

AGENDA PLACEMENT FORM

(Submission Deadline – Monday, 5:00 PM before Regular Court Meetings)

Date: _____

Meeting Date: 12/22/2025

Submitted By: Sheriff's Office

Department: _____

Signature of Elected Official/Department Head:

Court Decision: <small>This section to be completed by County Judge's Office</small>


Description:

Acknowledge Receipt of the Johnson & Somervell County Sexual Assault
Response Team (SART) Biennial Report 2025-Sheriff's Office

(May attach additional sheets if necessary)

Person to Present: _____

(Presenter must be present for the item unless the item is on the Consent Agenda)

Supporting Documentation: (check one) PUBLIC CONFIDENTIAL

(PUBLIC documentation may be made available to the public prior to the Meeting)

Estimated Length of Presentation: _____ minutes

Session Requested: (check one)

Action Item Consent Workshop Executive Other _____

Check All Departments That Have Been Notified:

- County Attorney IT Purchasing Auditor
 Personnel Public Works Facilities Management

Other Department/Official (list) _____

**Please List All External Persons Who Need a Copy of Signed Documents
In Your Submission Email**



**Johnson & Somervell County
Sexual Assault Response Team (SART)
Biennial Report 2025**

Submitted by:

Brooke Vaughan, SART Coordinator/Program Director

Johnson County Family Crisis Center

brooke@familycrisisjc.org

817-558-7171

Table of Contents

Executive Summary of the report

SART Overview

Outline of Activities and Trainings

Data and Findings

SART Protocols of Johnson & Somervell County

Case Review: Evaluation of Protocols

Conclusion

Executive Summary

Sexual Assault Response Teams (SARTs) are multidisciplinary collaborative bodies that bring together different groups that address sexual assault (e.g., advocates, medical/forensic examiners, police, prosecutors, and others) in order to work together to improve their community's response to sexual assault victims and cases.

Our SART works to minimize the trauma for sexual assault victims when they seek medical and legal assistance. Through coordination during the investigation process, SART seeks to reduce repeated questioning of the victim and increase effective collection and preservation of evidence.

SARTs goals have expanded to achieve justice and enhance community safety including, but not limited to, criminal prosecution.

The main activities of SART are to:

- Increase intra-agency and interagency collaboration and coordination when responding to sexual assault,

- Identify inadequacies and limitations in and among systems,

- Ensure appropriate, trauma-informed responses to support victims, and survivors,

- Improve offender accountability.

- Quarterly meetings to ensure protocol procedures and discuss case reviews.

SART has been faced with many challenges to balance the laws, mandates, power, and goals of each member organization with the mission of the team. The SART has faced difficulties in developing a consistent team due to additional responsibilities of team members, turnover, lack of attendance and inconsistency around orientation and training. The SART team has been planning new ways to address these challenges to better the collaboration and effectiveness of the meetings.

Aside from the challenges, SART has made a positive impact in service provision. The relationships that develop during meetings, the standards developed in protocols, and the practice team members acquire by resolving interagency conflict leads to a better outcome for victims.

The SART members will continue to work to coordinate services around victims' experiences to remove barriers and increase services and support for victims.

SART Overview

Johnson and Somervell County established a working agreement that is recognized as a cooperative collaborative commitment between participating agencies. This agreement is proof of commitment as acknowledged by the signature of each agency representative. All parties enter this collaborative working agreement voluntarily to better serve the needs of sexual assault victims, including sex trafficking, in Johnson and Somervell Counties and surrounding communities. The agreement is not legally binding and may be amended at any time in writing and by mutual consent of the parties. Any party to the Agreement may withdraw from the Agreement upon thirty (30) days written notice; however, the withdrawal of any party will not result in the nullification of the Agreement nor of any part of the Agreement as a new representative will be appointed.

Vision: To create an environment in Johnson County and Somervell County, Texas where survivors of sexual assault are heard, and healing is promoted, and offenders of those crimes are held accountable.

