

# **2025 Regional Sexual Assault Response Plan**

*OPH Region 2*

January 2025



## I. Introduction

According to Louisiana Revised Statute 40:1216.1, each region in Louisiana shall submit a regional plan that responds to survivors of Sexually-Oriented Criminal Offenses (SOCO). Region 2 consists of the following parishes:

| Parish           | Coroner                  | Phone Number | Region 2 Plan Participant |
|------------------|--------------------------|--------------|---------------------------|
| East Baton Rouge | William "Beau" Clark, MD | 225-389-3047 | YES                       |
| Ascension        | Chris Trevino, MD        | 225-644-4743 | YES                       |
| Pointe Coupee    | Donald Doucet, MD        | 225-638-5736 | YES                       |
| West Baton Rouge | Phillip Padgett, MD      | 225-336-2429 | YES                       |
| Iberville        | James Grace, MD          | 225-687-8555 | YES                       |
| West Feliciana   | Chaillie Daniel, MD      | 225-635-5848 | YES                       |
| East Feliciana   | Gene Thompson, MD        | 225-719-9125 | YES                       |

With East Baton Rouge Parish (EBRP) being the most geographically located parish and having five hospitals, it seemed equitable to offer its resources for a Sexual Assault Regional Program. East Baton Rouge Parish Coroner's Office (EBRPCO) is submitting this SOCO response plan/protocol. This plan/protocol is intended to be compliant with Louisiana law and improve Region 2's response to survivors of SOCO, along with the sexual assault forensic examination process and the treatment and billing of the survivors. Each parish coroner may opt into the Region 2 plan or may choose to create an independent plan. All parishes have chosen to participate in this plan.

SOCO are personal and devastating to the survivors affected and threaten the safety and well-being of our community. In order to address the crime of SOCO and provide an empirical, survivor-centric, best practice response to survivors, participation from all community stakeholders is imperative. These stakeholders include coroners, sexual assault advocates, law enforcement, first responders, hospitals and healthcare facilities, crime lab technicians, prosecutors, higher education institutions, and each parish school board.

This plan/protocol will briefly discuss the role of each of these response professionals to provide a context by which this plan/protocol will strengthen and enhance the current procedures in place in all parishes included in Region 2.

## II. Role of Response Team Members

- 1. Coroners** have jurisdiction over all survivors of SOCO when they present for examination within his/her parish. According to Revised Statute 13:5713(F), *"The coroner or his designee shall examine all alleged victims of a sexually-oriented criminal offense. The coroner may select the hospital or healthcare provider named as the lead entity for sexual forensic medical examinations in the regional plan required by R.S. 40:1300.41 as his designee to perform the forensic medical examination."* In Region 2, the EBRPCO will perform the acute forensic medical examinations (FME) on all alleged survivors of SOCO and not designate a hospital or healthcare provider as a lead entity. EBRPCO will be responsible for the purchase and storage of unused and unreported sexual assault evidence collection kits (the kit) and for providing the kit when responding to a healthcare facility to perform the FME. Upon completion of the FME, the SANE maintains control of the kit and transports it back to the EBRPCO facility for processing. It is then stored in a secure area until the appropriate LE jurisdiction takes control of the reported kit, maintaining a recorded chain of custody. Non-reported kits remain secure at the EBRPCO for 20 years.

2. **Sexual assault advocates** are made available by our local sexual assault center, STAR (Sexual Trauma Awareness and Response). STAR's trained advocates respond to calls from the hospital or police to accompany SOCO survivors to hospitals and police stations when available. STAR's advocates offer advocacy, support, crisis intervention, information, language assistance services, and referrals before, during, and after the exam process. STAR also provides comprehensive, longer-term services designed to aid survivors in addressing any needs related to the assault, including, but not limited to, counseling, advocacy, and legal representation.

The Baton Rouge Children's Advocacy Center (BRCAC) provides services for EBR, WBR, Iberville, and Pointe Coupee. Children's Advocacy Center (CAC) in Hammond provides services for Ascension, West Feliciana, and East Feliciana. Both centers receive referrals from LE, DCFS, hospitals, healthcare providers and EBRPCO SANEs. They provide or facilitate forensic interviewing, assist in investigation and prosecution, provide family advocacy in order to access community resources, and provide trauma-focused therapy for the survivors and their non-offending caregivers.

