



**For The
Child...**
*and parents
too*

Jenny Magana, AMFT113781
CART Supervisor



About us

For over 48 years For The Child has provided child abuse prevention, education, and counseling for child victims of abuse, neglect and violence-and the families who care for them.



HOPE. HEALTH. HEALING.

**For The Child Locations:
Sarah Center and Cedar House**

MISSION

To build healthy lives for children and families, free of abuse, neglect and violence.

VISION

For The Child will help--one child at a time, one family at a time, one program at a time - build a community that provides a circle of safety and possibility for children.



VALUES

- ▶ Professional care provides hope and healing.
- ▶ Innovative strategies are needed to prevent and treat abuse and neglect.
- ▶ Family poverty or other circumstance should not be a barrier to a child getting the help they need.
- ▶ All people should be treated with courtesy, respect and dignity.



**Bobbi Kendig, Clara Lowry and
Marilyn Johnson**

In 1974 two community social workers and a caring housemother from Trail Back Lodge (the roots of what is now ChildNet) created **Cedar House** to help physically abused and neglected children and their parents.

10 years later they founded **Sarah Center** for children who had been sexually abused.

In 1996 Cedar House and Sarah Center merged to form **For The Child**.



For The Child is a Nonprofit Community Based Agency

- ▶ We have a Volunteer Board of Directors
- ▶ We currently have 35 staff (32 full-time and 3 part-time).
- ▶ 50 volunteers (CART 20, Family Support 30)



How Are We Funded?

- ❑ Child Abuse Treatment Grant (Cal-OES) for uninsured and underserved
- ❑ LA County Department of Mental Health contract (MediCal)
- ❑ Victim Compensation Program
- ▶ Private Foundation and Corporate Grants
- ▶ Individual, Group and Business Donations
- ▶ In-Kind Gifts of time and items



What we do

Expert counseling for child victims of abuse, neglect, trauma from living with domestic violence, community violence, child abduction, and serious mental health problems. Counseling for parents of victims. **Mental Health Assessment Services** for children in the foster care system.

Services Include:

- Child Parent Psychotherapy (CPP)
- Parent Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT)
- Trauma Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT)
- Successful Teen Abuse Recovery for Sexually Abused Girls (STARS)
- Information & Support with Victim Witness Program Services
- Parent Education - 12 week parenting classes for court or DCFS ordered parents.
- Parent Support Circles - Peer lead support circles that promote child abuse protective factors for parents with children ages 5 years and younger.



We have over 300 children and parents who receive professional treatment services and parenting education... a week.

There's MORE!

Child Abuse Response Team (CART)

Volunteer team of child advocates who respond 24/7 when law enforcement believe a child/adolescent has been recently sexually assaulted and they are taking them to a hospital for a forensic medical exam.



What is CART?

Advocacy, Emotional Support & Crisis Intervention

- ▶ The Child Abuse Response Team (CART) provides emotional support and crisis intervention to children when forensic medical exams and law enforcement interviews are necessary
- ▶ The team utilizes carefully selected community volunteers who receive 40 hours of specialized training to serve as the child's advocate
- ▶ Volunteers are supervised by a licensed mental health professional
- ▶ CART is part of the larger Sexual Assault Response Team, a Greater Long Beach Area multi-disciplinary collaboration of medical and criminal justice professionals that responds to child and young adolescent sexual assault calls that occur within 72 hours of the crime

Our Team

- ▶ 24-Hour Child Abuse Response Team
- ▶ FTC is an integral part of an L.A. County Certified Sexual Assault Response Team
- ▶ FTC provides on-call emergency response to three area hospitals in Long Beach, Torrance, and San Pedro whenever child sexual abuse is suspected in a child, teen, or young adult (infant to 21 years old)
- ▶ FTC trains and clinically supervises advocates to give support during forensic medical exams and police interviews and link victims to court information, and follow-up care within 48 hours (at For The Child or in other communities as needed)
- ▶ FTC responded to 85 emergency calls during FY 21/22, following strict COVID-19 prevention protocols

Before the Child Abuse Response Team was established...

- ▶ Police surgeons who did physical exams on jail inmates also did adult rape and child sexual assault evidence collection exams.
- ▶ Few doctors were trained to gather evidence with child sexual assault victims
- ▶ Children were forced to wait in hospital ER rooms with general population
- ▶ There was little partnership between agencies (hospitals, police, District Attorney, etc.)

