


Sexual Assault Response Protocol
Development

BUILDING BLOCKS FOR SAFETY AND JUSTICE

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Learning Objectives

- Build participant understanding of what a protocol is and why it is important to have protocols in place.
- Identify different areas protocols cover and examine the steps involved when drafting protocols.
- Learn methods that can be used to incorporate the experiences of victims and ensure the protocol is victim centered and culturally specific.
- Gain an understanding on how to design a plan of action and process for writing the protocols with their tribal sexual assault response team.

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Usefulness of a SA/DV Response Protocol

- An established protocol can serve as a roadmap for the provision of a “victim-centered” immediate response.
- Can ensure culturally specific responses are incorporated at every point of contact
- *A victim-centered approach is a critical first step in the journey to holistic healing from sexual assault.*

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Benefits of effective protocols

- Reduction in jurisdictional confusion
- Delineation of roles and responsibilities
- Improvement in case outcomes
- Regeneration of traditional customs of community response
- Opportunity to exercise inherent sovereignty by improving tribal laws
- Maximizing existing resources, that are often limited

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8 Step Process of Protocol Development



MN Model Sexual Assault Response, 2000

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The 8 step process is an ideal created in a Non-native environment, being culturally responsive and taking into account local resources and time might change the depth of some of the steps or omit a step completely

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Community's Ability to Respond

Step 1: Existing Services

Create an understanding of resources currently used to help sexual assault victims.

Inventory Existing Services:

- Know the community services, systems, and their operational effectiveness
- Conduct a survey
- Develop a master list of referral agencies and organizations

Step 2: Victim Experience Survey

Gain victim perspectives. Obtain feedback from sexual assault victims about how well their needs were met by agencies and organizations.

Victim Experience Survey:

- Secure permission from sexual assault victims to send a survey to or to interview them; and
- Collect and combine results to gain a picture of how victims feel about their experience by the responding agencies

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Community's Ability to Respond, continued

Step 3: Community Needs Assessment

Examine how well the existing system meets the needs of sexual assault victims and *identify* any unmet needs.

Community Needs Assessment:

- Hold a community gathering to obtain public opinion on the response to victims.
- Compile and compare information from the Inventory of Existing Services, the Victim Experience Survey, and community gatherings.
- Identify what is lacking and any gaps in the response to victims.
- Identify what each agency can do to improve the identified gaps in the system.

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Interagency Cooperation

Step 4: Interagency Agreements

Obtain formal acceptance by SART members of the protocol and expand the SART if necessary.

Interagency Agreements:

- Describes and affirms each SART member's commitment to the SART Team.
- Details the SART member agency commitment to adopt SART protocols.
- Describes the SART member agency roles and responsibilities.

Step 5: Protocol Writing

Develop written guidelines for all agencies working with sexual assault victims describing how the agencies will work with each other and with sexual assault victims.

Protocol Writing includes:

- Developing a consensus about how the system response *should* operate.
- Designing a process for writing the protocol.
- Reviewing and approving the draft and final victim centered protocols.

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Interagency Cooperation, continued

Step 6: Agency Training

Ensuring implementation of the protocol with quality trained agencies & programs on the SART protocol.

Protocol Training:

- Establishes a training committee when needed.
- Identifies who will train each of the participating agencies on their specific protocol.
- Describes how the SART trains on each protocol.

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Effectiveness of Response

Step 7: Monitoring

Determine the extent to which the protocols are being implemented then identify any problem areas in the protocol.

Monitoring Protocol Within Agencies:

- Designs a process to measure the application & implementation of the protocol.
- Determines the extent to which the protocols are being implemented.
- Identifies problem areas in the protocol.

Step 8: Evaluation

Determine the impact of the SART protocol on sexual assault victims and on system performance.

Evaluating Protocol:

- Designs an evaluation that examines the impact of the SART protocol on sexual assault victims.
- Designs an evaluation that also examines the performance of criminal justice system's agencies.
- Implements the evaluation and conducts an analysis.

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Effectiveness of Response

Step 8: Evaluation

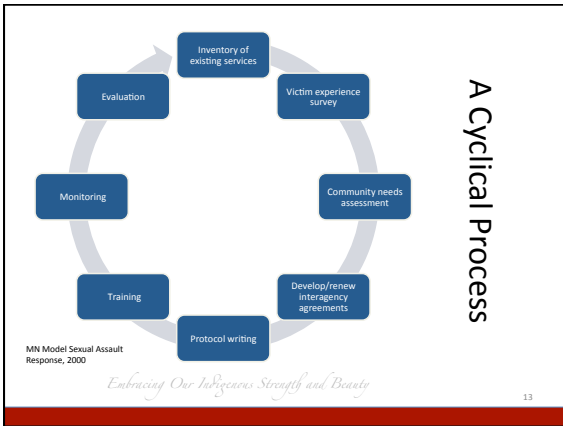
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- ### Steps Recommended
1. Identify a who will lead the process
 2. Form a protocol drafting team
 3. Devise a plan of action
 4. Gather in-depth information
 5. Invite dialogue among all relevant stakeholders
 6. Create or revise your protocol
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- ### What should be included in the protocol
- Purpose of the protocol
 - who it is for?
 - who will be using it?
 - Responsibilities of those using the protocol
 - Aspects of the practice, service, response
 - Victim centered
 - Cultural appropriateness at each point of intervention/contact
 - Other issues
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Resources

Red Wind Consulting, Inc

(866) 599-9650

www.red-wind.net

- Focuses on both sexual assault and domestic violence protocol development

National Tribal Sexual Assault Resource Clearinghouse Clearinghouse

Southwest Center for Law and Policy

(520) 623-8192

www.swclap.org

- SAFESTAR, SANE, SART

- OVC SART Toolkit

<http://ovc.ncjrs.gov/sartkit/>

- National Protocol for SA Medical Forensic Exams
(currently being revised)

- National Tribal Protocol for Medical Forensic Exams
(currently under review by DOJ)

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