

Sexual Assault Forensic Examination (SAFE) Commission

McDowell County Service Plan

Local Board/SART Overview

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

- Prosecuting Attorney
- Welch Community Hospital
- McDowell County Sheriff's Department
- WV State Police - Welch Detachment
- Stop Abusive Family Environments (S.A.F.E.)
- Stop the Hurt Child Advocate Center

The 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 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

Advocacy services for adolescent/adult victims in our county are provided by Stop Abusive Family Environments (SAFE).

- Law Enforcement will contact SAFE's 24-hour hotline at 304-436-8117 within 45 minutes of the initial contact with the victim to initiate services from the SAFE advocate.
- Intake staff at Welch Community Hospital will contact SAFE's 24-hour hotline, 304-436-8117 for advocacy services immediately after the victim presents at the hospital.
- The SAFE advocate will provide services within 1 hour after the call has been received from the hotline for needed services.

First responders will be informed of this Advocacy Protocol by:

The McDowell County SART team will review the SAFE plan every year during the March meeting (first meeting of the year) and hold an information session during April for all first responders in McDowell County. The SAFE Office will send out a memo to all first responders to invite them to the information session. The SAFE Office will then follow up the session by sending the plan to all first responding agencies who were unable to send their staff to the information session. In-person conversations with first responders will be held quarterly or as needed to make sure they understand the plan and are sharing it with the rest of their staff. The SART will work with first responders to add the plan to all onboarding procedures. The first responders who need to have access to this plan are the McDowell County Sheriff's Department, State Police – McDowell Detachment, Welch Police Department, Welch Community Hospital, SAFE Inc., 911 Dispatch, McDowell County Schools, STOP the Hurt, City and County EMS, and the McDowell County Health Department.

Phone number of Rape Crisis Center to Activate Protocol:

304-436-8117

MEDICAL FORENSIC PROTOCOL

OVERVIEW

It is important for all sexual assault victims to have access to specialized medical evaluation and crisis intervention. The SAFE Commission has created legislative rules outlining minimum training requirements for those conducting medical forensic exams in West Virginia.

For medical forensic services for pediatrics/adolescent/adult victims within McDowell County, services are provided by a medical facility located in our county.

- Welch Community Hospital 304-436-8630

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

The McDowell County Sexual Assault local board will review the Protocol every year during the January meeting. A meeting with all first responders in McDowell County will take place at the April meeting to inform all parties of the protocol. SAFE will send out meeting dates and times to all agencies. The SART will work with first responders to add the plan to all on-boarding procedures. The first responders in McDowell County will include McDowell County Sheriff's Department, Welch Police Department, County EMS, McDowell Board of Education, Medical/Health agencies, CPS/APS, Stop the Hurt.

Welch Emergency Hospital 304-436-8630

Medical forensic exams are provided by physicians 24/7.

TRANSPORTATION PROTOCOL

OVERVIEW

This protocol will be activated when a victim of sexual assault requires a medical forensic exam and cannot transport themselves to and from a facility that provides that care.

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

Transportation protocol when no emergent medical needs are:

Transport services for adolescent/adult victims for medical forensic services that are provided within our county:

Accessible transportation services are available to victims to Welch Community Hospital and from the hospital to a safe location by calling Stop Abusive Family Environments (S.A.F.E.) at 1-800-688-6157 or 304-436-8117. All services provided by Stop Abusive Family Environments (S.A.F.E.) will be kept confidential to maintain victim privacy and are available to victims at no cost.

For victims wishing to report the assault immediately to law enforcement, transport services can also be accessed by contacting 911. The McDowell County Sheriff's Department will provide transportation to the hospital and an incident report will be made. S.A.F.E. will provide free transportation from the hospital to a safe location.

First responders will be informed of this Transportation Protocol by:

The McDowell County Sexual Assault local board will review the Protocol every year during the January meeting. A meeting with all first responders in McDowell County will take place at the April meeting to inform all parties of the protocol. SAFE will send out meeting dates and times to all agencies. The SART will work with first responders to add the plan to all on-boarding procedures. First responders in McDowell County will include McDowell County Sheriff's Department, Welch Police Department, County EMS, McDowell Board of Education, Medical/Health agencies, CPS/APS, Stop the Hurt.

Phone numbers to Activate Transportation Protocol:

-Stop Abusive Family Environments (S.A.F.E.) 1-800-688-6157 304-436-8117

-911 in cases where the victim wants to immediately report the assault to law enforcement