

Module 6, Appendix A: SART/Coordinated Response

Pick a scenario and review it with the participants.

Scenarios 1-3 describe the initial disclosure. Use these scenarios to work through the initial response of the SART. You can also use 1-3 to set up a scenario specific to your team's needs, working through with them what might happen next and what their response should be. Scenario 4 offers a more detailed step-by-step look at a fictional case. Choose the approach that works best for your team.

Discuss the steps, from beginning to end, that your SART should take to deal with the situation in the scenario. Adapt the discussion of these general scenarios to fit your facility, in terms of age of the victim, structure of the facility, and participating staff members.

SART Response: Immediate

Scenario 1

The facility is forwarded a report from the outside reporting entity. The report shows that a transgender woman, who lives in a men's facility, was sexually abused, including oral and anal penetration, by two other inmates/residents/detainees the night before last.

Scenario 2

A woman inmate goes to the medical clinic asking for a pregnancy test. She has had previous medical appointments where she tested negative for pregnancy. There have been rumors that she is "in a relationship" with a volunteer.

Scenario 3

While doing rounds, two staff members hear shouting from inside a cell. They approach and see one inmate/resident/detainee punching another. The inmate/resident/detainee who seems to be doing the punching has ripped pants and a bloody nose.

SART Response: Step-by-Step

Scenario 4

Step A: Immediately Following an Allegation

An inmate named Jackie is booked into the facility for a nonviolent offense. During the medical screening, she discloses that she is intersex and that she was recently diagnosed with Major Depressive Disorder. She does not have any obvious physical characteristics that would draw attention to her intersex status, so it is determined that the most appropriate placement for her is in the women's unit.

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Jackie meets with mental health staff for a mental health assessment. While she is meeting with a counselor, she discloses that an inmate named Kendra touched her a few nights ago.

Jackie explains that Kendra somehow found out that she was intersex and asked her about it. When Jackie refused to discuss it, Kendra got angry and demanded to feel Jackie's genitals to see if she was a "real woman." Afraid and in shock, Jackie did not refuse her. Kendra grabbed Jackie's genitals through her clothes. Jackie tried to pull away, but Kendra stuck her fingers down her clothes, grabbed at her genitals, and penetrated her with her fingers. Jackie froze when Kendra pushed something sharp against her neck. All the other inmates were asleep at the time.

Jackie did not immediately report the sexual abuse to staff because she was afraid of Kendra, who was arrested for a violent offense. Jackie says that she tried to call the rape crisis counseling hotline from the day room, but that Kendra didn't leave her side after it happened. She thought it was best to wait and tell her counselor when she could meet with her privately.

When Jackie meets with her counselor, she tells her what happened up until Kendra pressed the sharp object to her neck. Jackie says that she does not remember details after feeling the pain at her neck.

What are some examples of trauma-informed, survivor-centered responses?

Step B: During Transport to a Medical Forensic Exam

Jackie asks for a sexual assault forensic exam after meeting with the facility nurse. She requests that her counselor accompany her to the hospital, because she's worried she might have a "breakdown" during the exam.

Kendra is placed in a protective custody cell pending an interview with an investigator. An officer notices that she appears to be trying to wash her hands with her own spit, perhaps to remove any evidence of the assault.

How should the officer and the SART respond?

Step C: During the Medical Forensic Exam

Jackie is transported to the forensic exam site at the community hospital for the exam. The rape crisis advocate and forensic nurse are already there when she arrives. Jackie tells the rape crisis advocate that she's extremely thirsty, and that she wasn't allowed to have any water in the facility. She asks the rape crisis advocate if she can have some water.

Jackie meets briefly with a law enforcement investigator at the hospital. She says very little, stating that she does not remember much of what happened.

After the exam, the hospital asks the transport officer for Jackie's name and insurance information so that the bill can be forwarded to her.

What are some examples of trauma-informed, survivor-centered responses?

Step D: If a Forensic Exam is Not Necessary or is Declined by the Survivor

During the exam, Jackie starts to cry and asks if she will get in trouble at the facility if she doesn't want to finish the exam.

The law enforcement officer states that he is not sure how useful an exam would be if Jackie doesn't remember much of what happened.

What are some examples of trauma-informed, survivor-centered responses?

Step E: Following the Exam or After Acute Care is Provided

After Jackie is returned to the facility, she is placed back in the women's unit. She asks the staff if they can keep the lights nearest her bunk on at night.

During her medical follow-up, Jackie complains about frequent headaches and asks for narcotic painkillers. She also discloses to the nurse that other inmates are asking her why Kendra got moved, and that one inmate called her a "snitch bitch." Jackie also complains that she is having stomach pains and pain when using the restroom.

A follow-up contact is arranged with a counselor at the rape crisis center. Jackie spends the entire session talking about her children, and her concerns that they will find out about the sexual abuse.

What are some examples of trauma-informed, survivor-centered responses?

Step F: Follow-Up and Long-Term Duties

The criminal investigator determines that there is not enough information to substantiate the allegation. During the sexual abuse incident review meeting, the investigator says that he believes that the sexual abuse occurred, but he could not find enough evidence to substantiate it. The prosecutor also states that the case would be difficult to prosecute since convictions in sexual abuse cases where limited physical force is used are extremely rare.

The rape crisis advocate and investigator deliver the news to Jackie during a follow-up meeting. Shortly thereafter, Jackie is released from the facility. She had told the rape crisis advocate that she would come in for services once she got settled back at home, but she never calls. Jackie eventually reaches out to the county department of mental health because she is having nightmares and is snapping at her kids for no reason. She is afraid she is going to relapse and start drinking and using drugs again. She says she has no money, but asks if a counselor can help her.

Kendra is moved back into general population after the allegation is unsubstantiated. A few days later, another woman alleges that she was groped by Kendra.

A few weeks later, Jackie is rearrested for drug possession.

What are some examples of trauma-informed, survivor-centered responses? What are the facility SART's responsibilities?