

Module 2

What Is Sexual Assault Advocacy/Counseling?

OVC Can Help You Put the Pieces Together



OVCTTAC

Learning Objectives

- ❖ **Describe the composition of a SART.**
- ❖ **Identify the major roles of an advocate.**
- ❖ **Make appropriate decisions based on state reporting laws.**

Tenets of Advocacy

- ❖ **Provide information about choices.**
- ❖ **Trauma-specific.**
- ❖ **Listen and believe.**
- ❖ **Neither investigate nor judge.**
- ❖ **Teamwork.**

SARTs and SANEs

What do you know about about Sexual Assault Response Teams (SARTs) and Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANEs)?

Sexual Assault Response Teams (SARTs)

- ❖ **Group of individuals from different agencies who work with rape victims.**
- ❖ **Effective model.**
- ❖ **Crisis intervention and long-term counseling.**
- ❖ **Investigation and evidence collection.**
- ❖ **More sensitive medical response to rape victims.**

SART Membership Varies

- ❖ **At minimum, rape crisis advocate, SANE, law enforcement, prosecutor, and crime laboratory specialist.**
- ❖ **May also include domestic violence victim advocates, clergy, and other social service agency personnel.**

Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANEs)

- ❖ **Medical professionals who participate in a SART.**
- ❖ **Specially trained nurses.**
- ❖ **Trained to complete a medical-legal exam of rape victims.**
- ❖ **Better evidence collection and more sensitive initial medical response.**

Need for SANEs

- ❖ **Long waits.**
- ❖ **Could not eat, drink, or urinate while waiting.**
- ❖ **Insufficient training.**
- ❖ **Improper evidence collection.**
- ❖ **Proper exams are time-consuming.**
- ❖ **Medical professionals fear subpoenas.**

Teamwork

- ❖ **Rape crisis centers, advocacy, specialized training, and teamwork have greatly improved the quality of care for rape victims.**
- ❖ **Be clear about roles.**
- ❖ **Be respectful of roles.**

Roles of the Advocate

- ❖ **Crisis telephone line.**
- ❖ **Medical-evidentiary exam response.**
- ❖ **Law enforcement statement accompaniment.**
- ❖ **Courtroom accompaniment.**
- ❖ **Family/significant other supportive counseling.**

Roles of the Advocate

- ❖ **Walk-in crisis intervention.**
- ❖ **Individual, ongoing supportive counseling.**
- ❖ **Support group facilitation.**

Confidentiality

- ❖ **It is the victim's right.**
- ❖ **It gives the victim control.**
- ❖ **It makes disclosure safe.**

Confidentiality

- ❖ **Issues differ for advocates and SANEs.**
 - **Rape crisis centers in many states have lobbied for legislation so advocates can't be subpoenaed; advocates must know limits of confidentiality.**
 - **SANEs expect that everything the victim says can be admitted into evidence.**
- ❖ **Ensure the victim knows limits to confidentiality.**

Activity

Law Review

Worksheet 2.1

- ❖ **Review the handouts:
2.1, VAWA 2005 Reauthorization Forensic Compliance; and
2.2, Victims of Sexual Assault HIPAA Privacy Rule.**
- ❖ **Complete the worksheet.**
- ❖ **Turn in your worksheet.**

Maintaining Confidentiality Means . . .

- ❖ **Not talking to the media.**
- ❖ **Not using the victim's name when discussing with coworkers.**
- ❖ **Not discussing cases with your family.**
- ❖ **Not talking about cases on an elevator or in a public place.**
- ❖ **Not using any details of cases for training purposes.**

Review of Learning Objectives

- ❖ **Describe the composition of a SART.**
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End of Module 2

Questions? Comments?

