

Roles & Responsibilities of SANE

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SANE Mission Statement

- SANE program serves sexual assault victims by providing prompt, compassionate, culturally sensitive and comprehensive medical treatment and forensic evaluation by nurse experts within a coordinated community response

SANE Mission Statement

Break it down

■ Sexual Assault

- Forensic nursing applies to other interpersonal violence but the skills and knowledge provided to nurses during the SANE training is specific to sexual assault victims.

■ Prompt

- SANE programs provide 24/7 coverage; however, as an on-call program, nurses have a window of time to respond. Most programs allow 30 to 60 minutes from initial dispatch to arrival.

■ Comprehensive

- The SANE response, from intake to discharge, is to provide medical and forensic services that are linked with co-responding agencies (law enforcement, ED/EMS) as well as community resources (rape crisis, interpretation services, domestic violence) and services related to the aftermath care (mental health, counseling, victim compensation funds).

SANE Mission Statement, Cont.

- Objective-compassionate
 - The SANE must be an un-biased documenter of fact and yet provide empathetic, compassionate care for the victim of trauma
- Medical treatment
 - Medical treatment includes medical history, physical exam, and treatment of minor injuries on through emergency referral for strangulation, suicide ideation, blunt trauma, or other acute symptoms.
 - The SANE offers prophylactic treatment for STI as well as emergency contraception.
- Forensic evaluation
 - The SANE uses the statewide Sexual Assault Evidence Kit (SAEK) for collection of foreign DNA and debris. In addition, the SANE's documentation of injury and patient demeanor may be used as evidence.

SANE Mission Statement, Cont.

- **Advanced-trained nurses**
 - SANE Programs should have a team of at least three nurses to promote collegial learning and support, prevent isolation and burnout, and provide 24/7 coverage.
 - In addition to the 64-hours of didactic instruction, precept requirements reflect a minimum of 40 to 50 hours.
- **Coordinated community response**
 - Each SANE Program is required to have a multi-disciplinary team (MDT) approach to sexual assault.
 - For some programs, the multi-disciplinary team responds to the individual victim so that information, options, and implications of decisions are provided to the victim at the time they access services.
 - For other SANE programs, the referral among team members occurs consecutively based on the victim's choice – while this may be a slower process, it may be less intimidating to the victim.
 - All SANE programs have scheduled meeting (monthly or quarterly) among the MDT services to ensure a seamless delivery. SANE MDT meetings often do case reviews as well.

SANE Mission Statement – Review

- SANE program serves sexual assault victims by providing prompt, compassionate, culturally sensitive and comprehensive medical treatment and forensic evaluation by nurse experts within a coordinated community response
- Take a minute to repeat the mission statement until you feel comfortable with it.
- Practice your own working definition of a SANE Mission Statement...

SANE Program Values

- Core values to the SANE practice include
 - Empowering the victim
 - Integrating the medical response with other systems, ensuring a seamless system on behalf of the victim
 - Medical care first (you are nurses with an eye on the total, holistic care of the patient) and forensic care as a courtesy to the victim
- The following slides provide examples of each

SANE Program Value: Empowering care

Empowering Care

- Offering services with information so the patient can make informed decisions
- Taking the time to ensure informed consent throughout the exam
- Treating victims and their decisions with dignity and respect
- Allowing the patient to assist in the process
- Ensuring informed – not implied – consent
 - What is real “consent” when a person is in crisis mode?
 - Is “I guess” the same as “yes”?

Examples of Empowering Care

Research (referenced below) measured specific examples of empowering care provided by the nurse to the sexual assault victim. Items scored high by victims include:

- The nurse explained what was going to happen
- The nurse asked if I had questions
- The nurse responded to my questions
- The nurse explained why each part of the exam was important
- I had a chance to help with the exam if I wanted to (i.e., comb my own hair)
- I felt I could take a break during the exam
- I felt I could say no to any part of the exam

R. Campbell, et al, JFN 4-2008 p.19-28

SANE Program Values – Systemic or seamless delivery of services

Integrated Systemic care

- SANE is linked with resources that collectively will
 - Support the victim's recovery
 - Prevent secondary injury or illness
- SANE will support the co-response of services
 - The SANE exam may be delayed so that other providers (ED, law enforcement, crisis counseling) may be better suited to address victim needs
- The SANE exam is one agency (one piece of the puzzle, one link in the chain) that works on the problem of sexual violence in our community
 - Other pieces include prevention, awareness, rape crisis/hotline services, police investigation, prosecution, victim advocacy, data, research and evaluation as well as offender exam, offender treatment, prisons and parole, etc

