MNCASA
Minnesota Coalition Against Sexual Assault

Victim/Survivor-Centered Evaluation Plan for Sexual Assault Response Teams

By
Heather Blanton & Madeline Gonser

Adapted from Esperanza United, Evidence Based Toolkit to include examples and information that are specific to Sexual Assault Response Teams.

This evaluation plan is intended to help your SART develop an approach that incorporates the unique needs, perspectives, and values of the individuals and communities you serve.

First, fill out this worksheet.

Core Principles Reflection Expercise

1. What are the unique characteristics, values, or experiences of the individuals and communities you serve? (i.e. social structures, beliefs, traditions, etc.)
2. What factors influence the life experiences of the participants (i.e. age, geography, values, etc.)
3. What individuals or groups in your community could provide insight into the needs and preferences of those you serve? (i.e. individuals, advocates, service providers, or organizations with a deep understanding of local experiences)

Second, fill out this ranking document.

Ranking Core Components for Consistent and Responsive Service

- In this exercise, rank the strategies your SART team prioritizes in its victim/survivor-centered work.
- Please read the list below and assign each component a number from 1-7, with 1 being the most important component for your SART team and 7 being the least.
- The top 3 ranked components should reflect the core aspects (most important aspects) of the work that your team does.
- Use the top 3 ranked components to guide the development of your evaluation plan.

Rank	Component Description
	SART team recognizes that victims/survivors have a wide range of experiences and backgrounds that shape their service needs, including personal history, beliefs, family structure and life context.
	The SART team acknowledges that individuals may be part of multiple, intersecting communities or groups, and considers these experiences in service provision.
	The SART team integrates personal and community perspectives into their work to improve relevance, safety, and support.
	The SART team includes community-informed voices in their planning, emphasizing meaningful engagement and accountability.
	The SART team prioritizes accessible and consistent practices, shaped by feedback from those with lived experience.
	The SART team supports trusted and collaborative partnerships that reflect shared values with the communities they serve.
	The SART team is dedicated to removing challenges that hinder access to care, particularly concerns about mistrust in institutions.

Note: The above chart is generalized to keep it applicable to a wide range of communities, allowing SART teams to tailor their approach to the specific community they are workin with.

Building Your Evaluation Plan

Develop a practical, survivor-centered strategy for evaluating your SART's effectiveness.

Key Component: Define Your Core Services

List the top 3 core components your SART team will use to develop your evaluation plan. These should reflect priorities and highlight what you want to improve or understand better in your service delivery.

Evaluation Questions

For each component, ask:
- How is our team addressing this issue?
- What are we doing to support survivors or improve systems in this area?

Note: These questions should guide what you want to learn or measure.

Indicators of Change

For each evaluation question, identify how you'll know progress is being made.

Examples of indicators:
- A written procedure is in place
- Staff regularly document or track relevant actions
- Survivors report changes in experience or access

Data Source

Identify where your information will come from:
- Survivor surveys, focus groups, or interviews
- Provider or service logs
- Meeting minutes or case notes

Note: If you're not currently collecting this data, indicate with language such as, "Not currently collecting or documenting."

Documenting and Improving Your Evaluation Plan

If your team isn't collecting the necessary data, plan how to begin in a realistic and sustainable way.

Tips:
- Integrate small steps into existing workflows
- Use tools like meeting check-ins, short surveys, or logs
- Make time for reflection and process improvement

Timeline
Set a regular schedule for collecting and reviewing information.

This might include:
- Annual reviews
- Quarterly updates
- Monthly team check-ins

Note: Choose a timeline that is realistic and sustainable for your team.

Example 1:
Participant Feedback

Key Component: Feedback is used in team decision-making.
Evaluation Question: How is participant feedback incorporated into our SART protocols?
Indicator of Change: There is a written procedure for collecting, reviewing, and using feedback.
Data Source: Surveys and interviews with victims/survivors.
Improvement Plan: Develop a structured feedback loop to ensure survivor input shapes the response.
Timeline: Review feedback and update protocols annually.

Example 2:
Reducing Access Barriers

Key Component: Team addresses access barriers for individuals with limited support.
Evaluation Question: What strategies are used to support participants with limited access to resources?
Indicator of Change: The team tracks and responds to common access barriers (transportation, scheduling).
Data Source: Service logs or provider notes.
Improvement Plan: Document and evaluate how barriers are addressed and supports provided.
Timeline: Conduct a quarterly review of case patterns and updates.

For more information or guidance, please contact us at svji@mncasa.org or visit www.mncasa.org for more on our victim/survivor-centered work.