

Villanova's Community Approach to Sexual Violence: The Sexual Assault Resource Coordinator (SARC) Team



Kathy Byrnes, Associate Vice President for Student Life, Deputy Title IX Coordinator & Sexual Harassment Complaint Officer

Ryan Rost, Title IX Coordinator

Identify one community-based strategy for responding to disclosures of sexual violence.

Describe one implementation process for creating a sexual violence response team comprised of faculty and staff of varying disciplines and positions.

Examine impact as it relates to reports of sexual violence, bystander intervention, and prevention efforts.

Discuss lessons learned in the implementation and process of a sexual violence response team comprised of faculty and staff.

On-call Public Safety Investigator
serving as resource coordinator

Existing resources:

- University Counseling Center (confidential)
- Augustinians in a pastoral capacity (confidential)
- Title IX Coordinator (add-on role to Director of Human Resources)
- Sexual Harassment Officer
- Dean of Students Office

Sexual violence policies and procedures enhanced

Moved SARC role to Office of Health Promotion

- Resolved conflict with Public Safety Investigator Role
- Provided students with an additional resource who was not an official reporting option

Expanded *Coordinator of Peer Education Programs* position to include sexual violence response and SARC role

- 24/7
- Responded alongside Public Safety Investigator (former “SARC”) unless student preferred otherwise
- Reported information regarding incident to Title IX Coordinator

Collaboration between Director of Health Promotion, Vice President for Student Life, Associate Vice President for Student Life and Public Safety

Invitation-only

- **No**: Director-level or higher administrative roles or roles that conflict with SARC role
- **Yes**: Diversity of gender, race, ethnicity, department/roles on campus, etc.
- Engaged potential member's supervisor to ensure they could take on additional role

Adjusted Office of Health Promotion staff roles to include *membership* on the SARC team

One-on-one meetings with potential SARC team members to discuss role expectations:

- Time commitment:
 - On-call rotation (5 weeks = 2 weeks in fall semester; 2 weeks in spring semester; 1 week in summer)
 - Working with students beyond on-call weeks
 - Involvement in awareness initiatives
- Initial 2-day training and ongoing monthly trainings
- *Semi-confidential* designation & reporting responsibilities

Manageable team size of less than 10 members allows for:

- Ongoing training
- Relationship building
- Consistency in response
- Experience
- Current membership: Faculty, Office of Education Abroad, Campus Ministry, Center for Access Success & Achievement, Residence Life, College of Nursing, and Health Promotion

Initial training (2 days)

- Introduction to Title IX, Clery, VAWA and other federal and state legislation
- Reporting and investigation processes at Villanova
- Criminal process
- Disciplinary and resolution processes at Villanova
- Listening and support skills
- Trauma-informed practice

Monthly ongoing trainings include:

- Role play with Delaware County WAR
- Mindfulness and self care
- Criminal process review with campus/local police and district attorney
- Working with faculty to create supportive classroom environments
- Motivational interviewing

On Call Rotation – Tuesday to Tuesday

- Back up on call person (Director of Health Promotion and Associate VP for Student Life) if SARC receives multiple calls needing extensive assistance
- A male or female SARC can be available if student requests

Open and regular communication with:

- SARC Coordinator – Director of Health Promotion
- Title IX Coordinator
- Title IX Investigator
- Director of Public Safety/Chief of Police
- Dean of Students Office



Trauma-informed support – not investigators

Connect a student to medical care, reporting, counseling, etc.

Accompany a student to campus and/or community services to ensure they receive appropriate care and follow up information

Assist with requesting academic and residential accommodations while empowering students to make their own requests (if appropriate)

Check in with student regularly during investigative and disciplinary processes

Check in with student periodically throughout remaining time at Villanova (with consent of the student)

Community Outreach and Education Regarding SARC Team

New Students: Haven
(pre-matriculation)
Orientation Program

Peer education and
targeted
programming

Spot a SARC

Wildcat Newswire
& Campus Currents
entries

Title IX Coordinator
"Did you know?"
email

Website
Stall Street Journal
Brochure to all
students

Highlighted at
every program,
training, &
conversation within
community

SAVUR App



Trained facilitators of
Bystander Intervention
training and One Love
Escalation Workshop

Maintained consistent membership and representation while diversifying team in a variety of ways

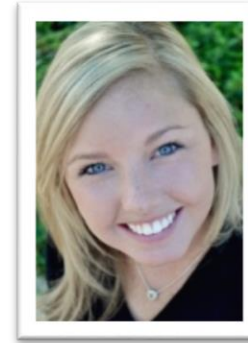
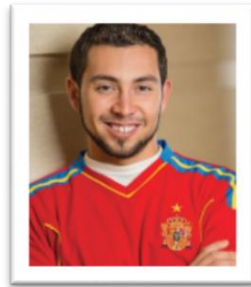
Helped to make the case for a full-time Title IX Coordinator and Title IX Investigator

Has served as a model for:

- Respondent Resource Team
- Bias Response Team (in development)

Process evaluation:

- Increased disclosures
- Increased reporting
- Increased independent resource-seeking behaviors (e.g., forensic exam, criminal process)



Questions?

kathleen.byrnes@villanova.edu

ryan.rost@villanova.edu

www.villanova.edu/sexualassault