These advocacy centers can provide further information for an exhaustive list of services and resources.

3. **Law enforcement officers and detectives** (e.g., 911 dispatchers, patrol officers, officers who process crime scene evidence, detectives, and investigators) respond to initial complaints, work to enhance survivors' safety, arrange for survivors' transportation to and from the exam site as needed, interview survivors, collect evidence from the scene, coordinate with the EBRPCO for chain of custody of kits, interview suspects, and conduct other investigative activities (such as interviewing witnesses, requesting crime lab analyses, reviewing medical and lab reports, preparing and executing search and arrest warrants, writing reports, and presenting the case to a prosecutor).
4. **EMS/Medical Transporters** respond and transport SOCO survivors to the appropriate healthcare facility per the policies of Emergency Medical Services and Acadian Ambulance Service. Emergency transport services follow their internal protocols.
5. **Hospitals and healthcare providers** assess patients for acute medical needs and provide stabilization, treatment, and/or consultation. They offer information, treatment, and referrals for sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and other non-acute medical concerns, assess pregnancy risk, and discuss treatment options with the patient, including reproductive health services. They will also provide medical follow-up with the survivor. When a survivor presents to a healthcare facility and a forensic medical examination is indicated, the EBRPCO office will be contacted. An EBRP Coroner's Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) will respond and provide a forensic medical examination for the survivor. A survivor of a SOCO has the right to an FME and medical treatment, regardless of whether the survivor chooses to report the assault to a law enforcement agency. For survivors who are under the age of 18, or who are physically or mentally incapable of making the decision to report, a report to law enforcement will be made by designated mandatory reporters.

**NOTE:** A forensic medical examination may be performed up to 120 hours post-SOCO in respect to DNA collection. The best practice is to contact the EBRPCO SANE to determine whether an FME is indicated.

| Hospital                                     | Address                                             | Phone Number | Preferred Facility for Survivors                          |
|----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|--------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| Woman's Hospital                             | 100 Woman's Way<br>Baton Rouge,<br>70817            | 225-927-1300 | Preferred facility for adult and older adolescent females |
| Our Lady of the Lake Children's Hospital     | 8300 Constantine Blvd.<br>Baton Rouge, LA<br>70809  | 225-765-6565 | Preferred facility for pediatrics                         |
| Baton Rouge General Hospital                 | 8585 Picardy Ave.<br>Baton Rouge,<br>70809          | 225-763-4000 | Preferred facility for adult males                        |
| Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center | 5000 Hennessy Blvd.<br>Baton Rouge,<br>70808        | 225-765-6565 | Facility available to all adult survivors                 |
| Ochsner Medical Center                       | 17000 Medical Center Drive<br>Baton Rouge,<br>70816 | 225-752-2470 | Facility available to all adult survivors                 |
| Lane Regional Medical Center                 | 6300 Main St.<br>Zachary, 70791                     | 225-658-4000 | Facility available to all adult survivors                 |
|                                              |                                                     |              |                                                           |

**NOTE:** Each parish within Region 2 is located within approximately -onehour drive time to a hospital located within East Baton Rouge Parish.

- 6. Sexual assault nurse examiners (SANE)** perform the medical forensic examination, gather information for the medical forensic history, collect and document forensic evidence, and document pertinent physical findings from patients. They coordinate with advocates to ensure patients are offered crisis intervention, support, and advocacy before, during, and after the examination process. SANEs also collaborate with physicians and other medical personnel to ensure that victims obtain proper testing and treatment for sexually transmitted diseases (STIs) as well as any injuries associated with the SOCO. They follow up with patients for medical and forensic purposes if necessary, coordinate with law enforcement on reported cases to transfer evidence collected during a forensic medical examination, and testify in court if needed. Any nurse performing sexual assault forensic examinations must undergo a 40-hour sexual assault forensic examination training along with clinical training requirements, which include precepting with an experienced forensic examiner.