Mission: The Johnson and Somervell County Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) is dedicated to enhancing the multidisciplinary response by those charged with responding to sexual assaults of adult and adolescent individuals, equipped by a standardized plan of action, with the goal to comprehensively investigate sexual assault crimes and to promote healing and justice for survivors.

Members: Johnson County and Somervell SART team is comprised of the individual or their designee from the following departments:

- Johnson County Family Crisis Center/Sexual Assault Program
- Johnson and Somervell County Prosecutor/District Attorney
- Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner/Health Provider
- Johnson County Sheriff's Department
- Somervell County Sheriff's Department
- City of Burleson
- Mental/Behavioral Health Provider
- Law Enforcement
- Any additional members considered necessary

Outline of Activities and Trainings

Johnson and Somervell County SART continues to strengthen its coordinated response through increased collaboration, leadership support, and targeted training efforts. The team welcomed a new District Attorney who has demonstrated a strong commitment to prioritizing and effectively prosecuting sexual assault cases, reinforcing accountability and survivor-focused justice across the region. SART successfully ensured all members completed the required 4-hour mandated cross-training hours, and law enforcement partners received an additional 8-hour formal training meeting TCOLE requirements. Training topics were determined based on trends and/or gaps we had been experiencing. These efforts have enhanced knowledge, improved consistency of response, and strengthened coordinated, trauma-informed practices throughout the biennium.

Johnson and Somervell County continue to make strides toward a more fluid, survivor-centered, and trauma-informed response system. To support frontline responders, the SART team created a clear FLOW chart to help law enforcement easily navigate the appropriate steps when presented with a sexual assault report, ensuring timely, consistent, and victim-centered actions. Additionally, a new SAFE location was established within the county, expanding access to forensic exams and improving the accessibility of critical services for survivors. These advancements strengthen coordination among partners and enhance the overall efficiency and responsiveness of the sexual assault response system.

In January 2024, SART members received 2 hours of continuing education provided by the Waco Crime Lab, focusing on DNA processing procedures for SANE kits and the forensic analysis process following collection. This training strengthened team understanding of how evidence is handled once submitted to the crime lab and the role it plays in supporting survivor-centered investigations and prosecutions.

Additionally, a representative from TRACK-It provided detailed instruction to law enforcement and advocates on the functionality and purpose of the TRACK-It system. TRACK-It is a statewide electronic tracking system designed to monitor the collection, transfer, testing, storage, and final disposition of sexual assault evidence kits. The system allows agencies to document each step in the chain of custody and provides transparency in the status of SANE kits, ensuring accountability and timely processing. Survivors can also access TRACK-It to view the status of their kit using a confidential identification number, empowering them with information and promoting trust in the response process. This training improved agency compliance, coordination, and accuracy in evidence tracking while reinforcing survivor rights and informed decision-making.

During our May 2024 quarterly meeting, TABC provided training to law enforcement and advocates showing the correlation between TABC (alcohol regulation/enforcement) and sexual assault. What to look for, how it can be used as prevention/intervention.

During the time of this training, our county was experiencing a noticeable increase in sexual assaults occurring after victims left local alcohol-serving establishments. This trend highlighted the critical connection between alcohol service practices and community safety, underscoring the importance of TABC's role in prevention. Alcohol is one of the most common substances involved in sexual assault incidents, and unsafe serving practices—such as overserving, serving minors, or failing to respond to concerning behavior—can heighten vulnerability, particularly in environments like bars, restaurants, and nightclubs. TABC's authority to conduct compliance checks, investigate overserving, and respond to reports of drink tampering positions the agency as a key partner in reducing these risks. Their regulatory findings, surveillance footage, and documentation often strengthen criminal investigations by providing evidence related to intoxication levels, environmental conditions, and business practices. Because Texas law states that a person cannot consent if intoxicated to the point of being unable to understand or resist, responsible alcohol service becomes an essential sexual assault prevention strategy. As our county saw the increase in alcohol-related assaults, collaboration among TABC officers, local law enforcement, advocates, and alcohol-serving establishments became even more vital to identify high-risk environments, intervene early, and promote trauma-informed, coordinated responses to protect victims and the community.

