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

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Session outcomes

- 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.
How we arrived at a SARC team

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
2013: SARC Role Established

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**
• 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

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

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
SARC Team Training

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
How the SARC team functions

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
How the SARC team works with student survivors

- 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)
| 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 |
2018 Status

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?

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