is complete to transport the victim to a safe location.
- Victims with disabilities will be transported by MHHS EMS at NO cost to the victim.

3. **Call to Rape Crisis Center.** If a sexual assault victim contacts a Rape Crisis Center after a recent assault, the advocate will inform them of the medical forensic exam and Law Enforcement report/non-report options. If the victim has emergent medical needs and/or requests to have a medical forensic exam but has no transportation, the advocate will guide the victim to call 911. This will then activate one of the protocols outlined in numbers 1 and 2 above.

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

#### **Law Enforcement or emergency medical help: 911**

911 Center will also call the FCIC Advocate when needed 24/7 at 304-354-9254 or the 24-hour hotline at 1-800-794-2335

First responders will be informed of this Transportation Protocol by:

The Prosecuting Attorney's office will send out a memo to all first responders, inviting them to an annual information session in May. At this meeting, the plan will be read and reviewed, and responders will be provided copies of the plan and asked to share it with their staff. The Prosecuting Attorney's office will then send the plan to all first responding agencies not attending the meeting. The SART will work with first responders to add the plan to agency onboarding procedures.