In partnership with the Texas Association Against Sexual Assault (TAASA), the Johnson County Family Crisis Center helped coordinate an 8-hour TCOLE-accredited Criminal Justice Training on Sexual Assault, held on July 15th and 17th, 2024. This comprehensive training, led by retired Austin Police Department Sgt. Elizabeth Donegan and Det. Kim Farbo—who collectively bring more than 42 years of experience investigating sexual assault—focused on trauma-informed investigative practices, strengthening collaborative approaches between law enforcement and sexual assault programs, and enhancing understanding of sexual assault forensic exams as evidence collection tools. As reflected in the training materials, the emphasis was placed on improving coordinated community response, with participation supported by Texas Health and hosted at the Johnson County Sheriff's Office Training Room. This partnership with TAASA ensured high-quality, expert-led instruction that equips local officers and advocates with the skills needed to better respond to and support survivors in our community.

In February 2025, newly elected District Attorney Tim Good provided a cross-training session focused on his transition into the role and his vision for strengthening the county's coordinated response to crime and victim services. A significant portion of his presentation addressed improvements in handling sexual assault cases and enhancing the effectiveness of the Sexual Assault Response Team (SART). DA Good emphasized the importance of a unified, trauma-informed approach among prosecutors, law enforcement, advocates, SANEs, and partner agencies, noting that seamless communication is essential for timely evidence collection, victim support, and strong case prosecution. He outlined his priorities for increasing accountability in sexual assault investigations, improving multidisciplinary coordination, and building consistent protocols that ensure survivors are treated with dignity and their cases receive thorough review. This training offered a valuable opportunity to align expectations, reinforce SART best practices,

and strengthen partnerships so that our collective response more effectively supports survivors and improves case outcomes across Johnson County.

In April 2025, the Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) presented a proclamation to the Johnson County Commissioners Court recognizing the critical importance of coordinated community efforts in addressing and preventing sexual assault. A proclamation is an official declaration issued by a governing body to raise public awareness, acknowledge significant issues, and demonstrate formal support for community initiatives. These proclamations are important because they publicly validate the experiences of survivors, highlight the ongoing work of agencies responding to sexual violence, and encourage community-wide engagement in prevention and intervention efforts. By presenting the proclamation, SART reinforced the county's commitment to improving collaborative responses, strengthening victim-centered practices, and ensuring that sexual assault remains a visible and prioritized issue within local government and the broader community.

In November 2025, Texas Health's Southwest Division System SANE Manager, Beth Maeker, BSN, RN, CA-CP SANE, SANE-A, SANE-P, provided a 1-hour cross-training for local partners focused on sexual assault forensic services. During this session, Beth reviewed the components of a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) kit, clarified the forensic and medical processes involved in evidence collection, and discussed the critical role SANEs play in trauma-informed care for survivors. She also provided an overview of what agencies can expect with the addition of a new SAFE examination location within the county, including anticipated improvements in accessibility, response times, and collaborative communication. This training strengthened the multidisciplinary understanding of forensic medical procedures, enhanced coordination between community partners, and ensured that law enforcement, advocates, and healthcare professionals are better prepared to support survivors through the evidence-collection process.

Data and Findings

Sexual Assault Reports and Investigations by Law Enforcement

Agency Oct 2023- Sept 2025

Law Enforcement Agency	Number of Sexual Assault Cases Reported	Number of Sexual Assault Reports Investigated
Alvarado PD	11	11
Burleson PD	31	31
Cleburne PD	24	24
Godley PD	1	1
Joshua PD	6	6
Keene PD	7	7
Venus PD	8	8
JCSO	93	93
Somervell Co So	1	1
Totals		

Law enforcement agencies not listed in the chart above either report zero sexual assault cases or did not provide their annual data to the Johnson County SART.

Johnson and Somervell County have 0 rape kits that are past the statutory timeline for transfer to crime lab during this biennium.



