

Lewis County
Sexual Assault Forensic Examination (SAFE) Commission
Service Plan

Point of Contact:

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Local Board/SART Overview

To meet SAFE Commission standards, Lewis 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:

- o Lewis County Prosecuting Attorney
- o Chief Deputy, Lewis County Sheriff Department
- o PRO Officer, Lewis County Sheriff Department
- o West Virginia State Police
- o Chief, Weston Police Department
- o Chief Nursing Officer, Stonewall Jackson Memorial Hospital
- o Lewis County Emergency Services Director
- o Hope Inc.
- o West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources, Child Protective Services Supervisor
- o Director of Lewis/Gilmer 911 Center, and Director of Lewis County Office of Emergency Services
- o Assistant Director of Lewis/Gilmer 911 Center, and Assistant Director of Lewis County Office of Emergency Services
- o Lewis County Board of Education
- o Mountain Cap CAC

The local board meets/plans to meet 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

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

Who is the advocate? Services for adolescent/adult victims are provided by Hope Inc, which will provide all seven advocacy services required to meet core service standards.

Who will contact the advocate? Whatever entity the victim presents to will contact the advocate from the rape crisis center for this county. United Hospital Center contacts a sexual assault advocate if the victim so chooses to have one present. Law enforcement, Health Department, EMS, Magistrate's office all refer victims to Hope Inc. should they so choose to have the services of the advocate. Law enforcement and all other entities will contact the advocate by office phone (304-269-8233) or Rape Crisis Center hotline phone number for our area (304-367-1100). Victims from Lewis County will present to or be transported to United Hospital Center to have a sexual assault kit completed should the victim choose to have the kit done.

When will the advocate be contacted? Whatever entity the victim presents to will contact the advocate or Rape Crisis Center hotline immediately after permission is obtained from the victim. If the victim does not consent to the advocate being contacted,

the victim will be provided the contact information to contact the advocate at a later time should they choose to do so.

First responders will be informed of this Advocacy Protocol by hand delivery of the protocol to each agency by the prosecuting attorney. The head of each agency will then hand deliver it to each of their employees and to all new employees upon their hire.

The SART team will review the Protocol every year in April, that being sexual assault awareness month. Any modifications to the Protocol will be finalized within sixty (60) days. If there are modifications, an amended Protocol will be provided via the method described above.

First responders who will be provided the Protocol are as follows but not limited to: Lewis County Sheriff's Department; WV State Police Department – Weston Detachment; Weston Police Department; United Hospital Center; Stonewall Jackson Memorial Hospital; Hope Inc.; WV Department of Health and Human Resources, Child Protective Services Supervisor; Lewis/Gilmer 911 Center; Lewis County Office of Emergency Services; Lewis County Board of Education, Mountain Cap CAC

Phone number of Rape Crisis Center to Activate Protocol:

Hope Inc. 304-269-8233/ Hotline 304-367-1100

In cases of child abuse perpetrated against an adolescent as defined by WV law, a referral shall also be made to the Department of Health and Human Resources by calling the hotline at 1-800-352-6513. Further, Mt. Cap CAC may be contacted for support and/or forensic services at 304-473-0020.

MEDICAL FORENSIC PROTOCOL

OVERVIEW

Medical forensic services for adolescent/adult victims are **not** provided within Lewis County.

Medical forensic examinations meeting SAFE Commission guidelines will be available through: United Hospital Center
681-342-1000

Medical forensic exams at United Hospital Center are provided by SANEs and Physicians are available or on-call 24/7 to conduct forensic exams.

First responders will be informed of this Medical Protocol by hand delivery of the protocol to each agency by the prosecuting attorney. The head of each agency will then hand deliver it to each of their employees and to all new employees upon their hire.

The SART team will review the Protocol every year in April, that being sexual assault awareness month. Any modifications to the Protocol will be finalized within sixty (60) days. If there are modifications, an amended Protocol will be provided via the method described above.

First responders who will be provided the Protocol are as follows but not limited to: Lewis County Sheriff's Department; WV State Police Department – Weston Detachment; Weston Police Department; United Hospital Center; Stonewall Jackson Memorial Hospital; Hope Inc.; WV Department of Health and Human Resources, Child Protective Services Supervisor; Lewis/Gilmer 911 Center; Lewis County Office of Emergency Services; Lewis County Board of Education, Mountain Cap CAC.

Phone number to Activate Medical Forensic Protocol:

911 or the non-emergency number for the dispatch center: 304-269-8243.

Dispatchers will then notify United Hospital Center: 681-342-1000

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

911 CALL WITH INJURIES

When a sexual assault victim in Lewis County requires a medical forensic examination, and has no transportation to a facility providing such services, the following procedures will be activated when a sexual assault is reported:

Transportation to Hospital: EMS will transport the victim (at no cost to the victim) to the appropriate medical facility for any emergent injuries. After any emergent injuries are addressed, the victim will be transported (at no cost to the victim) to United Hospital Center.

If EMS services are not requested but a victim wishes that a medical forensic examination be conducted, a victim may use transportation to UHC provided by an appropriate family member or friend.

Responding law enforcement officer will provide transportation to the appropriate medical facility if requested and if an appropriate family member or friend is not available unless exigent circumstances exist.

If exigent circumstances exist, and law enforcement cannot transport the victim to the appropriate medical facility, the victim may choose to be transported by EMS at no charge to the victim even though the victim had previously turned down medical care by EMS.