Across the country, SANE programs are considered under national standards as the best practice for conducting sexual assault forensic examinations. SANEs are registered nurses who have a specialized education and clinical preparation in forensic examination of SOCO or abuse survivors.

A SANE receives training in the medical care and treatment of the survivor, along with specialized training in criminal procedures, the legal system, forensic evidence collection, providing medical testimony in court, and providing consultation to law enforcement.

To review the national standards put forth by the U.S. Department of Justice, please see <https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/ovw/241903.pdf>.

7. **Crime lab technicians** analyze forensic evidence and provide results of the analysis to investigators and/or prosecutors. They also may testify at trial regarding the results of their analysis.
8. **Prosecutors** determine whether there is sufficient evidence for prosecution and, if so, prosecute the case.
9. **Educational institutions**, including higher educational institutions and school boards for each parish located within Region 2, will respond to survivors and provide resources of SOCO, in accordance with all laws and internal protocols.

### III. **Region 2 SANE Program based out of the East Baton Rouge Parish Coroner's Office**

1. EBRPCO will participate with Region 2 community stakeholders to determine ways to continuously improve and streamline the response process through the Sexual Assault Response Team (SART). Stakeholders are encouraged to contact EBRPCO with any concerns, questions, or recommendations for the Region 2 plan. (See the attached list of attendees and the listserv for the Oct. 16, 2024 meeting.
2. Annual SART meetings include stakeholders for agencies throughout Region 2. Notifications of these meetings are sent via email per a listserv. Every attempt to include all stakeholders on the listserv is made.

### IV. **Treatment and Billing of Services Provided to a Survivor of a Sexually-Oriented Criminal Offense**

LA RS. 40:1216.1(A)(6) Part III-A. HEALTHCARE SERVICES FOR SURVIVORS OF SEXUALLY-ORIENTED CRIMINAL OFFENSES

1. All hospitals and healthcare facilities will follow internal policies in accordance with Louisiana law, clearly outlining the standards and procedures for handling and payment of medical bills related to the forensic medical exam of survivors of SOCO.

