

August 1, 2018 SART meeting

- Opening and Introduction
 - Aside from introducing myself as the new SART Coordinator, Laura Schmidle was present and introduced herself as the Interim SANE Coordinator. She discussed, briefly, some changes in the SANE program, including plans for Ruby to launch a full-time SANE program January 1st.
- Old business
 - We brought up the “Walk a Mile in Their Shoes” event. The event is scheduled to take place October 14; it is still in the early stages of planning, however, so please let me know if anyone has any suggestions or is interested in helping with planning the event. The next scheduled RDVIC staff meeting to plan Walk A Mile will be August 10th at 3:30p.m. We will continue discussing Walk A Mile more at SART meetings as plans develop.
- Current discussions
 - Perri DeChristopher brought up the issue of needing an updated Mon County SART Protocol; the one that we currently have in place is from 2015. I am attaching a copy of that protocol so everyone can look through it and we can begin making changes to it electronically to review in our next SART meeting. One issue that has already been brought up is that Title IX is not represented in that protocol, despite the fact they are obviously a major contributor to our team.
 - We briefly discussed changes taking place with the collection of sexual assault kits. For advocates, Laura has assured us that this will not change the actual exam procedure in any significant way that clients will need to know about; the changes made will mostly be in the processing of evidence so law enforcement can receive faster results (30-60 day preliminary results by testing for the presence of male DNA so law enforcement can pursue investigations more quickly). We also discussed the possibility that the SAFE kits will be shipped directly to the crime lab by the hospital to further expedite the process; this is still a future plan that has not yet been implemented, however.
 - One major source of conversation seemed to stem from concerns about victims’ rights to confidentiality and their right to not pursue a case, especially for students. It was emphasized that both Title IX and the Carruth Center offer completely confidential hotlines students can call, and Cindy Scott did discuss training RA’s to **A**) make it known at the beginning of a conversation that they are required to report any breach of student conduct to Title IX for investigation and **B**) provide information about confidential resources, such as the hotlines and RDVIC advocacy.
- Finally, Det. Hasley brought up a case that has been in the news lately; just want to say congratulations to MPD, our state crime lab, and all who were involved in making an

arrest in a sexual assault case from 1995! I think it shows a deep commitment to the community and speaks volumes to all victims of sexual assault that this case was still being pursued after 23 years!