Welcome to the IAFN SAFE-TA Webinar: SART CASE Review

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SAFETA Webinar Series

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SART Peer Review

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Objectives

- Distinguish between SANE and SART peer review
- Identify benefits of SART peer review
- Identify barriers to SART peer review
- Describe the SART peer review process

National SART Needs Assessment

- SANE peer review is a relatively common practice today following the nursing quality assurance/medical model
  - Expert reviewer
  - Focus on SANE documentation
- SART peer review requires SART collaboration
  - Emphasis on process/collaboration to achieve outcome
  - Team=reviewers

NSVRC, National SART Needs Assessment Survey, 2006

SANE vs. SART Peer Review

- SANE peer review is one that follows the nursing quality assurance/medical model:
  - Expert reviewer
  - Focus on SANE documentation
- SART peer review requires SART collaboration:
  - Emphasis on process/collaboration to achieve outcome
  - Team=reviewers
What is a SART Peer Review?

For our purpose:

“SART peer review is the SART/ team review of the process and outcome of a sexual assault case from the initial report until the case is prosecuted or closed (or current status if open)”

Benefits of SART Peer Review

- The Goal of a SART peer review is
  - To review immediate response in individual cases in order to improve overall team performance
  - To maintain and enhance the quality of the SART

* From A National Protocol For Sexual Assault Medical Forensic Examinations of Adults and Adolescents: Creation of Sexual Assault Response Teams

Some baseline thoughts

- Assure protection of patient identity/safety during case review
- Have policies in place to guide the review process (things like note taking, confidentiality agreements within the SART)
- Consent from the victim to have their information used in the process

Benefits of SART Peer Review

- Identify what makes the system response effective
- Identify local barriers to successful case prosecution/ enhanced victim care
- Better understand roles and role boundaries
- Continually improve system response
- Share expertise with other communities

SANE-SART Evidence-based Practice

“The practice of making clinical and programmatic decisions for program operation and development based upon a careful identification, evaluation, and review of the most relevant information available”

Barriers to SART Peer Review

- Lack of collaborative SART
- Lack of trust / understanding between disciplines
- Peer review / case audit process not norm with all discipline
- Fear judgment / accountability
- Time commitment
- Lack guide/tools/standards
Where to Start?

- Establish collaborative SART
  - MOU, confidentiality agreements
  - Peer review protocols
  - Address & overcome confidentiality issues

SART Confidentiality Agreement

Consent Form

Another example

Where to Start?

- Establish SART peer review expectations
  - Non-judgmental
  - Learning experience for all
  - Identifying where all can improve response
  - Learn from each other what would have made their job easier/more effective
Where to Start?

- **Process**
  - *How* we responded (e.g., SANE paged once victim at the hospital vs. en-route)
- **Outcome**
  - *The result* of what we did

How to Pick a Case

- Start with a "successful" case
- Pick a case that is closed/ has been to court
- Start with a case of SART/community interest
  - High profile
  - Serial

How to Present the Case

- Start by emphasizing positives
- May do peer review at monthly/bimonthly SART meetings
  - SART leader organizes
  - Rotate case recommendation for review
- May rotate leadership
  - Leader picks case
  - Give adequate notice of case to prepare

Components for each discipline to consider when presenting their part of the case

- Have each discipline address what they thought was done especially well and what might be done differently in the future (with emphasis on own disciplines role)
- Have each discipline address what did others did that facilitated victim recovery/case progress

How to Present the Case

- Review the case from the initial report to case conclusion
- Ask each discipline to briefly review their role with the victim and interactions with other SART members
How to Present the Case: Advocate
- How made initial contact with victim
- Initial victim concerns
  - Reporting concerns?
  - Exam / health concerns?
- Special needs identified (language; hard of hearing, etc)-How addressed?
- Continued victim contacts and needs
  - Victim feedback to hospital/LE/pre-trial/trial/sentencing/post-sentencing
  - Long-term impact of case on victim-ongoing services
- Victim status today, if known

How to Present the Case: SANE
- Victim history of assault
  - Time between assault and exam (if delay, why?)
- Consent issues? How resolved?
- Exam completed?
  - What evidence was collected? why/why not?
  - Were injuries identified-how documented?
  - Treatment provided
- Family/friends present/Discharged to?
- Problems encountered-how resolved
- Unique or unusual aspects of case
- Assessment/conclusions?

How to Present the Case: Law Enforcement
- Initial report and follow-up interview summary
- Inconsistencies?
- Evidence collected
- Problems with case & how overcome
- Value of SANE report to LE
  - Was report legible?
  - Language understandable?
  - Quotes useful - how?
  - Inconsistencies with LE report-How handled?
  - What information/evidence was the most helpful?
- How was suspect identified? Arrest made?
How to Present the Case: Crime Lab

- Was evidence complete & collected properly?
- What evidence was run? How decided?
- What evidence was identified from kit? From crime scene?
- What additional evidence/information would have been helpful? (eg what was likely collected)

How to Present the Case: Prosecutor

- Issues considered in making a charging decision
- What information was the most helpful in making the charging decision? What else would have helped?
- Biggest concern when deciding to go forward?
- Pre-trial/ trial issues
- Outcome
- Would you charge a similar case in the future? Why? Why not?

Advanced Peer Reviews

Once trust has been established tackle

- Especially difficult or problem cases
- Open cases with issues of immediate concern

Case Example

Impact of SART

- Higher reporting rates
- Higher % of prosecutions
- Better evidence collection
- More plea bargains
- Better survivor cooperation
- Better services for survivors
- Facilitates survivor recovery

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SART Resources

References


We have come a long way!

Questions?