Sexual Assault Cases Received, Indicted, and Disposed by Johnson and Somervell County District Attorney's Office

Data and findings from October 2023- September 2025

1) Number of indictments presented in connection with a report and the disposition (Yearly if possible: Sept 1 - August 31)

- GJ heard 17 sexual assault cases between September 2023 – October 2025. They indicted 16 and no billed 1.
- Between September 2023 – October 2025, 6 cases were disposed by plea. Each of these were indicted between October 2022 to May 2025.
- 4 of those defendants took a guilty plea to prison time that added up to a total of 832 years.
- 2 defendants took a guilty plea of probation: 1 received 10 years' probation and 1 received 2 years' probation.
- No cases went to jury trial.

2) The number of reports of a sexual assault which no indictment as presented or an explanation to why the team could not provide this information (Yearly if possible: Sept 1 - August 31)

- 14 sexual assault cases received between April 2015 – July 2025 were not presented to GJ.
 - 12 of the 14 cases were rejected by our office.
 - 2 of the 14 cases are currently in intake.

Johnson County Family Crisis Center

9/1/2023-8/31/2025
At-a-Glance

Sexual Assault
survivors that
recieved and
intake

189

SANE
Accompaniment

45

Hotline Calls
Related to sexual
Assault

204

Public Educations
events

186

Sexual Assualt survivors
that attended
counsling

91

Hours of counseling
provided to
survivors

945

Johnson County Family Crisis Center provides 24/7 trained and certified volunteer support for sexual assault survivors during hospital or police visits, and are the only ones allowed with the survivor and forensic nurse during the physical/evidence gathering phase of the medical forensic exams.

Texas Health Resources

Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners Report



Introduction

Texas Health Resources provides Forensic Nurses to conduct sexual assault medical forensic examinations (SAMFEs) whenever a patient presents to the hospital and makes an outcry or voices a concern for sexual assault. The System SANE department began these services at the system level in 2015. THR currently provides forensic nursing services at Texas Health Harris Methodist Hospital in Cleburne, Texas. THR forensic nurses provide forensic nursing services 24/7, 365 days a year, regardless of the time of day or night.

In June 2025, Texas Health received a very generous grant that enabled us to rename and rebrand our department to the Forensic Health and Violence Intervention Department. With this rebranding, Texas Health expanded services to consult with patients that have experienced Intimate Partner Violence and/or Domestic Violence. The team is staffed with one director that oversees the entire Texas Health Hospital system, two managers that aid with overseeing the entire system divided into two territories and approximately twenty-five forensic nurses. All our nursing staff holds their CA-SANE certification, with many of our nurses also certified to see pediatric patients.

Roles and Responsibilities

The role of the forensic nurse examiner is to conduct an evaluation of a patient with a complaint of sexual assault and/or any type of abuse. The objectives of the evaluation are medical and forensic. The forensic nurse is responsible for general nursing care and representing forensic encounters to the courts and the community at large. The forensic nurse represents the patient encounter to the courts and society to include health forensic and assessment which may include the following: history taking, identification of injury, specimen collection, evidential outcomes, and/or evaluation of systems responsive to the sexual assault in the court and the community-at-large to sexual assault (ANA and IAFN, 2017). The forensic nurse is responsible for identifying and documenting injury and recovering potential evidence (Ferrell & Caruso, 2011).

Multidisciplinary Collaboration

Texas Health Forensic Healthcare and Violence Intervention program has collaborated with multiple organizations throughout Johnson County. The Family Crisis Center of Johnson County provides hospital accompaniment for our patients when they present to the hospital.

Texas Health assists the Family Crisis Center of Johnson County with their Advocacy Training. In this training, the trainees are taught a deeper understanding about the sexual assault nurse examiner nurse role and the medical forensic exam process. Texas Health program also participates in the Johnson County SART training. During this training, we teach about the forensic nurse role, medical forensic exam process, explanations about the evidence collection process, and aid with interpretation of findings within the medical forensic exam documentation. Texas Health Forensic Healthcare Leadership team attends the quarterly Sexual Assault Response Team meetings. The forensic team reports numbers and trends of the patients that they have encountered for the current year.

