

What is a **SART?**

10:00 am, Thursday, October 21, 2021



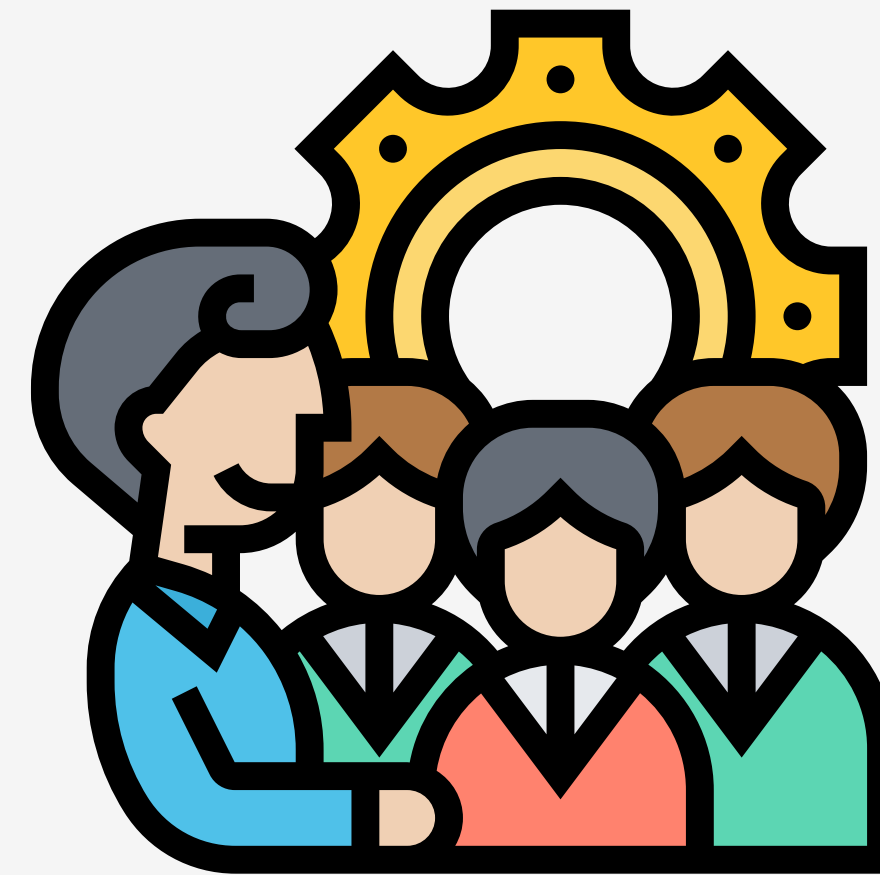
e-Learning
TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

UPCOMING EVENTS



October 26, 2021

SART Basics for Large
Counties



November 11, 2021

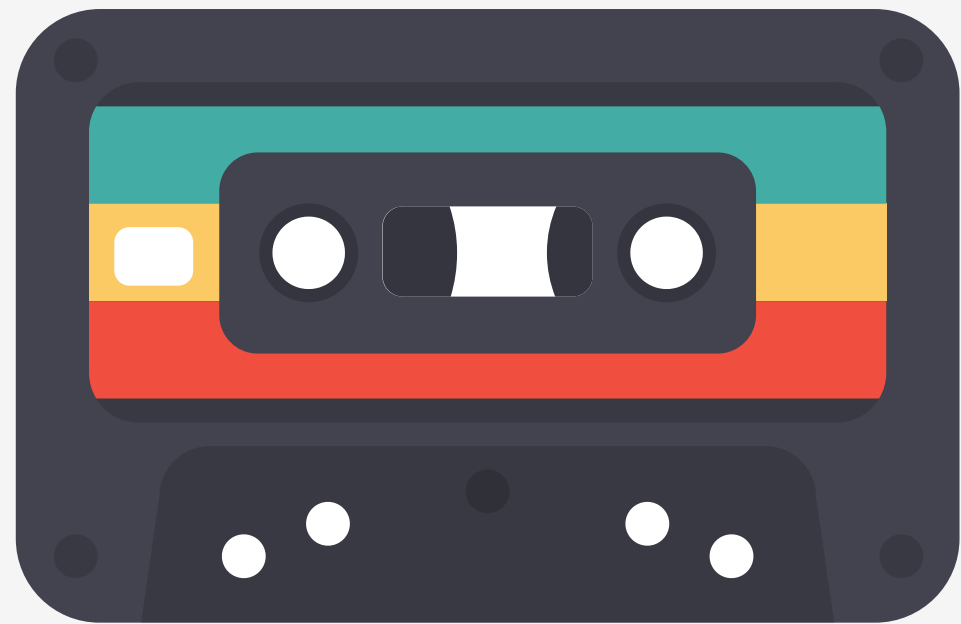
SART Basics for Counties
Interested in Regional
Response



e-Learning

TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

HOUSEKEEPING & REMINDERS



Recordings
Available



Share Your
Ideas

kliledowty@txregionalcouncil.org



e-Learning
TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS



LISTEN ONLY MODE

Share your thoughts and questions in the chat box!



