

BUTLER COUNTY SEXUAL ASSAULT RESPONSE TEAM MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

It is hereby recognized that Sexual Assault Response Teams (SARTs) are an effective intervention method for ensuring competent, coordinated, trauma-informed, and effective intervention for victims of sexual assault. SARTs organize interagency, multidisciplinary responses for the benefit of the victim and the community.

The mission of the Butler County Sexual Assault Response Team (BC-SART) is to **coordinate and implement an interagency response to sexual assault victims that promotes consistency, respect, and cultural responsiveness.**

Participating agencies signing this Memorandum of Understanding agree to fulfill the roles and responsibilities outlined here to the best of their abilities and as their resources allow. Each agency indicates their commitment to implementing and maintaining the SART by doing the following:

- Designating an agency member to participate in a quarterly SART meeting to ensure smooth operations, problem solving, case review, and to participate in and receive updates regarding best practices, training, and protocol – this participating member will provide regular updates to agency leadership about the work of the team;
- Ensuring education and compliance of all relevant employees of the member agency that will have direct contact with victims of sexual assault (i.e. patrol officers, detectives, Assistant Prosecuting Attorneys, victim advocates, etc.) in the SART protocol¹;
- Ensuring victim advocacy and continuity of care for survivors of sexual assault by allowing unhindered access to rape crisis center advocates;
- Respecting various disciplines, roles and perspectives and providing cross-training to enhance understanding;
- Welcoming various agencies and disciplines to the SART to obtain and share in differing perspectives, knowledge, understanding, and training;
- Developing and maintaining an agency database of contacts;
- Making a commitment to positive and constructive problem solving for the benefit of the sexual assault victim and the community;

¹ The Butler County SART Protocol is currently in its first iteration, Sexual Assault Response Protocol, Butler County, Ohio, December 2020

- Ensuring a culturally competent system of care, including the planning and availability of interpreters;
- Making a commitment to ensure effective case review for criminal prosecution through an Adult Sexual Assault Taskforce to be led by the Butler County Prosecutor's Office, to include law enforcement and, at the discretion of the prosecutor, SANE, medical personnel, and/or victim advocate(s). The Adult Sexual Assault Taskforce will actively support the use of case consultation and case reviews to identify strengths and weaknesses of protocol and its implementation within agencies.
- Be committed to the truth-centered, victim-centered, and offender-focused protocol;
- Maintain leadership support for the development and implementation of the interagency protocol and other goals of the SART;
- Actively supporting training and other information-sharing within the agency to ensure implementation of protocol throughout the agency;
- Be versed in the agency's role in sexual assault cases and be able to speak about the ability of the agency to fulfill obligations related to the multidisciplinary process
- Ensuring coordination with the Victim/Witness Assistance Center to facilitate access to training about the Victim Compensation Fund, and other funds and services;
- Ensuring coordination with SANE to provide updates on the best practices and protocol.
- Ensuring coordination with State and local crime laboratories to provide best practice updates.

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MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

AGENCY COMMITMENT FORM

By the signature below, Miami University Police, agrees to fulfill the roles and
(agency name)
responsibilities outlined within the Memorandum of Understanding to the best of the agency's
ability and as resources allow.


(signature)

Name (printed): John McCandless

Title: Chief of Police

The designated Agency Contact Member for Butler County Sexual Assault Response Team is:

Name: Nicole Roberts

Title: DETECTIVE

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