Adult Sexual Assault Patient Encounters

Texas Health Forensic nurses have provided forensic nursing services to hundreds of patients since the start of this program. For the timeframe required for this report, September 1st, 2023 and ending on August 31st, 2025, THR has been consulted on a total of 45 patients. Below is a breakdown of the those patients -

Facility	Sept 1 - Dec 31, 2023	Jan 1 - Dec 31, 2024	Jan 1 - Aug 31, 2025
Texas Health Cleburne	6 Patients Total	25 Patients Total	14 Patients Total
Female	5	23	14
Male	1	2	0
0 - 12yo	none	1	none
13yo - 64yo	6	23	12
65yo and older	none	1	2
Strangulation	none	4	2 unknown
Ingestion of Drugs / Alcohol	3	5	6
Reported Suspect Known to Patient	4	16	9
Report	5	21	13
Non-Report	1	4	1

Conclusion

Texas Health Cleburne and now Texas Health Neighborhood Care & Wellness will continue to serve the community and offer services to all survivors who present to the hospital and make an outcry or concern for any type of violence that has been committed against them. Texas Health will continue to offer 24/7 forensic services to the entire community and anyone who presents to the hospital.

SART Protocols

Protocols are policies, procedures, and agreements to guide the team in collective response. Protocols help eliminate gaps while defining roles and partnerships. By doing so, this helps support the SART in maintaining consistent, high quality, and survivor-centered responses in our community for the long term. Each appointment member on the SART team reviewed their entity's procedures during this biennium.

Johnson & Somervell County

Sexual Assault Response Team (SART)

Community Cooperative Working Agreement

This working agreement is recognized as a cooperative collaborative commitment between participating agencies. This agreement is proof of commitment as acknowledged by the signature of each agency representative. All parties enter this collaborative working agreement voluntarily to better serve the needs of sexual assault victims, including sex trafficking, in Johnson and Somervell Counties and surrounding communities. The agreement is not legally binding and may be amended at any time in writing and by mutual consent of the parties. Any party to the Agreement may withdraw from the Agreement upon thirty (30) days written notice; however, the withdrawal of any party will not result in the nullification of the Agreement nor of any part of the Agreement as a new representative will be appointed.

Vision: To create an environment in Johnson County and Somervell County, Texas where survivors of sexual assault are heard, and healing is promoted, and offenders of those crimes are held accountable.

Mission: The Johnson and Somervell County Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) is dedicated to enhancing the multidisciplinary response by those charged with responding to sexual assaults of adult and adolescent individuals, equipped by a standardized plan of action, with the goal to comprehensively investigate sexual assault crimes and to promote healing and justice for survivors.

ADVOCACY

"Advocate" means a person who provides advocacy services as an employee or volunteer of a sexual assault program. The advocate must have completed a sexual assault training program described by Texas Local Government Code, Section 420.011(b) (Attachment D). The only sexual assault program Johnson County is the Family Crisis Center. The role of a sexual assault advocate is to be an expert

on crime victims' rights so that victim/survivors do not have to be. Advocates respond 24/7 to all medical facilities/law enforcement agencies Johnson County and are not directly affiliated with law enforcement, hospital systems, or the criminal justice system.

I. The Family Crisis Center agrees to:

- A. Maintain confidentiality of all references to case specific information.
- B. Provide administrative oversight of the Johnson and Somervell County SART.
- C. Designate a coordinator to serve as a facilitator for the SART.
- D. Maintain a record of all SART meetings and documents.
- E. Support and provide trained Advocates.
- F. Demonstrate a one-hour response time from time of call received to time advocate arrives to designated healthcare facility.
- G. Instruct advocate to check in upon arrival/departure.
- H. Provide hotline sexual assault victims with appropriate healthcare facility choices for medical assessment and forensic examination when requested.
- I. Utilizing a victim-centered and trauma informed approach, provide information (verbal and written), emotional support and crisis intervention for sexual assault victims and their family members, and/or friends at the hospital. Provide the survivor with the opportunity to be supported by a trained advocate during their investigative interview with law enforcement (HB1172).
- J. If client exhibits behaviors conducive with human sex trafficking, utilize the adult human trafficking screening tool provided by the National Human Trafficking training center and provide appropriate services and referrals.
- K. Provide appropriate referrals and follow up care, consulting with Texas Health Cleburne social worker on any areas of concern.
- L. Provide ongoing data to the SART for evaluation.
- M. Coordinate and participate in SART training activities, as determined, and supported by the SART.
- N. Provide follow-up intervention, counseling and advocacy services for victims and family members as requested.
- O. Collaborate with law enforcement and district attorney to meet clients' needs regarding crime victims' rights, compensation and advocacy throughout investigation and prosecution. Routinely share information among team