e-Learning

TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS





MEET THE PRESENTERS



LIZ BOYCE

General Counsel &
Director of Policy



KRISTEN LENAU

Senior Policy Advisor





SART Basics

Kristen Lenau
Senior Policy Advisor
klenau@taasa.org

Liz Boyce
General Counsel & Director of Policy
eboyce@taasa.org

TAASA

TAASA is the unifying voice to eliminate sexual violence in Texas. As the statewide coalition of survivors, advocates, rape crisis centers, and allied professionals, we are committed to fostering a culture that respects the fundamental rights and dignity of all.

Public Policy

Prevention

Rape Crisis Center Support

Overview

- Adult Sexual Assault in Texas
- What is a SART
- Texas SARTs
- SB476
- Structure
- Membership
- Activities & Products
- FAQs

Adult Sexual Assault in Texas

- Texas Penal Code 22.011
- UT Prevalence study -roughly 1/3 of Texas women experience sexual violence in their lifetime
- Reporting to LE
- Case outcomes for ASA

What is a SART?

- Formal, coordinated response to sexual assault by community stakeholders
- CCR model of addressing interpersonal crimes of violence in a particular geographic area
- Public & private stakeholders
- Communication, evaluation, protocol development
- Victim safety, offender accountability & healing

SARTs

- Were an identified gap in State Auditor's Report to the Legislature
- Only exist in about 10% of Texas Counties
- Are evidence based to show improvement in healing & criminal justice outcomes
- Streamline services and create systemic change
- Pool resources and may improve public safety investments

Texas SARTs

- Around 23 known to be currently active*
- Several cover multiple counties
- Combined IPV groups
- Sustainability & leadership
- Where they are active and running well, we see a huge impact on cases

Texas SARTs

Lessons Learned

Commitment from agency leaders & succession planning

Real participation

Shared purpose

Write it down

Relationship building

Challenges reported: internal conflict, lack of prosecution and focus on CSA

SB476

Addressing a consistent and far reaching lack of:

- Communication
- Coordination
- Transparency
- Accountability
- Sensitivity
- Training

Within collective & systemic responses to adult survivors

Structure

Over 250k- must convene their own team

Under 250k- may partner with nearby, small counties

Umbrella- County Commissioner's Court

- Establish a team and appoint statutory membership

Structure

Team Responsibilities

- Quarterly meetings, separate from child team
- Developing an interagency written protocol
- Evaluation/case reviews
- Cross training
- Biennial reports to the county

Statutory membership

1. Sexual Assault Program
2. Prosecutor
3. Sheriff
4. Largest Municipal Law Enforcement Agency
5. Mental Health Provider
6. Forensic Examiner
7. Other individuals or entities determined by the team

Potential Members

- Domestic violence agencies
- Crime lab
- Survivors
- Campus personnel

Meetings

- 1st meeting to be held by December 1st, 2021
- Frontload infrastructure
 - Conflict resolution process
 - Information sharing processes
 - Decision making
- Size and caseload dependent
- Agendas & minutes

Activities & Products

- Written interagency protocol
- Cross training
- Evaluation/Case Reviews
- Report to county- every odd numbered year
 - Attendance/membership
 - Protocol
 - Data*

Interagency protocol

Once the SART has begun meeting & selected their leadership, it must develop a written protocol for responding to adult survivors within the community.

The initial protocol is due to be completed by December 1 2022

No later than the 90th day after the last day of a regular legislative session, the SART must review and amend any response team protocols, forms, or guidelines required by the law

Protocol requirements

Requirements include:

- Elements for responding to each victim & crime
- Elements for upholding crime victim rights as required by law
- Elements for team evaluation and ongoing needs assessment

FAQs

- SARTs and Child Abuse teams- why are they separate?
- What if our community already has a SART?
- How do we find out who the POC is for an existing SART?
- How do we find out if our county has a Sexual Assault Program or a SANE?
- Does this require an on-scene response?
- What if our county has multiple.....?

Questions?

policy@taasa.org

QUESTIONS?



e-Learning

TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS