

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

## **Service Plan**

### **Webster County**

**Beth Snead, Prosecutor**

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

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

- Webster County Prosecuting Attorney's Office
- Webster County Sheriff
- Webster County EMS
- Centers Against Violence (CAV)
- Tri-County Child Advocacy Center
- CPS (Webster County)
- Seneca Health Services
- Webster County Memorial Hospital

The SART meets 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 coordinating 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 Centers Against Violence (CAV) rape crisis center.

### **Adults:**

#### Contacting the Advocate

- 1) If the call is first received by 9-1-1/Office of Emergency Services, that agency will contact the CAV advocate at (304) 847-2211(business hours – 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Mon-Fri). If the advocate is unavailable for immediate contact, the agency can contact the advocacy program's shelter at 1-800-339-1185 (24/7 or outside of business hours). The shelter will then either contact the county advocate or the advocate in the nearest county to respond.
- 2) If the call is first received by law enforcement, the receiving officer shall notify the Office of Emergency Services to contact the CAV advocate or shall contact the advocate directly.
- 3) If the victim initially contacts medical personnel, the provider shall obtain the permission of the victim and shall contact the CAV advocate.
- 4) The CAV advocate is available and on call 24/7. Once contacted by the

Office of Emergency Services, the advocate shall obtain contact information for the caller/reporter and/or victim from the OES and reach out to that person to determine what additional actions are necessary consistent with the advocate's agency protocol. The advocate shall reach out to the caller/reporter and/or victim within 1 hour or as soon as is reasonably possible, to offer or initiate services, and provide resources and referrals to other agencies upon request.

### **Children:**

- 1) All cases of child sexual abuse/sexual assault will be reported by the receiving agency to the WV Department of Health and Human Resources / Child Protective Services by calling (304) 847-2861 or calling the Child Abuse Hotline at 1-800-352-6513 as mandated by law.
- 2) Any agency receiving the report of child sexual abuse/sexual assault shall immediately notify on duty law enforcement and the prosecuting attorney so that the CAC process and investigation may be commenced and coordinated.

First responders will be informed of this Advocacy Protocol by:

The Webster County Prosecuting Attorney's Office will distribute this protocol to each local agency supervisor, including the WV State Police, Webster County Sheriff's Department, Municipal Police Departments, WV Natural Resources Police, Centers Against Violence, and Webster County Office of Emergency Services, distributed immediately to new officers and agents of the above agencies. Protocol will be reviewed yearly every June by the SART and changes will be made as necessary. Efforts will be made to assist partnering agencies in including this protocol in their staff onboarding procedures.

### **Phone numbers of Rape Crisis Center to Activate Advocacy Protocol:**

Centers Against Violence – Webster County Office: (304) 847-2211 (M-F; 8-4)

Centers Against Violence (24/7): 1-800-339-1185

## MEDICAL FORENSIC PROTOCOL

### **OVERVIEW**

Forensic exam collection services are provided at Webster County Memorial Hospital; however, Webster County Memorial Hospital does not have a SANE on staff.

**Webster Memorial Hospital**

324 Miller Mountain Road  
Webster Springs, WV  
304-847-5682

If a SANE is requested or required, then priority will begin with closest hospital with available SANES.

Services are provided via a letter of agreement with the following medical facilities:

**CAMC Women & Children's Hospital**

800 Pennsylvania Ave.,  
Charleston, WV  
304-388-5432

Medical forensic exams are provided by SANES that are available on-call 24/7.

**United Hospital Center**

327 Medical Park Drive  
Bridgeport, WV  
681-342-1000

Medical forensic exams are provided by SANES that are available on-call 24/7.

**CAMC General Hospital**

501 Morris Street  
Charleston, WV  
304-388-5432

Medical forensic exams are provided by SANES that are available on-call 24/7.

When available:

**Summersville Pediatrics** (SANE available during business hours for ages up to 21)

400 Fairview Heights Road. Ste 302  
Summersville, WV  
304-872-7063

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

The Webster County Prosecuting Attorney's Office will distribute this protocol to each local agency supervisor, including the WV State Police, Webster County Sheriff's Department, Municipal Police Departments, WV Natural Resources Police, Centers Against Violence, and Webster County Office of Emergency Services, distributed immediately to new officers and agents of the above agencies. Protocol will be reviewed yearly every June by the SART and changes will be made as necessary. Efforts will be made to assist partnering agencies in including this protocol in their staff onboarding procedures.

**Phone numbers to Activate Medical Forensic Protocol (By Priority):**

**Webster Memorial Hospital: (304) 847-5682 (Exams conducted by M.D. or PA)**

**Summersville Pediatrics: (304) 872-7063 (business hours only, ages up to 21)**

**Women's and Children's Hospital: (304) 388-5432**

**United Hospital Center: (681) 342-1000**

**Charleston Area Medical Center: (304) 388-5432**

## **TRANSPORTATION PROTOCOL**

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.

If the victim is a minor in state's custody: a. In cases where the victim does not need urgent medical attention from EMS personnel, the CPS Worker investigating the case will provide transportation to the medical facility conducting the examination. b. In cases where urgent medical attention is required and EMS transport is necessary, the EMS responders will transport the victim to the nearest ER for immediate medical attention and subsequent SANE exam, and the CPS worker will escort the EMS ambulance to the nearest medical facility.

If the victim is a minor in the custody of a guardian or non-offending parent and not in need of immediate medical attention from EMS personnel, the guardian or parent will provide transportation to the serving medical facility, or the CPS worker will obtain permission from the guardian or non-offending parent to transport the victim to the treating medical facility for the SANE exam. Upon obtaining permission, the guardian or non-offending parent will be given the option to ride with the CPS worker to transport the victim to the treating medical facility or using their own transportation to meet the CPS worker and the victim and the treating medical facility where the SANE exam will be conducted.

If the victim is an adult and does not have independent transportation (including transport by family member or friend), then transportation will be provided by the Centers Against Violence advocate or Officer of the Sheriff's Department, determined by availability of above referenced individuals, their agreement to provide transportation, and an agreement by the victim and the prosecutor.

If the adult victim has a disability and cannot be transported by one of the above referenced individuals, then the Webster County OES will be contacted to provide transport to the nearest appropriate medical facility, as per the agreement outlined in the MOU at no cost to the victim.

The Webster County Prosecuting Attorney's Office will distribute this protocol to each local agency supervisor, including the WV State Police, Webster County Sheriff's Department, Municipal Police Departments, WV Natural Resources Police, Centers Against Violence, and Webster County Office of Emergency Services, distributed immediately to new officers and agents of the above agencies. Protocol will be reviewed yearly every June by the SART and changes will be made as necessary. Efforts will be made to assist partnering agencies in including this protocol in their staff onboarding procedures.

### **Phone numbers to Activate Transportation Protocol:**

For victims with injuries:

Webster County Office of Emergency Services: (304) 847-2122.

For victims with no injuries:

Centers Against Violence: (304) 847-2211 (M-F; 8-4); 1-800-339-1185 (24/7)

Webster County Department of Human Services for active CPS response (304) 847-2861