members and provide information about case status as needed and as allowed by law.

- P. If survivor discloses that multi-age children, elderly, or disabled persons are in the household with the offender, make appropriate reports and collaborate with the Children's Advocacy Center, CPS, and/or APS, as necessary.
- Q. Provide a process for the victim and/or family to receive information regarding crime victims' rights, compensation, and the right to advocacy.
- R. Cooperate with local Law Enforcement to provide appropriate care to victims.

HOSPITAL

The primary role of the medical facility is to provide priority and timely medical care to all patients with the complaint of sexual assault. Although evidence collection procedures are important, the priority of the medical facility is to provide any medical treatment for acute injuries/illnesses as needed to ensure stabilization of the patient.

- II. Texas Health Methodist Cleburne Hospital agrees to:
 - A. Designate a liaison to serve as a resource person for the SART.
 - B. Participate in SART meetings and SART sponsored training activities.
 - C. Provide the necessary medical stabilization of patient upon presentation to the hospital.
 - D. Determine if the Police have been notified and notify when appropriate.
 - E. Initiate call to the Texas Health Systems SANE Program when a sexual assault patient has arrived.
 - F. Provide an examination room that has adequate space and privacy to conduct Sexual Assault Medical Forensic Examinations.
 - G. Provide appropriate equipment for the use in sexual assault medical forensic exams.
 - H. Provide ongoing feedback, as needed, to the area SART partners.
 - I. Develop a strong working relationship with area resources to strengthen the follow-up potential for patients referred.
 - J. Provide appropriate and healing Community resources when appropriate.
 - K. Provide ongoing process improvement information to the SANE Program Manager and/or SART.

- L. Maintain confidentiality and integrity of all medical records
- M. Maintain confidentiality of all references to case specific information.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

The LE officer's role is to protect and serve the public, investigate crimes, identify and apprehend perpetrators; recognize, collect and preserve evidence, prepare and provide investigative reports to the District Attorney's Office for review and prosecution, when appropriate.

Since many sexual assault victim/survivors will experience their first real contact with a LE officer following the assault, the LE officer should be ever cognizant of the emotional well-being of the victim/survivor and should take all reasonable steps to alleviate the negative impact of the investigative process.

LE will work collaboratively with all Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) team members to communicate best practices on an ongoing basis. LE will also share information and assist in the formulation of statistics which all for review of processes for improvement of delivered services.

III. Law Enforcement Agency Agrees to:

- A. Designate a liaison for the SART.
- B. Refer appropriate sexual assault patients to JCFC or other participating Johnson County SAFE facilities medical/forensic treatment.
- C. Provide on location help to victims, giving them the options for treatment.
- D. When possible, provide comfortable interview location where space permits.
- E. Responding Officer will gather information needed to proceed with report and SANE exam. Follow-up will be conducted by department, as necessary.
- F. Coordinate with the local advocacy program to arrange for an advocate to be present at all investigative interviews should the survivor request such presence.
- G. Offer the survivor with the opportunity to be supported by a trained advocate during their investigative interview with law enforcement (HB1172).
- H. Provide a case number or incident report number.