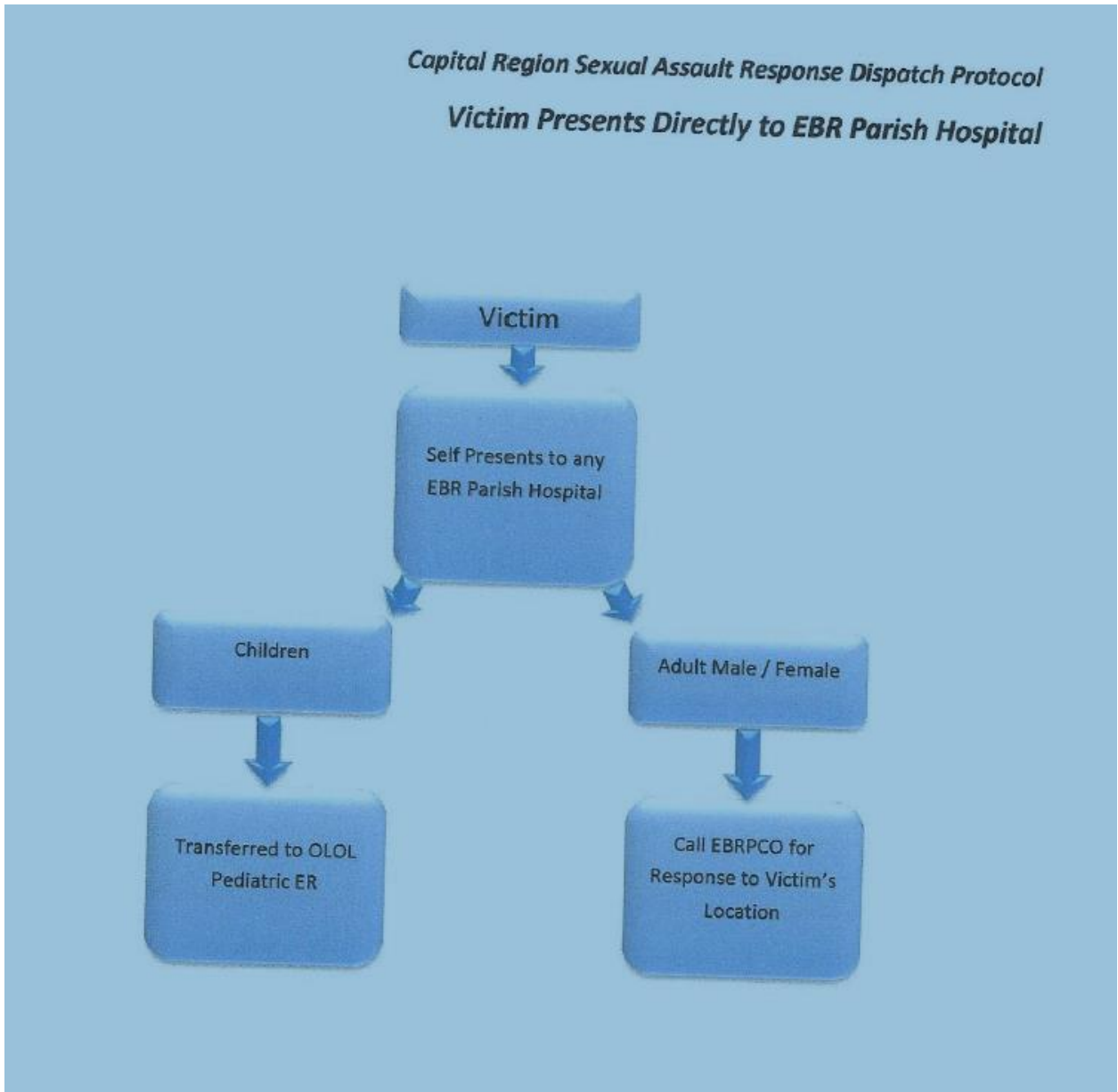
***Direct Call to EBR 911, EBR/BR LE, EBR EMS, EBR Coroner's Office.***

***Capital Region Sexual Assault Response Dispatch Protocol  
Direct Call to EBR 911, EBR/BR LE, EBR EMS, EBR Coroner's Ofc.***



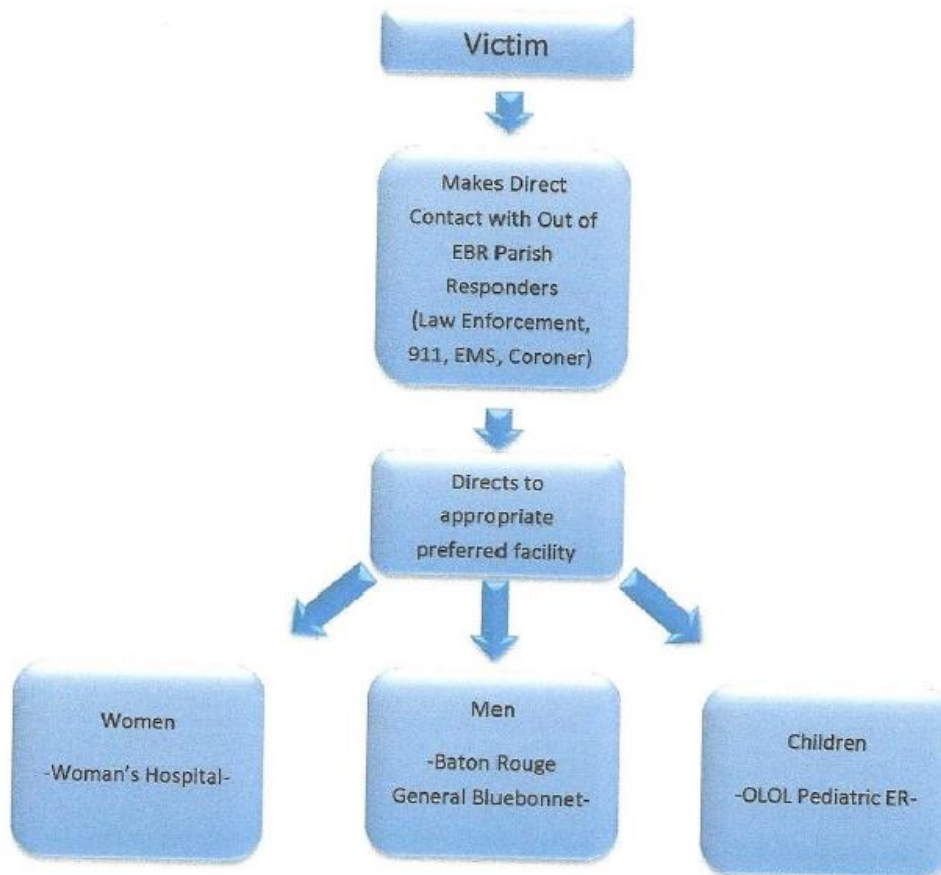
***Capital Region Sexual Assault Response Dispatch Protocol***

