The Office of
EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

Monthly Newsletter

April is Sexual Assault Awareness & Prevention Month

IMPORTANT DATES
April 2019

- April 5: 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Sloss House lawn, volunteers will distribute teal ribbons and information about consent and bystander intervention.

- April 9: 5 p.m.-8 p.m., Sloss Center for Women and Gender Equity, "What I Was Wearing" Exhibit, providing stories from survivors of sexual assault to provoke thought around sexual assault.

- April 11: 10 a.m.-2 p.m., near the Free Speech Zone, Iowa State police officers will distribute "Get a Yes" magnets and 29-Alert magnets (promoting the 24-hour crisis line and 24-hour advocacy line for sexual assault, relationship violence and stalking survivors). Learn about the university’s sexual misconduct policy and the definition and importance of affirmative consent.


- April 17: 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Sloss House lawn, Clothesline Project, a display of T-shirts designed by survivors of violence and family members or friends of survivors. Participants may create a shirt in the Sloss House.

- April 17: 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Sloss House lawn, "These Hands Don’t Hurt." Participants are invited to imprint their hand on a large canvas as a show of their pledge to not commit acts of violence against others.
What is SART?

Sexual Assault Response Teams (SART) provide an organized and community-based response to sexual assault. They bring together a collection of stakeholders including rape victim advocates, medical/forensic examiners, law enforcement, and prosecutors. They also sometimes include members of faith communities and other social services.

When you contact SART, the nurse, advocate, and law enforcement officer each explain their role on the team and what services they are able to provide. It is up to the victim to decide which resources they want to use.

A walk through the process, after a SART advocate is contacted.

Once SART is initiated for a medical-forensic exam, a SANE nurse is called to respond to one of the medical exam sites (wherever the patient is at), Mary Greeley Medical Center, Story County Medical Center, or Student Health. The SANE offers an exam to the patient that will include a medical exam (includes evaluation for injuries and documentation, offering prophylactic medications to prevent sexually transmitted infections, and forensic evidence collection). All of these options are completely optional to the patient and they choose how much or what portions of the exam they do or do not want.

Exams are covered through the crime victims assistance division at the attorney general office. No insurance is billed for sex assault services or the medications we provide or follow up exams.

SART functions as a multi-disciplinary team which means they respond as a team including advocacy and law enforcement as well. Each role offers and explains their services, and the patient has a right to accept or decline.

A SANE (sexual assault nurse examiner) is also able to assist with testimony if a case goes forward through the judicial system.

All services provided by a SANE are completely confidential (nurses must comply with mandatory reporting laws). Patients can present anonymously as well, if they wish.

Some general information about SANEs, is that a SANE holds a minimum license as an Registered Nurse and attends an additional 40+hour course specifically for taking care of patients who have been sexually assaulted.

Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE):
This is an experienced Registered Nurse (RN) who has received extensive training specific to collecting and documenting evidence in sexual assault cases. Other options available include treatment for sexually transmitted infections and pregnancy.

Sexual Assault Advocate:
Advocates are confidential service providers who offer emotional support, victim rights information, additional community resources, and support when utilizing other systems.
Sexual assault victims have the right to have an advocate present at all proceedings relating to the assault, including meetings with law enforcement, medical professionals, or the criminal justice system.

Law Enforcement Officer:
They can take a report of the assault and/or start an investigation, depending on the wishes of the victim.
Options include:
-File written report only, no investigation
-File written report, gather immediate evidence, no further investigation
-File written report, gather evidence, conduct full investigation
Life can present unexpected challenges like work-related stresses, the illness of a family member or a change in finances that can require an objective perspective from EAP professionals. Your employer recognizes the importance of providing a confidential resource to help you deal with life’s challenges. The Employee Assistance Program (EAP) is a benefit designed for you, and your eligible family members. Guided by professional counselors, the EAP helps you address the challenges that can impact your job performance, stifle well-being or take a toll on your health. It’s here – 24 hours a day – 7 days a week.

**Questions and Answers**

Q. What is the Employee Assistance Program (EAP)?
A. The purpose of EAP is to assist employees, whose personal problems have the potential to affect their job performance, to become fully productive employees. EAP is also designed for use by supervisors as an alternative or adjunct to disciplinary action to assist troubled employees to return to an acceptable level of productivity.

Q. How do I know EAP can help me?
A. You can’t be 100% sure about anything, but thousands of state employees have brought their problems to EAP, and most of them believe they have been helped. One thing is certain; most personal problems don’t get any better by being ignored, denied, or stoically endured. EAP can be the first step toward meaningful change.

Q. Are there fees involved?
A. No. EAP services are no charge.

Q. What if my supervisor is part of my problem?
A. Remember EAP is a confidential service. If your supervisor is part of your problem, what better or safer place could there be to go? Your contact with EAP could assist you in resolving issues between you and your supervisor.

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**consent is NOT**

1. An informed, voluntary, and active agreement to engage in a specific sexual act at a specific time
2. Before Anything Else
"Iowa State University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, age, ethnicity, religion, national origin, pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, genetic information, sex, marital status, disability, or status as a U.S. Veteran."

Please reach out to these resources as needed.