- I. Department staff will provide follow up information and education to discuss with the SART during the monthly meeting. This can be done over Zoom or in person.
- J. Receive forensic evidence that has been collected from the patient and/or suspect for approved forensic exams.
- K. Report back to SANE Program Manager any suggestions from the Crime Lab concerning evidence collection, documentation, or packaging or sealing of the evidence and bring summary of the discussion to the SART.
- L. Follow law enforcement established protocol regarding evidence transmission and storage for approved forensic exams.
- M. Maintain communication and contact with the SART.
- N. Participate in SART training activities that will enhance knowledge of the community at large, Law Enforcement, the District Attorney's staff, SANE or SANE candidates.
- O. Provide data concerning sexual assaults to the SART.
- P. Provide ongoing process improvement information to the SANE Program Manager and/or SART.
- Q. Maintain confidentiality of all references to case specific information.

PROSECUTION

As set forth in the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure, the primary purpose of the prosecutor in any case, including sexual assault, is to see that justice is done. Prosecutors should accomplish this by 1) Prosecuting the perpetrator when sufficient, credible evidence exists; and 2) Providing the victim with information relevant to the prosecution of the perpetrator.

The prosecutor(s) should remain mindful that prosecution is but one component of a Sexual Assault Response Team (SART), and that the team concept is crucial in ensuring a victim-centered approach to the prosecution while seeking justice.

- IV. The District Attorney's Office of Johnson and Somervell County agrees to:
 - A. Designate a liaison to serve as a resource person for the Sexual Assault Response Team (SART).
 - B. Provide ongoing data for cases that have gone to prosecution.
 - C. Use Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANE) as witnesses during sexual assault trials, as needed.

- D. Provide reasonable notification of upcoming trials for SANE or law enforcement who may be called.
- E. Meet with SANE prior to judicial proceedings to review the case.
- F. Maintain communication and contact with the SART and establish method for follow up on disposition of cases.
- G. Participate in SART training activities, including law enforcement officials, other attorneys, and SANE candidates.
- H. Participate in training that will increase SANE's ability to provide clear and defined testimony as an expert witness.
- I. Provide ongoing process improvement information to the SANE Program Manager and/or SART.

SANE

A Forensic Nurse (also known as a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner - SANE) is a registered nurse who has completed additional education and training to provide a medical forensic examination and evaluation of individuals impacted by trauma while maximizing the collection of biological, trace, and physical evidence and minimizing the survivor's emotional trauma. The forensic nurse is also trained and prepared to testify in the criminal justice system as both a fact and expert witness.

- V. The Texas Health Sexual Assault Nurse Examine (SANE) Program agrees to:
 - A. Designate a liaison serve as a resource person for the SART.
 - B. Participate in SART meetings and SART sponsored training activities.
 - C. Collaborate with advocacy to meet patient/victims needs regarding crime victim's rights, compensation, and advocacy throughout the medical forensic evaluation.
 - D. Ensure that all SANEs responding independently to care for patient/victims are adult/adolescent certified by the Texas Office of the Attorney General or has a national SANE-A certification through the International Association of Forensic Nurses (IAFN).
 - E. Ensure that all SANEs stay current with their Texas Board of Nursing licensure requirements for registered nurses.
 - F. Ensure that all SANEs stay current with requirements of adult/adolescent certification as mandated by the Texas Office of the Attorney General and/or the IAFN.

- G. Ensure SANE(s) provide the patient/victim with the opportunity to be supported by an approved advocate during their medical/forensic experience.
- H. Ensure a one (1) hour response from time of call received to time SANE arrives at the emergency department.
- I. Ensure that patients/victims receive written and verbal explanations of Texas Health and Human Services Information for Survivors of Sexual Assault.
- J. Notify law enforcement agency of patients' arrival to the hospital when appropriate.
- K. Ensure that all SANE staff follow established guidelines and best practices as outlined by the Texas Evidence Collection Protocol to provide consistency in the sexual assault medical forensic examination and evidence collection of patients/victims.
- L. Enter sexual assault kit tracking information into the Texas DPS statewide electronic tracking system Track-Kit as required by Government Code 420.034.
- M. Properly prepare for upcoming judicial proceedings by meeting with the District Attorney's Office to review cases that are pending or in process.
- N. Notify the District Attorney's Office of address and/or telephone number changes.
- O. Attend specialized forensic training specific to the Adult & Adolescent population to maintain current and best practices.
- P. Agrees to meet regularly as a Forensic team to discuss quality of care, peer, and procedural review.
- Q. Provide ongoing process improvement information to the SART
- R. Maintain custody, confidentiality, and integrity of all forensic medical records.
- S. Maintain confidentiality of all references to case specific information.