***Survivor Presents Directly to EBR Parish Hospital***



***Capital Region Sexual Assault Response Dispatch Protocol***  
***Survivor Reports to outside of EBR Parish Responding Agency***

***Capital Region Sexual Assault Response Dispatch Protocol***  
***Victim Reports to outside of EBR Parish Responding Agency***



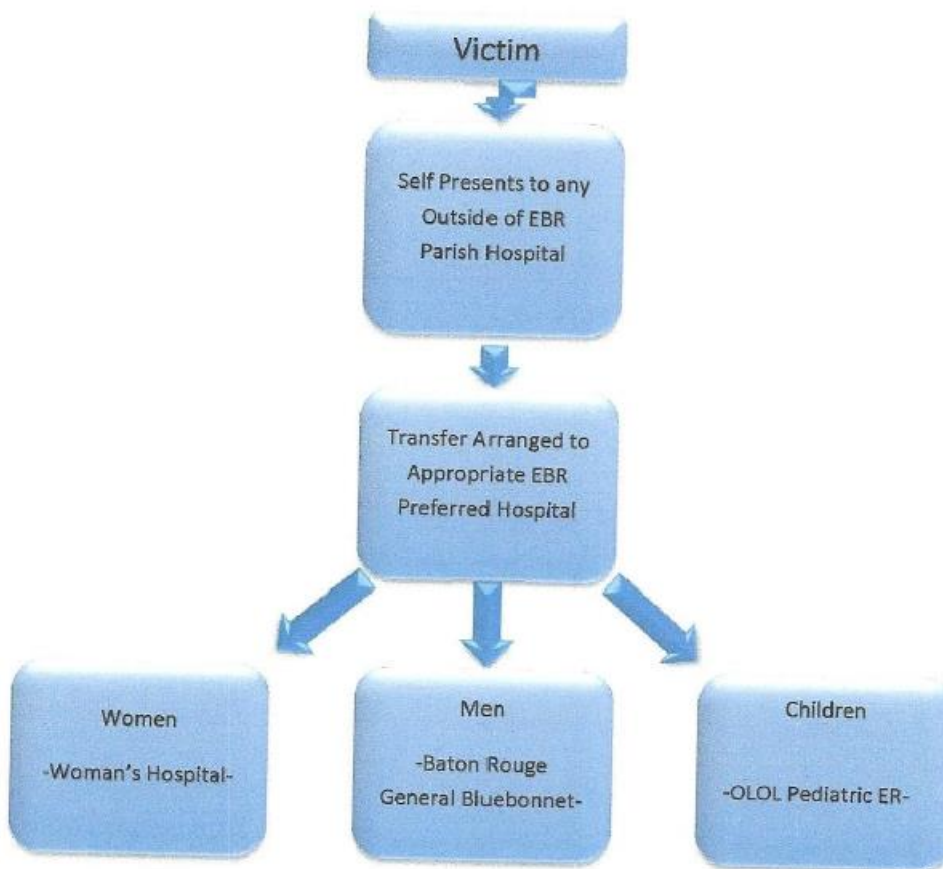


***Capital Region Sexual Assault Response Dispatch Protocol***

***Survivor Presents to Out of EBR Parish Hospital***

***Capital Region Sexual Assault Response Dispatch Protocol***

***Victim Presents to Out of EBR Parish Hospital***

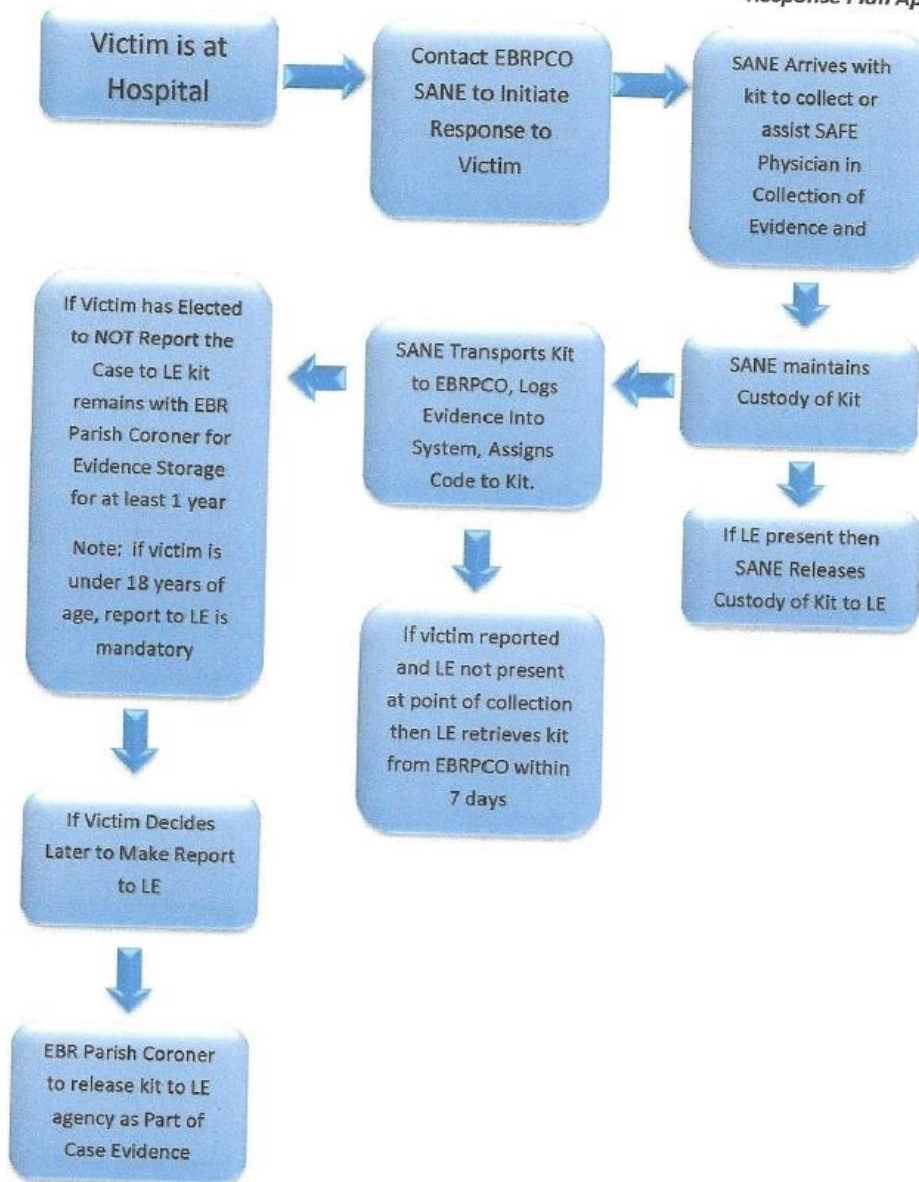


***Capital Region Sexual Assault Response Dispatch Protocol***

***Response Plan Appendix A***

## Capital Region Sexual Assault Response Dispatch Protocol

### Response Plan Appendix A



## **Appendices**

Appendix A: Meeting Notification

Appendix B: List of Invited Stakeholders with Contact  
Information

Appendix C: List of Stakeholders in Attendance

Appendix D: Coroner's Signature

## Appendix A

**Stephanie Henson**

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**From:** Mendy Escudier <MESCU~~D~~IER@ebcoroner.com >  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 15, 2024 11:22 **AM**  
**To:** Amanda Spencer; Ashley Seaverson; Bridget Depew (DPS); Carie Whittington; Carl Dunn; Darryl Lawrence; Det. Kibby; Don Dartez; Erica Sparacino; jazzika\_matthews@subr.edu; Joshua Weaver; Julie Root; Kristie Cowart; Lena Hooper; Kevin Garig; Mary Beth Magee; Mendy Escudier; Morgan