Implications

- ▶ Children had to wait hours to see a doctor
- ▶ Evidence was lost due to lack of training and proper equipment needed
- ▶ Child victims had to tell what happened and re-live event numerous times
- ▶ There was no connection to victim services

Beginning of CART

- ▶ It all started in 1990. Voices raised from several women's and community groups led Long Beach Police Department to host multi-agency meetings to improve victim response.
- ▶ As part of that group, an FTC psychologist carried a pager for two years and responded to child sexual abuse calls at Pacific Hospital, giving feedback to the police committee on problems for child victims in the police surgeon response.
- ▶ In 1994, a local nurse Malinda Wheeler began partnership with law enforcement, community organizations, and District Attorney.
- ▶ Forensic Nurse Specialists was established with nurses who are specially trained in children's anatomy and sexual assault
- ▶ All agencies work together to share information and spare the child excessive interviews and more trauma



Advocates Role



"Being a CART member pays me in heart points."

-Valerie Dahlk, an eight-year CART member

What happens when Advocates get a call?

- ▶ *A call comes in to the Police Department. A child has been sexually assaulted. The dispatcher sends their officers and then calls the first link in a chain of assistance for this child victim. If the assault is recent (within 72 hours) a multi-disciplinary team leaps into action. For The Child's trained volunteers answer the call - **day or night, 7 days a week**. Carrying with them the tools of this trade - information, counseling skills and a bag full of toys and snacks to comfort, entertain and support - they head for the child and the hospital.*
- ▶ Advocates role is to PLAY and COMFORT the victim and their families.
- ▶ Advocates do not ask the children/young adolescents questions.
- ▶ Advocates accompany victims during their exam, if they choose to have someone in the room.
- ▶ When the forensic exam is over, our advocates give the parents/guardians a *For The Child* flyer and inform them that they will be contacted in the next 48 hours and are offered free services.

For The Child's/CART Partnership with Forensic Nurse Specialists Inc. (SART)



Forensic Nurse Specialists, Inc.

A professional corporation composed of a group of registered Nurses and Nurse Practitioners who are on call 24 hours per day to perform expert medical forensic examinations for victims of sexual assault.



Forensic Nurse Specialists, Inc.

- ▶ We currently provide service to over 60 law enforcement agencies in Los Angeles and Orange counties
- ▶ We provide exams authorized by Law Enforcement and mandated by state law- no charge to the survivor unless they go to the ER
- ▶ Victims can have exams after a call to the police OR when they want an exam without making a police report.

Objectives of Forensic Nurse Specialists

- ▶ Work as a TEAM with Advocates, DA's office, crime lab, law enforcement
- ▶ Reduce Officer downtime by eliminating many wasted hours waiting in an ER
- ▶ To provide a more efficient, trauma free and compassionate experience for the Victim / Survivor

SART Definition

A Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) is a coordinated interdisciplinary *intervention* model between law enforcement, crime lab, prosecution, medical and advocacy experts to meet the forensic needs of the criminal justice system and the medical and emotional needs of the sexual assault victim.

Members of SART

- ▶ Law Enforcement
- ▶ Advocate
- ▶ Forensic Nurse Examiner
- ▶ District Attorney



