



June 2009 Newsletter

Sexual Assault Services & Information Program

The SASI concept is based on the commitment that every survivor of sexual assault has the right to support and advocacy. It is designed to provide free comprehensive services to sexually assaulted individuals. The SASI program is committed to ending sexual violence through education, prevention and advocacy. It also supports sexual assault survivors on their paths of hope healing and justice.

SERVICES INCLUDE:

- 24-hour crisis intervention for sexual assault survivors and their family
- Emotional Support
- Explanation of medical examination
- Explanation of legal process and victims rights
- Medical, legal and court accompaniment
- Assistance with filling out Texas Crime Victims' Compensation
- Referral to community agencies.

Volunteers

SASI is grateful to our advocates, who allow us to provide crisis intervention and support to survivors of sexual assault, their family and friends.

Volunteering is extremely rewarding, you will become part of a close knit family committed to helping our community heal from the pain of sexual assault.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer we will provide you with the skills and experience needed to fulfill your role as an advocate.

You must be 18 yrs or older, agree to a criminal background check, and complete 24 hrs. of training before responding to hospital.

For further information please contact Sylvia Flores @ 956-725-2522.

SART/SANE of Laredo

Sexual Assault Response Team/Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner

What is SART/SANE:

The Sexual Assault Response Team/Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner program is a multi-disciplinary investigative team dedicated to increase sensitivity and specialization in care of sexual assault victims and to improve quality of forensic evidence collection and committed to delivering justice to all victims of sexual assault.

The team is composed of:

- Forensic Nurse Examiners
- Law Enforcement Investigators
- Sexual Assault Advocates

The Multi-disciplinary approach consists of teamwork dedicated to delivering justice to all victims of sexual assault.

SART/SANE programs were developed to eliminate repetitive and unnecessary questioning and delays in the treatment of sexual assault victims in local emergency department. Often the victims would endure long waits and interrupted examinations when emergency room doctors and nurses were called away to treat people with more critical injuries. And since they are trained to save lives rather than gather information for criminal proceedings, important evidence was unavailable to prosecutors trying to put rapist in jail.



2009 SART Members

Doctor's Hospital of Laredo, SANE's, Laredo Police Dept., Webb County Sheriff Dept., Children's Advocacy Center of Laredo, SCAN' Sexual Assault Service and Information Program (SASI), Webb County Attorney's Office, Webb County District Attorney's, Webb County Adult Probation and TXDFPS Child Protective Services and Border Region MHMR.

What is SANE?

A Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner is a Registered Nurse trained in the nursing field of forensics to provide comprehensive care to sexual assault patients.

The forensic examination of a sexual assault victim by a SANE includes:

- Forensic examination of sexual assault victims with evidence collection 24 hrs/7days a week to all acute victims of sexual assault
- Treatment/documentation of injuries
- Treatment and evaluation for STD's
- Pregnancy risk evaluation
- Collection of medical legal evidence while maintaining proper chain of custody
- Expert witness testimony

The SART Program Medical Director maintains quality of care of each client.

Location of Examination

Currently the SANE program is available only at **Doctors Hospital of Laredo** 10700 McPherson Rd. (956)523-2000.

Who pays for the examination?

A law enforcement agency that request a medical examination for use in the investigation or prosecution of the offense shall pay all costs of the examination if it was performed by a physician or SANE as defined by Sec. 420.003, Government Code.

Reporting of a Sexual Assault

If you have been sexually assaulted and wish to report it, call your local law enforcement immediately. Do not bathe, shower, change clothes, eat drink, use mouthwash or brush your teeth, and if possible do not use the restroom. Doing so may destroy or damage valuable evidence. Immediate reporting of a sexual assault:

- Allows for the collection of forensic evidence crucial in prosecution of the assailant
- Assures the victim immediate medical services
- Minimizes emotional and physical trauma
- Allows law enforcement to pursue the assailant more effectively, increasing the likelihood of apprehension