Lamandre; Ongelle Bergeron; Ongelle; Ornisha Brown; Pointe Coupee; Randy Brown; Roger Corcoran; Ryan O'leary; ryan\_tucker@subr.edu; Sonya Cardia Porter; Sonya Willis; Stephanie Henson; Stevie Hess; Susan Green; Tanya Haase; Treva Parolli-Barnes; varneskm73@gmail.com; William "Beau" Clark, MD  
**Subject:** SART Meeting tomorro w!

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**EXTERNAL EMAIL:** Please do not click on links or attachments unless you know the content is safe.

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Good morning SART members,

Just a reminder that our Region 2 SART meeting will betomorrow, **Wednesday, October 16, 2024, at 1 pm** at Woman's Hospital in Baton Rouge. We will meet in conference room 2.

I look forward to seeing everyone there.

Mendy

**Mendy M. Escudier. BSN. RN. SANE-A. SANE-P**

SANE Coordinator  
East Baton Rouge Parish Coroner's Office  
4030 T.B. Herndon Avenue  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70807  
225-389-3047 (office)  
225-413-9303 (cell)



[EBR Coroner's Official Website](#)

[East Baton Rouge Parish Coroner Facebook Page](#)

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Appendix B

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varncskm73 gmail,com  
wdarkrndft ebrcoroner ,com

# Appendix C

## Region 2 SART Meeting

October 16, 2024

| Agency               | Email                     |
|----------------------|---------------------------|
| Eric 2 Sparacino     | Erica.Sparacino@la.gov    |
| Carie Whittington    | Carie.Whittington@la.gov  |
