

Sexual Assault Forensic Examination (SAFE) Commission

Service Plan

Hancock County

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Local Board/SART Overview

To meet SAFE Commission standards, Hancock 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:

- Hancock County Prosecuting Attorney
- Hancock County Sheriff's Department
- Weirton Police Department
- WV State Police
- Upper Ohio Valley Sexual Assault Help Center, Inc.
- Trinity Health Systems
- Wheeling Hospital
- 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

Because of our county's proximity to Trinity Health Care Systems, located in Ohio, advocacy protocols for hospital calls may be provided by Ohio state advocates per Trinity Health System advocacy protocols. Follow-up referrals will be made back to West Virginia advocacy centers. See the attached MOU for the detailed referral process.

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 Hotline at Alive, Inc. 1-740-512-6092. 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 meeting of each calendar year. Our County facilitates monthly Sexual Assault Response Team meetings that include 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.

Forensic Advocacy Emergent Care: Alive, Inc. 740-283-3444

For all other: Sexual Assault Help Center: 800-884-7242

MEDICAL FORENSIC PROTOCOL

OVERVIEW

For medical forensic services for adolescent/adult victims within our county services are provided via a letter of agreement with a medical facility from another state.

Trinity Health Systems
Steubenville, Ohio
740-264-8000

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

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Phone number to Activate Medical Forensic Protocol: 740-264-8000

Medical Forensic Services for Adolescent/Adult Victims **ARE NOT** Provided:

Weirton Medical Center
304-797-6000

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, New Cumberland Ambulance Services (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 Trinity Health System 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 Trinity Health System will provide confidential return transportation options at no cost to the victim.

- 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 Trinity Health Systems will provide confidential transportation options at no cost to the victim.
- 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, either via an MOU with New Cumberland Ambulance Services or IC cab which utilizes ADA compliant vans.

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 and free transportation to the hospital.

First responders will be informed of this Transportation Protocol by:

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Phone number to Activate Transportation Protocol: Sexual Assault Help Center, Inc.:

800-884 7242 or 911