SART Coordinated Response to Sexual Assault



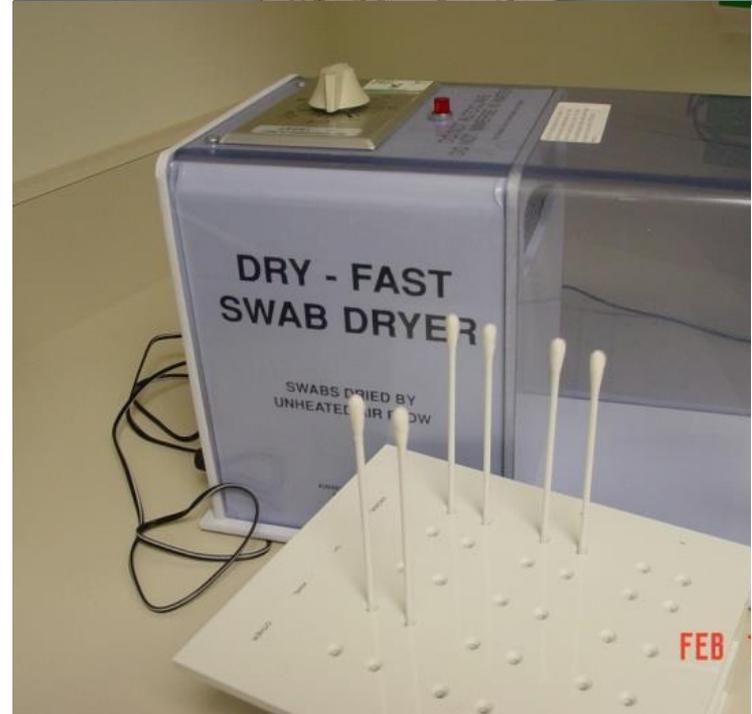
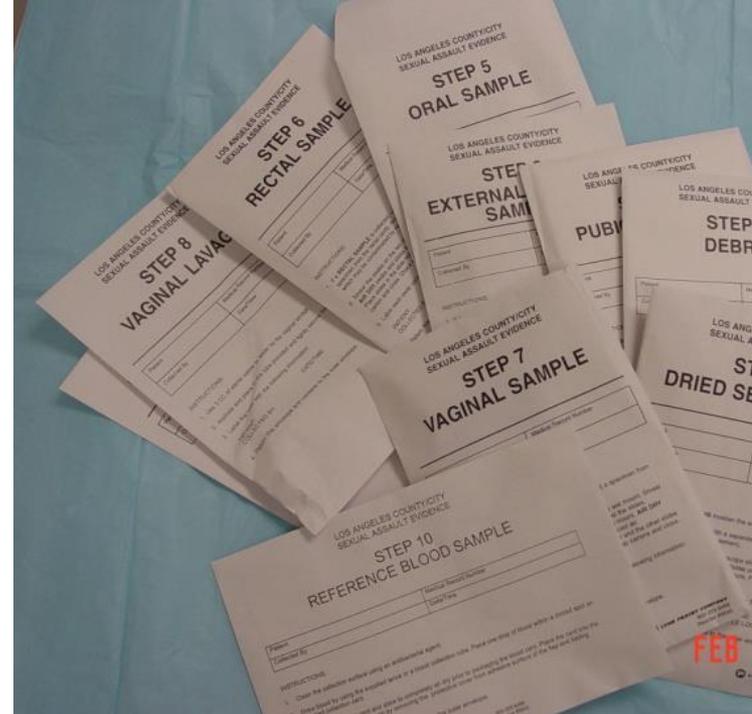
**This Model of Care works....
Having dedicated examiners and a
team approach.**

Mission of Forensic Nurse Specialists

To provide quality, state of the art forensic medical examinations to victims of sexual assault in an objective yet compassionate and sensitive manner; and present accurate professional expert witness testimony in court

