

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

### **Service Plan**

#### **Wetzel County**

Timothy E. Haught, Wetzel County Prosecuting Atty

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304-455-8222

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

To meet SAFE Commission standards, Wetzel 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
- Wetzel County Sheriff's Department
- New Martinsville Police Department
- Sexual Assault Help Center
- DHHR Child protective services
- DHHR Adult protective services
- Lighthouse Children's Advocacy Center
- YWCA Domestic Violence Advocate
- 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 they are 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 arrive within 1 hour and provide support and information to the victim. The Advocate will be present and available to the victim for 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 bimonthly 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 which are NOT available on-call 24/7:

Reynolds Memorial Hospital  
800 Wheeling Ave, Glen Dale, WV 26038  
304-845-3211

Medical forensic services for adolescent/adult victims are provided by SANEs which are available on-call 24/7:

Wheeling Hospital  
1 Medical Park Rd, Wheeling, WV 26003  
304-243-3000

Medical Forensic Services for adolescent/adult victims ARE NOT provided:

Wetzel County Hospital  
3 E Benjamin Dr, New Martinsville, WV 26155  
304-455-8000

**When victims report a sexual assault to law enforcement or any other first responder, they will call SAHC at 1-800-884-7274, who will then determine which hospital to transport based on SANE availability.**

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 bimonthly 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: 1-800-884-7274

Reynolds Memorial Hospital 304-845-3211  
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 Wetzel 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:

- Wetzel County Sheriff's Department and New Martinsville Police Department provide victim transportation to and from Wheeling Hospital or Reynolds Hospital.
- In the event of a non-reporting victim, the Sexual Assault Help Center, Wheeling Hospital and Reynolds Hospital have accessibility to vouchers to arrange for 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 (LE) 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 bimonthly 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