

Oct 14, 2020 SART meeting

- Introductions: This month we had a new SART member representing Title IX. In-attendance were the following:
 - Carl Phlegar: SART Coordinator with RDVIC
 - Amy Kittle: Assistant Director for Prevention and Education with Title IX
 - Kara Bailes: Volunteer Supervisor with CASA
 - Meredith Linger: SANE Coordinator for WVU Medicine at Ruby Memorial Hospital
 - Ashley Montague: Prevention Educator and BIPPs facilitator with RDVIC
 - Paulette Southerly: Program Director for NWVCIL
 - Alexia Jennings: Executive Director for RDVIC
- Update with BIPPs: In last month's meeting, Kara Bailes asked for an update on resuming the Batterers Intervention and Prevention Program. This month Ashley attended to give an update on the progress of the classes. She let us know the facilitators are currently working to build accountability into the Zoom-based classes. There is currently a waitlist of 60 individuals needing to start BIPPs, 30 of whom have been contacted to enroll. Of those enrolled, the class is currently divided into 3 classes of no more than 10 people so the facilitators can maintain accountability within the classes. Ashley was also able to inform the group the class for women will begin November 1.
- Meredith Linger provided hospital updates:
 - In the month of October, 4 exams were conducted. 2 were adults, 2 were pediatric
 - Year to date:
 - 110 exams, 90 of which were reports to law enforcement.
 - Of the 110, 54 were adults, 56 were minors, 42 of which were pre-pubescent.
 - 92 Female, 18 Male
 - 15 WVU students
- Upon discussing the abnormally low number of WVU students, Ashley and Meredith brought up an area of concern. As the Prevention Educator, Ashley recently did a presentation to WVU's Title IX Peer Advocates; while conducting the presentation, she was told that some students had said they should not report to the hospital for the SAFE kit due to COVID-19. We do not know where this misinformation came from, but we discussed how we can address it. We planned a further meeting with Amy and Meredith to discuss further how we can disseminate information to students to let them know that it is safe to report to the hospital.
- October is Domestic Violence Awareness month. As such, RDVIC is actively trying to engage our community through social media to bring attention to this issue. I briefly discussed how domestic violence often intersects with sexual violence and I showed a video that Maggie posted, explaining the projects we are working on this month. One of these projects is a Purple Thursday Challenge where we challenge community partners to wear purple for domestic violence awareness and engage us in conversation about how domestic violence affects the individuals they serve. Based on the individuals present at the meeting, I briefly highlighted how we could discuss domestic violence among the student population, the effect on children, the effect on individuals with disabilities, and how our SANE Coordinator could discuss sexual violence or strangulation as lethality factors.