

SART Summary June 12, 2019

- We began the meeting with introductions: Meredith Linger brought Sydney Fisher and Kiana Brown, two of her new SANEs, to this month's meeting. I also introduced Ashley Seum, RDVIC's new Prevention Educator.
- Following introduction, Meredith provided hospital updates, year-to-date for 2019.
 - 57 total SANE cases
 - 17 pediatric cases
 - 13 WVU students
- Rape Culture in Film activity: For this activity, I read the following descriptions of popular movies before showing a picture and naming the film.
 - Sleeping Beauty
 - A guy sees a girl he doesn't know and follows her into the woods. Later, the girl is unconscious and he decides to kiss her while she is asleep.
 - Goldfinger (James Bond)
 - A woman discloses a history of childhood sexual abuse by her uncle, along with a sexual preference for women. The man she disclosed to later approaches her in a sexual manner and begins grabbing her; she defends herself, they fight, and he forces her to kiss him.
 - The Notebook
 - A guy sees a couple on a date. He climbs up a Ferris wheel to interrupt their date, introduces himself to her and asks her on a date. He then hangs from the Ferris wheel, threatening to kill himself unless the girl, who has only just met him, agrees to go out with him.
 - Beauty and the Beast
 - A man locks a woman up in his home, displays violent outbursts, tells her what clothes to wear, where she can go (even within the home), and even tells her when she can eat. She stays in hopes that she can change him.
 - Crocodile Dundee
 - A man and a woman are having drinks in a bar. Both seem attracted to each other and are talking about going back to her place when a bar patron tells the man that the lady is "a man dressed as a woman." Rather than asking, the man feels entitled to grope the lady in public; the entire bar laughs as the lady rushes out. This man later repeats this action with someone else with no repercussions.

- The goal of this activity was to address the romanticizing of sexual and domestic violence and to have an open discussion with the SART on addressing this in our community. The state protocol for responding to sexual assault states that the goal of a SART I to “promote both healing for victims of sexual violence and accountability for perpetrators of violence.” Perri DeChristopher addressed the fact that a lot of cases involving sexual and domestic violence are plead out, but more outreach is needed to educate community members who could be potential jurors. She strongly suggested doing the activity above at groups that already exist like the Lion’s Club and Rotary clubs. Meredith Linger discussed reaching out to community programs like SHIELD, an agency in Fairmont that is focused on child sexual abuse and goes into schools to talk to students, often leading to a disclosure. Deb Miller from WV Senior Legal Aid suggested using newspaper articles, not just social media, to reach the community and stressed the importance of emphasizing the word “violence” when doing outreach within the community.