

Salem County Prosecutor's Office
Sexual Assault Community Relations, Outreach Programs and Training Plan

The members of the Special Investigations Division have worked collaboratively with Salem County Women's Services to provide a victim-centered approach to all sexual assault victims going through the legal process. Members of the Special Investigations Division currently sit on the Sexual Assault Awareness for Everyone (SAAFE) grant committee, headed by Salem County Women's Services. The committee is responsible for providing various outlets for public education within the community. Current examples are literature provided for Doctors Office waiting rooms and emergency numbers posted in local bar establishments. Detectives have accompanied the Salem County Women's Services Advocates when teaching the Salem County student population about sexual assault awareness and provided approximately (100) one hundred students with the necessary tools on how to report an incident of sexual abuse. This collaboration of services with the Salem County Women's Services will continue in the future with other school districts.

The Salem County Prosecutor's Office hosted a 21 County, 21st Century Community Policing Project presentation on Campus Sexual Violence at the Salem Community College. Members of the Salem County Prosecutor's Office, Carney's Point Police Department, Salem County Correctional Facility, Salem County Women's Services and Salem Community College staff spoke to college students, counselors and law enforcement on a variety of topics. The topics included sexual assault investigations, practices and protocols, the role of the forensic nurse examiner and Sexual Assault Response Team (SART), drug facilitated sexual assaults and prevention strategies, role of the victim advocate and campus resources. The attendees also had an opportunity to learn self-defense tactics presented by members of the Salem County Correctional Facility. Approximately (50) fifty staff members from the Salem Community College were provided Sexual Assault Response Team training on a separate date.

Our Forensic Nurse Coordinator, Toni Lou Cataldi, has provided Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) training to the nurses and doctors at the Salem Medical Center along with the Inspira Medical Center of Elmer, where the forensic exams are performed. SART pamphlets are available at each hospital site explaining the program along with contact information to initiate a SART activation.

Forensic Nurse Coordinator Cataldi and other members of the Special Investigations Division also provided SART training to school nurses and provided them with the resources in the event a of reported sexual assault.

In the future, the members of the Special Investigations Division along with our Forensic Nurse Coordinator will continue to contact community partners and agencies to provide them with SART training.