Examples of Systemic Care

- Triage/referral to ED for evaluation after strangulation
- Co-response with a rape crisis advocate to support the victim's needs while the nurse responds to the patient's needs
- Referral to primary care provider or OB/GYN if pregnant
- Referral to New Mexico AIDS society for HIV testing
- Provide work/school excuse with provider signature
- Provide replacement clothes
- Referral to mental health/counseling
- Advocate for patient care – if dispute develops among co-responding agencies, the SANE separates that discussion from the patient.

SANE Program Values – Medical care

- Medical stability is always #1 priority
- For some communities, ED initially clears and refers the patient to SANE as they would for other requests for specialized medical care
- Criteria for being a SANE is “nurse”
 - SANE focuses on medical first/foremost
 - SANE keeps to Nursing Scope of Practice
- There is no life-saving technique within the Sexual Assault Evidence Kit.
 - Anything within the SAEK requires informed – not implied – consent.

Examples of medical/forensic care

- Sexual assault victims can receive SANE exam without filing a police report
- By collecting forensic evidence as part of the sexual assault exam, the victim has time to decide whether or not to report at a later time
- Evidence collection is performed as a courtesy to the patient
 - The SANE nurse is collecting not testing or analyzing
 - The SANE, as a medical professional, is offering medical care and treatment of injuries – why not collect the forensic, which is fleeting, at the same time
 - The SANE nurse is treating an unclothed trauma patient

Role of a SANE

The SANE must be professional and objective at all times to ensure the integrity of the medical care of the trauma patient as well as the documentation of the sexual assault exam, the evidence collected, and the testimony provided during legal proceedings.

Role of a SANE

Within the science of nursing, four factors influence a patient's perception of nursing professionalism

- Caring/empathy
- Competence/expertise
- Dedication/commitment
- Honesty/openness

All are applicable to SANE nursing

Responsibilities of a SANE

Big Picture

- Obtain ongoing education through conferences, inservices, meetings, and association membership
- Network with other SANEs and with the NM Coalition of Sexual Assault Programs
- Collaborate with your colleagues and your community to ensure a quality response
- Focus on nursing and clinical integrity, including competencies with skills and equipment
- Consider SANE a part time job with a full time commitment

Responsibilities of a SANE

Annually

- Maintain certifications required by your program
- Maintain malpractice insurance
- Know your program's policies and procedures
- Keep your skills current; practice and ensure competencies with equipment
- Attend conferences, learn – the art and science of forensic nursing changes often
- Network with colleagues
- Take charge of your "self-care"

Responsibilities of a SANE

Monthly

- Communicate with your co-workers, including administrator and medical director
- Keep abreast of communication (list serves, memos, updated protocols, bulletins, etc)
- Submit availability for monthly schedule
- Participate in your SANE nurses' and MDT meetings
- Participate in chart review – your own and others, look at photos and documentation with critical eye
- Take care of your “self-care”

Responsibilities of a SANE

Per Case

- Maintain professionalism at all times
- Stay firmly within nursing scope of practice
- Perform the sexual assault exam based on your program's policies and procedures
- Maintain Chain of Custody
- Clean the exam room upon completion
- Restock supplies
- Report broken or malfunctioning equipment
- Know you are responsible for cases you have done – forever and ever
- Take care of your "self-care"

New Mexico SANE Nurses

A 2004 Electronic survey of SANE's, of those from NM who responded

- Average age 48 years
- 71% felt exhausted
- 56% felt frustrated
- 53% reported chronic health problems
- 88% felt they were not adequately trained on ever-new technology
- And yet.... 72% were generally satisfied with being a SANE!!

So, before you exhaust yourself
to oblivion....



Before you eat your body
weight in one sitting



Before you
go through a
month of bad
hair days...



Responsibilities of a SANE

Take care of yourself,
Keep learning,
Be receptive to change
and

Constantly re-assess that SANE is
something you want to do