

SART Meetings

SART Listserv January 2007

Issue: SART policies for facilitating meetings

Background: If your SART meets regularly who organizes it? Where do you meet? Do you rotate hosting/facilitation/etc. or is one component of the team primarily responsible for logistics? California rape crisis centers feel that they are the only group that ends up facilitating the team meetings because no one else has time or wants to do it. Is this a problem in other places? Do you feel that there is any reason why community-based advocates should not lead the SART? How do you get other components involved and committed?

Kansas (Reno County)

- We used to rotate the site for our SART meetings but it is easier to have the meetings at the hospital.
- However, we rotate who is the host. It is a lunch meeting and everyone brown bags it.
- The hosting group is the facilitator for the meeting. We meet quarterly and we have excellent turnout from our advocates, nurse examiners, and sheriff's office.
- We have very poor attendance with law enforcement, with an apparent break down in communication
- Our meetings are very informal, and usually last about an hour.
- The nurse examiners meet after each SART meeting to perform peer review of cases.
- Additionally, the nurses meet every 45-days; and more often depending on the case load.

Michigan (Houghton County)

- The rape crisis center holds the SART meetings and facilitates them.
- SANEs and Advocates meet monthly; there is low response from LE.

Ohio (Cleveland)

- Initially, (Cuyahoga County) the Cleveland Rape Crisis Center was responsible for obtaining and coordinating funding for a 'SART Manager' position.
- The grant was for a 2 year period (basically to get our SART off the ground).
- The SART Manager (who was housed at Rape Crisis Center) was responsible for administration, leading meetings, public relations, etc.
- While the SART Manager was a former advocate, Cuyahoga County was very careful to make sure that all of the disciplines' interests were addressed. When first starting, SART members were concerned that if a Rape Crisis Center coordinated the team, the SART would become too advocacy focused.
- The Manager's position worked well (but we most definitely had our growing pains!)

- Now that the 2 year grant period is up, instead of a SART Manager we have a SART Administrator, a SART Council Chair (responsible for facilitating the monthly meetings), and 3 committee chairs. Our chairs include representatives from LE, EMS and SANE...so the disciplines are well represented.
- Our meetings are usually held at the same location (for convenience), but sometimes we rotate. For example, our January meeting will be at the Cleveland FBI Headquarters (hosted by a SART member from FBI) and we will take a tour of the building at the end of the meeting.

Alaska (Fairbanks)

- We have Quarterly SART meetings.
- We try and do a case review at each meeting along with a regular business meeting.
- The SART Patient Care Coordinator (Fairbanks Hospital) organizes and coordinates the meeting.
- The team meets at the hospital, same time, same place, each quarter.
- We rotate bringing snacks (have found food tends to increase attendance).
- We usually have pretty good attendance, but it was hard when we first started out. You have to convince everyone that it is worthwhile and important.
- We have everyone, including the military attend.
- The coordinator sends out e-mails at different intervals to remind people.