Law Enforcement: If the victim chooses to have a medical forensic examination and initiate a police investigation, and does not have transportation, law enforcement will provide transportation to United Hospital Center. That 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 examination is complete to transport the victim home or to an alternative safe location.

If the victim chooses not to initiate a police investigation and does not have transportation for the medical forensic examination, law enforcement will respond and provide transportation to United Hospital Center. 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 at a later date. Law enforcement will return when the medical forensic examination is complete to transport the victim home or to an alternative safe location.

Discharge from Hospital: A victim may take transportation to a safe location provided by an appropriate family member or friend after being discharged.

HOPE, Inc. will use funds to obtain transportation, such as share rides-uber, bus, or cabs, to transport the victim to a safe location if an appropriate family member or friend is not available.

If the victim does not have a safe place to go, the advocate will assess if the victim can stay at the HOPE, Inc. shelter and transport them to the shelter. Responding law enforcement officer will provide transportation to an appropriate safe location if requested and if an appropriate family member or friend is not available and HOPE, Inc. is not able to obtain transportation as described above, unless exigent circumstances exist.

EMS will transport a victim back to a safe location if an appropriate family member or friend is not available; HOPE, Inc. is not able to obtain transportation as described above; and exigent circumstances preclude transportation by the responding law enforcement agency. EMS will be contacted at the request of the victim by UHC. The victim will be provided transportation when EMS vehicle is available, at no cost to the victim.

Upon doctor filling out the medical necessity form, EMS will be contacted to transport a disabled victim back to a safe location, at no cost to the victim.

The preference and safety of the victim should be considered regarding the modes of transportation listed above.

911 CALL WITHOUT INJURIES

If a sexual assault victim calls 911 or contacts law enforcement to report a sexual assault, and is safe and does not require emergent medical care, the appropriate law enforcement agency will be contacted and proceed to the identified location. The victim will be informed by the law enforcement officer of the medical forensic examination and law enforcement report/non-report options:

Transportation to Hospital:

A victim may use transportation to UHC provided by an appropriate family member or friend.

Responding law enforcement officer will provide transportation to the appropriate medical facility if requested and if an appropriate family member or friend is not available unless exigent circumstances exist.

If exigent circumstances exist, and law enforcement cannot transport the victim to the appropriate medical facility, the victim may choose to be transported by EMS at no charge to the victim even though the victim had previously turned down medical care by EMS, at no cost to the victim.

Any victims with disabilities who are unable to be transported by law enforcement, will be transported by EMS at no cost to the victim.

Law Enforcement:

If the victim chooses to have a medical forensic examination and initiate a police investigation, and does not have transportation, law enforcement will provide transportation to United Hospital Center. That 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 examination is complete to transport the victim home or to an alternative safe location.

If the victim chooses not to initiate a police investigation and does not have transportation for the medical forensic examination, law enforcement will respond and provide transportation to United Hospital Center. 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 at a later date. Law enforcement will return when the medical forensic examination is complete to transport the victim home or to an alternative safe location.

Discharge from Hospital:

A victim may take transportation to a safe location provided by an appropriate family member or friend after being discharged.

HOPE, Inc. will use funds to obtain transportation, such as share rides-uber, bus, or cabs, to transport the victim to a safe location if an appropriate family member or friend is not available.

If the victim does not have a safe place to go, the advocate will assess if the victim can stay at the HOPE, Inc. shelter and transport them to the shelter.

Responding law enforcement officer will provide transportation to an appropriate safe location if requested and if an appropriate family member or friend is not available

and HOPE, Inc. is not able to obtain transportation as described above, unless exigent circumstances exist.

EMS will transport a victim back to a safe location if an appropriate family member or friend is not available; HOPE, Inc. is not able to obtain transportation as described above; and exigent circumstances preclude transportation by the responding law enforcement agency. EMS will be contacted at the request of the victim by UHC. The victim will be provided transportation when EMS vehicle is available, at no cost to the victim.

Upon doctor filling out the medical necessity form, EMS will be contacted to transport a disabled victim back to a safe location, at no cost to the victim.

The preference and safety of the victim should be considered regarding the modes of transportation listed above.

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 examination and law enforcement report/non-report options.

If the victim has emergent medical needs and/or requests to have a medical forensic examination but has no transportation, the advocate will guide the victim to call 911. This will then activate one of the protocols outlined above.

First responders will be informed of this Transportation Protocol by hand delivery of the protocol to each agency by the prosecuting attorney. The head of each agency will then hand deliver it to each of their employees and to all new employees upon their hire. The SART team will review the Protocol every year in April, that being sexual assault awareness month. Any modifications to the Protocol will be finalized within sixty (60) days. If there are modifications, an amended Protocol will be provided via the method described above.

First responders who will be provided the Protocol are as follows but not limited to: Lewis County Sheriff's Department; WV State Police Department – Weston Detachment; Weston Police Department; United Hospital Center; Stonewall Jackson Memorial Hospital; Hope Inc.; WV Department of Health and Human Resources, Child Protective Services Supervisor; Lewis/Gilmer 911 Center; Lewis County Office of Emergency Services; Lewis County Board of Education, Mountain Cap CAC

Phone number to Activate Transportation Protocol:

Emergency: 911

Non-emergency number for the dispatch center: 304-269-8243