

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

### **Lincoln County Service Plan**

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

To meet SAFE Commission standards, Lincoln 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:

- Lincoln County Prosecuting Attorney - (304) 824-7990 Ext. 248
- CONTACT Rape Crisis Center- (304) 360-3695 (Lincoln Advocate); (304) 399-1111 (24/7 Hotline)
- REACH Rape Crisis Center – (304) 340-3676
- Cornerstone Child Advocacy Center- (304) 369-5283
- Lincoln EMS- (304) 824-7871
- Branches Domestic Violence- (304) 824-2600
- West Virginia State Police (Hamlin Detachment)- (304) 824-3101
- Lincoln County Sheriff's office – 304-824-7990, ext. 227

The local board/SART 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 victims 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

**Advocacy services for adolescent/adult victims are provided by:**

**-CONTACT Rape Crisis Center for victims presenting at Cabell Huntington Medical Center (CHMC) St. Mary's Medical Center (SMMC) Logan Regional Medical Center (LRMC)**

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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.

**-REACH for victims presenting at Charleston Area Medical Center – Women’s and Children’s (CAMC).**

- The advocate should be called as soon as the victim presents at the hospital and discloses that they have been sexually assaulted.
- CONTACT Rape Crisis Center Victim Advocates may be reached by medical, law enforcement, or emergency services staff, or by victims directly, through CONTACT’s 24-hour hotline at 304-399-1111 or 1-866-399-7273. The advocate will arrive within 60 minutes of receiving the call and stay until the victim leaves the hospital, or no longer requests advocacy services.
- When a victim goes to Charleston Area Medical Center, the REACH advocate will respond within 60 minutes. When the victim goes to the hospital on their own, the hospital will automatically call the advocate with REACH (304) 340-3676. When the victim does not want an advocate, an informational packet on REACH’s services will be provided.

First responders will be informed of this Advocacy Protocol by:

All listed Rape Crisis Centers, medical facilities, law enforcement, first responders, domestic violence, shelters, and child advocacy centers will be provided a copy of the medical forensic protocol in Lincoln County S.A.F.E. Service Plan by email or mail, as well as in person at SART meetings. REACH Crisis Center will be responding to all calls at CAMC, and CONTACT Crisis Center will be responding to all calls at the LRMC, CHH, and SMMC. An annual meeting will be held in April each year to address any gaps in services, and modifications to be made, and all parties will be notified electronically, and in hard copies, within 7 days of the annual meeting by the designated representative of the SAFE Team. The SAFE Team will work with the First Responders to add the plan to all onboarding procedures.

**Phone number of Rape Crisis Center to Activate Protocol for CHMC, LRMC, or SMMC: 304-399-1111**

**Phone number of Rape Crisis Center to Activate Protocol for CAMC: 304-340-3676**

## **MEDICAL FORENSIC PROTOCOL**

### **OVERVIEW**

Services are provided via a letter of agreement with a medical facility from another county.

Cabell Huntington Hospital  
1340 Hal Greet Boulevard  
Huntington, WV 25701  
304-526-2200

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

#### **Phone number to Activate Medical Forensic Protocol at Cabell: 304-526-2200**

Services are provided via a letter of agreement with a medical facility from another county.

St. Mary's Medical Center  
2900 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue  
Huntington, WV 25702  
304-526-1111

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

#### **Phone number to Activate Medical Forensic Protocol at St. Mary's: 304-526-1111**

Services are provided via a letter of agreement with a medical facility from another county.

Logan Regional Medical Center  
20 Hospital Drive  
Logan, WV 25601  
304-831-1101

Medical forensic exams are provided by Physicians and SANESANEs are available on-call 24/7.

#### **Phone number to Activate Medical Forensic Protocol at Logan: 304-831-1101**

Services are provided via a letter of agreement with a medical facility from another county.

