A Community Approach to Sexual Violence: Villanova’s SARC Team

Ryan Rost  
*Villanova University*

Kathy Byrnes  
*Villanova University*

Follow this and additional works at: [https://rdw.rowan.edu/titleixsummit](https://rdw.rowan.edu/titleixsummit)

Part of the [Higher Education Commons](https://rdw.rowan.edu/titleixsummit), and the [Law Commons](https://rdw.rowan.edu/titleixsummit)

Let us know how access to this document benefits you - share your thoughts on our feedback form.


This Event is brought to you for free and open access by the Conferences, Events, and Symposia at Rowan Digital Works. It has been accepted for inclusion in Title IX Summit by an authorized administrator of Rowan Digital Works. For more information, please contact rdw@rowan.edu.
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
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
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
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?

kathleen.byrnes@villanova.edu
ryan.rost@villanova.edu

www.villanova.edu/sexualassault