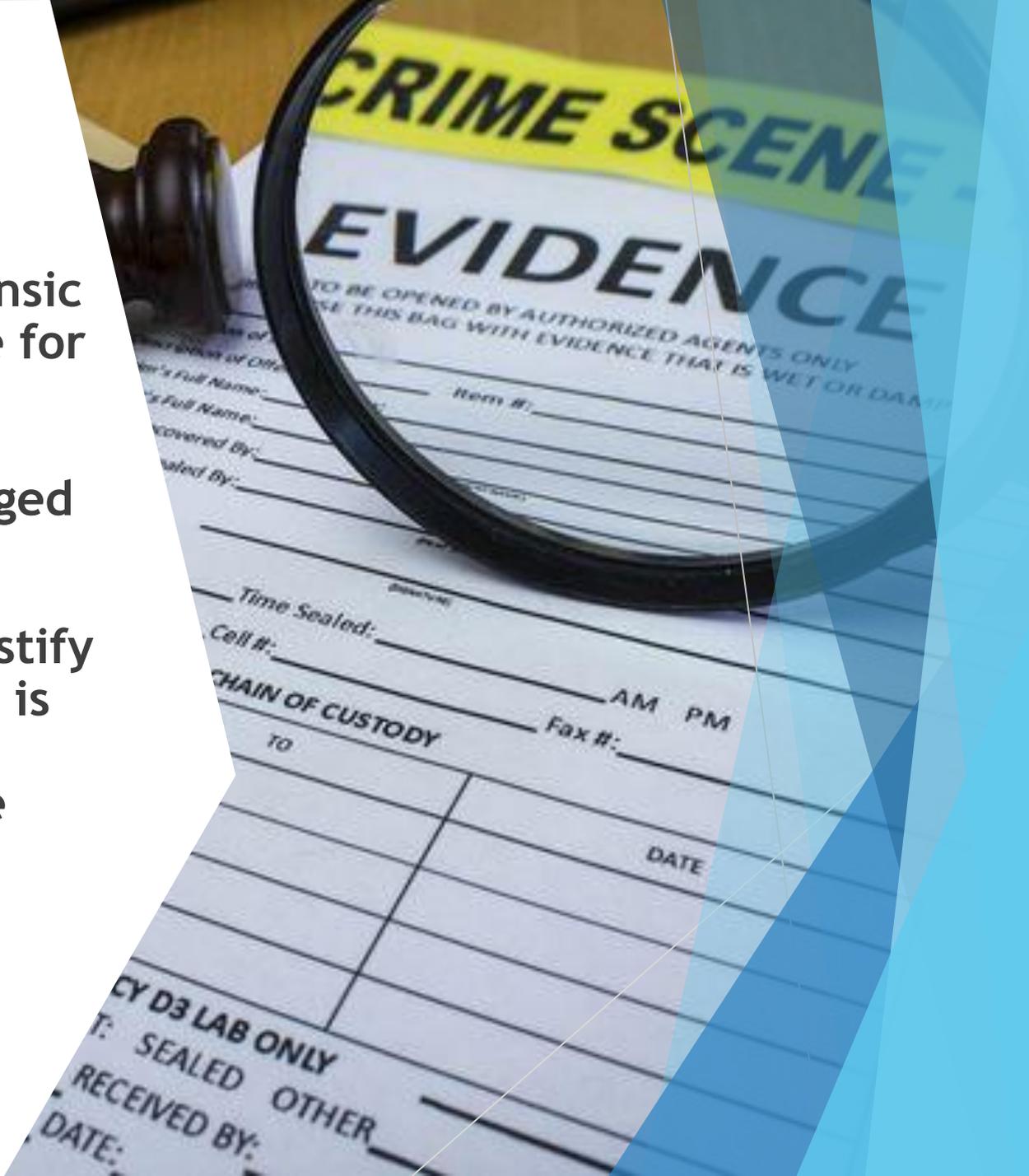
State Protocol for Sexual Assault Forensic Evidence Collection

- ▶ Where we collect depends on history given, unless “No history”
- ▶ Step by step protocol
- ▶ Every swab, or piece of evidence, must be specifically labeled
- ▶ Survivor will have option of consenting to each step - Nurse will inform patient during the process/ exam
- ▶ Nurse will explain each step, or omit based on history. *Please refer any questions about exam or medications to the Nurse.



Forensic Evidence

- ▶ Ultimately the Forensic Nurse is responsible for the integrity of ALL evidence collected, brought in or packaged
- ▶ The Nurse has to testify under oath that she is the objective fact finder and evidence collector



Other services by FNS

- ▶ Suspect Exams
 - ▶ *(Do you need a search warrant?)*
- ▶ Mobile Trauma Exams- we will respond to other hospitals to conduct a mobile exam on a trauma victim

Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners are certified to:

- ▶ Perform physical and psychological assessment of sexual assault victims
- ▶ Collect and document physical and laboratory evidence
- ▶ Provide health information and referral
- ▶ Present expert witness testimony in court

Next Training

June 28 - August 3, 2022

- ▶ 40-hour virtual training program via zoom
- ▶ Mandatory Classes: Tuesdays 6:00-8:30pm and Saturdays from 9:00am-2pm
- ▶ Bilingual - English and Spanish - volunteers appreciated
- ▶ Day and Evening opportunities **(upon completion of training)*
- ▶ By the end of the training, you will:
 - ▶ *Be well versed in all aspects of child abuse*
 - ▶ *Know and Share the resources For The Child provides victims*
 - ▶ *Be competent in the SART partnership and how it works*

"Honestly, this is the most rewarding thing I've done in my life."

- Lisa Callamaro, a 12-year member of the CART

How to apply...

- ▶ **Contact:**

Isabel Pasillas, CART Coordinator

ipasillas@forthechild.org

(562) 422-8472

- ▶ **Apply online:**

Volunteer Application

<https://forthechild.org/volunteer-form/>



Questions?