CAMC Women's and Children's  
800 Pennsylvania Avenue North  
Charleston, WV 25302  
304-388-5432

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

**Phone number to Activate Medical Forensic Protocol at CAMC: 304-388-5432**

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

All listed Rape Crisis Centers, medical facilities, law enforcement, first responders, domestic violence, shelters, and child advocacy centers will be provided a copy of the medical forensic protocol in Lincoln County S.A.F.E. Service Plan by email or mail, as well as in person at SART meetings. REACH Crisis Center will be responding to all calls at CAMC, and CONTACT Crisis Center will be responding to all calls at the LRMC, CHH, and SMMC. An annual meeting will be held in April each year to address any gaps in services, and modifications to be made, and all parties will be notified electronically, and in hard copies, within 7 days of the annual meeting by the designated representative of the SAFE Team. The SAFE Team will work with the First Responders to add the plan to all onboarding procedures.

## **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

All sexual assault victims who call 911 and/or law enforcement requesting transportation services to a medical facility for a medical forensic examination will be transported to and from at no cost. Lincoln County first responders/agencies will follow the listed procedures:

- Lincoln Emergency Services has agreed to transport a sexual assault victim to a medical facility at no cost and Lincoln County Prosecuting Attorney's office has agreed to cover the cost for a victim from a medical facility, if necessary. CONTACT has agreed to pay the cost in this case, and Lincoln County Prosecuting Attorney's office will reimburse CONTACT. Gas cards will be provided to Lincoln 911 Center for distribution to a family member/friend for transportation of the victim to and from a medical facility if needed. A signature sheet will be provided with the card in order to document the distribution of the card, and once distributed, that will be returned to the CONTACT advocate.

If the victim is being transported by Lincoln Emergency Services the agency will notify the medical facility that a sexual assault victim will be arriving. CONTACT Rape Crisis Center agrees to keep prepaid gas cards on hand to help victims who need assistance with fuel from the hospital. If needed, CONTACT Rape Crisis Center will set-up a ride with Uber or a taxi service to take victims home from the hospital.

If the victim, in a non-emergent situation, only notifies law enforcement in Lincoln County, then the responding law enforcement agency, either WV State Police or Lincoln County Sheriff's office, will transport the victim to a medical facility if needed and notify the medical facility that a sexual assault victim will be arriving. CONTACT Rape Crisis Center agrees to keep prepaid gas cards on hand to help victims who

need assistance with fuel from the hospital. If needed, CONTACT Rape Crisis Center will set-up a ride with Uber or a taxi service to take victims home from the hospital.

CAMC. If the victim from Lincoln County presents at CAMC, the hospital will notify the REACH advocate, who will follow their agency's policy on transportation: If law enforcement involvement is requested, law enforcement shall meet the victim at the medical facility to commence investigation. Upon completion of the sexual assault examination, law enforcement shall transport the victim to a safe location if necessary and requested. If the victim does not wish to report to law enforcement or does not want law enforcement to transport them, and the victim has no other transportation options available to return to a safe location once they are discharged, the REACH advocate will facilitate transport to a safe location via Lyft or C&H Taxi. If the victim denies law enforcement reporting and advocacy services and has no transportation options, the medical facility will provide bus and cab vouchers or contact REACH to arrange transportation to a safe location upon request.

All members of the Lincoln County SAFE team follow their agency's confidentiality policy.

First responders will be informed of this Transportation Protocol by:

All listed Rape Crisis Centers, medical facilities, law enforcement, first responders, domestic violence, shelters, and child advocacy centers will be provided a copy of the medical forensic protocol in Lincoln County S.A.F.E. Service Plan by email or mail, as well as in person at SART meetings. REACH Crisis Center will be responding to all calls at CAMC, and CONTACT Crisis Center will be responding to all calls at the LRMC, CHH, and SMMC. An annual meeting will be held in April each year to address any gaps in services, and modifications to be made, and all parties will be notified electronically, and in hard copies, within 7 days of the annual meeting by the designated representative of the SAFE Team. The SAFE Team will work with the First Responders to add the plan to all onboarding

**Phone number to Activate Transportation Protocol:**

**Lincoln County 911**

**For assistance returning to Lincoln County from a hospital:**

**CONTACT Huntington: 304-399-1111**

**REACH (for victims at CAMC): 304-388-5432**