| Ryan O'Leary         | Ryan.O'Leary@la.gov       |
| Kathleen Varns       | Varns km73@gmail.com      |
| Kevin Garig          | kgarig@epso.org           |
| Susan Green          | sgreen@ochsner.org        |
| Amanda Spencer       | amanda.Spencer@womans.org |
| Mary Beth Magee      | Mary.Magee@womans.org     |
| Stephanie Henson     | Stephanie.henson@la.gov   |
| Juliette Saussy      | juliette.saussey@la.gov   |
| Ashley Seavers       | Ashley.Seavers@star.ngo   |
| Andrea Budreau       | andrea.ferrari@mdhs.org   |
| Don Darte            | ddarte@ebrco.org          |
| Brittany Theriot     | BrittanyTheriot@ebrco.com |
| Joscelyn Jones       | joscelyn.jones@twohs.org  |
| Kristen B. Raby      | Kristen.raby@star.ngo     |
| Morgan Lamondre      | Morgan.lamondre@star.ngo  |
| Kreslyn Kelley-Ellis | Kreslynkellis@lsu.edu     |
| Det. Lori Morgan     | lmorgan@ipso.la.gov       |
| Det. Leslie Bradford | lbradford@ipso.la.gov     |
| BRDA (SKI)           |                           |



## Appendix D

Per Act No. 354 (2024 Regular Session):

The coroner shall implement, fulfill and comply with all obligations, duties and requirements imposed upon him by R.S. 40:1216.1 and by the regional sexual assault response plan approved for the coroner's health service district pursuant thereto, which *the coroner shall annually sign to indicate his approval* pursuant to R.S.40:1216.1(E)(4)

West Baton Rouge Parish Coroner  
Philip Padgett, MD

Signature

Date

**EMAILED**

MAY 27 2025

Initial: *SP*