

## SART Meeting 1/6/21

### Attendance:

- Carl Phlegar/SART Coordinator
- Deb Miller/Volunteer with WV Senior Legal Aid
- Jeanette Southerly/Regional Coordinator with MAAETC
- Amy Kittle/Assistant Director for Prevention and Education with WVU's Division of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
- Emily Womeldorff/Planned Parenthood South Atlantic Field Organizer
- Perri DeChristopher/Monongalia County Prosecutor
- Brenda Joseph/DV Coordinated Entry Specialist with WV Coalition to End Homelessness
- Paulette Southerly/Program Director with NWVCIL

We started this month's meeting with a check in, introductions, and the opportunity for members to talk about goals for the new year. Amy Kittle discussed her goal in Title IX of working to build the Culture of Respect and address gaps in services and prevention education. Emily Womeldorff, who has been a long-time member of the SART, introduced herself to the group and spoke about her goal of being able to attend SART meetings more regularly and to be more directly involved with the community.

Since January is Stalking Awareness month, we focused this month's meeting on stalking and its intersectionality with sexual assault and domestic violence. I started this meeting by asking how members of the SART would define stalking. Deb Miller discussed an individual's inability to let go of a relationship and emphasized a "sense of ownership of the victim." Brenda Joseph discussed the fact that stalking does not always involve a relationship with the perpetrator. I gave the definition from SPARC, "a pattern of behavior directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to feel fear." During this conversation, I mentioned that WV's stalking code had removed the word "stalking," which Perri DeChristopher told the group was intentionally left out due to the fact stalking is a form of harassment, but there is a common misconception that stalking requires a previous relationship.

In discussing the intersectionality of stalking with other crimes, I returned to Deb's definition of "a sense of ownership," to discuss the obvious intersectionality of domestic violence and stalking as it relates to aspects of the Power and Control Wheel. I also introduced SPARC's "SLII" model and discussed the 4 categories (Surveillance, Life Invasion, Interference, and Intimidation) and examples of behaviors that fall under each category. To open the conversation of how stalking intersects with sexual assault, I played a clip of a SPARC webinar, "Stalking and Sexual Violence: Understanding the Connection." The clip that I played discussed stalking as a secondary crime, used as a means of committing sexual assault. In this conversation, we discussed some challenges associated with proving stalking as an additional crime, such as the tools available for stalking (social media, for example). As we continued discussed stalking as a secondary crime, Perri discussed what she called the "stalking umbrella," which included crimes such as computer harassment and revenge porn; upon asking her to expand on what might fall under that umbrella, she discussed how law enforcement officers and prosecutors in Monongalia County often take a deeper look at burglaries, examining what was taken rather than focusing solely on the break-in.

The final thing we discussed regarding stalking was the SHARP assessment tool. I explained how the tool works and showed the team an example of how it converts the answers to the assessment into a convenient narrative that is broken down into 5 sections, called STEPS (See what is happening, Threat, Evidence, Protection, Support).

We discussed how this tool could be used, and we briefly discussed what safety planning may look like under the Protection segment. During this conversation, Brenda mentioned that, as a housing specialist for the Coalition to End Homelessness, she has seen that sometimes survivors who are being stalked by their exes will make the decision to return to the ex for the sake of “safe” housing.

In closing the meeting, I asked the group if there were any trainings that they would like to have presented at upcoming SART meetings and mentioned that I was working on arranging for a Human Trafficking training for an upcoming SART meeting; Brenda Joseph informed us at this time that she had just completed a “training of trainers” and that she had the resources and was qualified to provide a training on the topic. We made this the plan for our February meeting.