Evaluation of Protocols: Case Review

Case reviews are one of the mechanisms that SART teams can use to assess and improve the effectiveness of the team's response to adult survivors of sexual assault. Through this last biennium we have had the opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of the roles and responsibilities of different professionals and agencies that respond to adult survivors of sexual assault within the community.

Johnson and Somervell County SART could not obtain signed written consent for a case review to be discussed and published. Under *Texas Local Government Code Sec. 351.258 (f)* *A response team may only review a sexual assault case of an adult survivor with the signed, written consent of the survivor.*

Although we did not receive consent, the SART team has been able to review cases and protocols throughout the biennium to identify where gaps are. Flow charts were designed to help agencies and survivors know what to expect next. As we start into the next biennium, the team is developing a set of guidelines for selecting a case to review along with a standardized release form for the survivor that meets the mandatory requirements.

Conclusion

The 2025 Biennial Report for the Johnson and Somervell County Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) demonstrates significant progress in strengthening a coordinated, trauma-informed response to sexual assault, while also identifying key areas for continued growth. Over the past two years, SART has advanced its mission by enhancing multidisciplinary collaboration, expanding training opportunities, improving system-wide consistency, and reinforcing its commitment to survivor-centered practices. Despite challenges such as member turnover, inconsistent attendance, and the complexity of aligning multiple agencies' protocols, the team has continued to move forward through renewed leadership, strategic adjustments, and a shared dedication to improving outcomes for survivors.

The biennium reflected increased efficiency and interagency coordination through comprehensive cross-training, improved communication practices, and the development of tools such as streamlined flow charts to assist first responders. Intensive training efforts—including TCOLE-accredited law enforcement training, TRACK-It instruction, forensic evidence and DNA processing education, and SANE-focused cross-trainings collectively strengthened the knowledge and preparedness of the entire response system. The addition of a new SAFE examination site within the county further expanded access to timely forensic services, reducing barriers that once delayed care and evidence collection. The report also highlights proactive community engagement, including the Commissioners Court proclamation that publicly affirmed the county's commitment to addressing sexual assault and supporting survivors.

Data submitted by law enforcement agencies revealed 298 reported sexual assaults for the biennium, all of which were investigated, demonstrating consistent law enforcement follow-through. Notably, Johnson and Somervell Counties reported **zero unsubmitted or overdue sexual assault kits**, reflecting strong compliance with Texas evidence-transfer laws and the effectiveness of both SANE services and law enforcement cooperation. Texas Health's Forensic Health and Violence Intervention Department expanded through rebranding and grant funding continued to provide 24/7 forensic nursing coverage, ensuring that survivors receive high-quality, trauma-informed medical and forensic care at every point of contact.

Throughout the biennium, agencies reviewed and reaffirmed their SART protocols, reinforcing clear expectations for advocacy, healthcare, law enforcement, prosecution, and forensic services. These protocols remain central to ensuring consistent responses, eliminating system gaps, and maintaining accountability across partner agencies. Although the team was unable to conduct a formal published case review due to the absence of survivor consent, members used ongoing discussions and internal reviews to identify areas needing improvement. In preparation for the upcoming biennium, the SART is developing standardized case-selection guidelines and a

compliant survivor release form to support future case review efforts in alignment with Texas Local Government Code Sec. 351.258.

Overall, the Johnson and Somervell County SART made meaningful strides in service coordination, community engagement, and multidisciplinary development. By strengthening relationships, addressing gaps, and prioritizing survivor-centered practices, the team continues to advance its vision of a community where survivors are heard, supported, and empowered, and where offenders are held fully accountable. As the SART enters the next biennium, it remains committed to ongoing improvement, deeper collaboration, and the continued enhancement of a unified, effective response system for all survivors of sexual violence across both counties.