

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

## **Service Plan**

### **Ohio County**

Scott R. Smith, Ohio County Prosecuting Atty  
1500 Chapline Street (2nd Floor), Wheeling, WV 26003  
(304) 234-3631

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

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

- Prosecuting Attorney
- Ohio County Sheriff's Department
- Wheeling Police Department
- Sexual Assault Help Center
- Ohio Valley Medical Center
- Wheeling Hospital
- Harmony House
- Wheeling Jesuit University Title XI Coordinator
- West Liberty University Title XI Coordinator
- Bethany College Title XI Coordinator
- DHHR Child protective services
- West Virginia State Police

The local SART meets bi-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

Advocacy services in our county are provided by Sexual Assault Help Center, Inc.

- The Sexual Assault Help Center will be contacted by the intake staff at the hospital through the 24/7 Hotline.
- The Sexual Assault Help Center will be present for the Victim within 1 hour of the time the hospital contacts the Hotline.
- Once the Victim presents that he/she is a Victim of sexual assault or sexual abuse, the hospital will initiate the Sexual Assault Advocacy Protocols and contact the Sexual Assault Hotline at (1-800) 884-7242. 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 during the duration of the forensic examination.

First Responders will be informed of this Advocacy Protocol and an annual review will be conducted at the first SART meeting of the year to ensure all partners are updated.

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 quarterly 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.

**Phone number of Rape Crisis Center to Activate Protocol: 1-800-884-7274**

## MEDICAL FORENSIC PROTOCOL

### **OVERVIEW**

Medical forensic services for adolescent/adult Victims are provided by SANEs, who are available on-call 24/7.

WVU Medicine Wheeling Hospital  
10 Medical Park, Wheeling, WV 26003  
304-243-3000

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

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 quarterly 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.

**Phone number to Activate Medical Forensic Protocol:**

**Wheeling Hospital 304-243-3000**

## **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

**Protocol.** When a sexual assault Victim in Ohio 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 protocol when no emergent medical needs are reported are as follows:

- Ohio County Sheriff's Department and Wheeling Police Department provides Victim transportation to and from Wheeling Hospital.
- In the event of a non-reporting Victim, the Sexual Assault Help Center, Wheeling Hospital has accessibility to vouchers to organize a cab fare. To ensure confidentiality, the above entities will contact the cab company, arrange destination, provide the voucher or payment, and be present with the Victim while entering into the cab. No identifying information will be written on any documentation other than address to destination.

### **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 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 are unable to provide transportation, LE can contact the Sexual Assault Help Center at 1(800) 884-7242 for assistance. SAHC and the hospital 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 emergent medical care, the appropriate Law Enforcement agency will be contacted and will proceed to the identified location. The Victim will be informed by the Law Enforcement officer of the medical forensic exam and Law Enforcement report/non-report options.
- If the Victim chooses to have a medical forensic exam and initiate a police investigation and does not have transportation, Law Enforcement will provide transportation to the appropriate local medical facility. SAHC and the hospital will provide confidential return transportation options.
- 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 are unable to provide transportation, LE can contact the Sexual Assault Help Center at 1(800) 884-7242 for assistance. SAHC and the hospital will provide confidential transportation options.
- 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 with no cost to the victim.

### **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 transportation to the hospital.

First Responders will be informed of this Transportation Protocol by:

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 quarterly 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.

**Phone number to Activate Transportation Protocol with injuries: 911**

**With no injuries: 1(800) 884-7242**