Memorandum

DATE: January 11, 2013

TO: Members of the Public Safety Committee

SUBJECT: Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANE) Program

Attached is briefing material on the “Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANE) Program” to be presented to the Members of the Public Safety Committee on Monday, January 14, 2013.

A.C. Gonzalez  
First Assistant City Manager

Attachment

CC: Honorable Mayor and Members of the Dallas City Council  
Mary K. Suhm, City Manager  
Rosa Rios, City Secretary  
Thomas P. Perkins, Jr., City Attorney  
Craig D. Kinton, City Auditor  
Judge Daniel Solis, Administrative Judge  
Ryan S. Evans, Assistant City Manager  
Jill A. Jordan, P.E., Assistant City Manager  
Forest E. Turner, Assistant City Manager  
Joey Zapata, Assistant City Manager  
Jeanne Chipperfield, Chief Financial Officer  
Frank Librio, Public Information Office  
Stephanie Cooper, Assistant to the City Manager Mayor/City Council
Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANE) Program

Public Safety Committee

January 14, 2013
OUTLINE

• Benefits associated with SANE programs
• Overview of SANE Program at Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital - Dallas
• Expansion of SANE to southern Dallas County
Goals

• SANE programs are to:
  – Provide consistent positive results for all stakeholders
  – Reduce re-victimization of Sexual Assault Victims
  – Improve communications between victims, law enforcement, and district attorneys
  – Increase community safety as a result of more sex offender identifications/prosecutions
Need/Response

• Combating sexual assaults creates the need to provide immediate:
  – Medical treatment for Sexual Assault Victims
  – Collection of physical evidence
  – Victim advocacy to begin emotional healing
History – Dallas County

• In the 1970’s, Parkland Hospital volunteered to become Dallas County’s primary facility to perform sexual assault examinations

• Centralization of examinations created benefits for law enforcement, but often left victims feeling that improvements could be made
History – Info of SANE Programs

• SANE programs were designed to address various concerns, such as the need for:
  – More privacy
    • Physical layout of examination rooms changed
  – More sympathetic approach
    • Additional training for practitioners
  – Less gender bias
    • No distinction between gender is used when conducting exams
History

• **2008** – Advocates begin identifying key partners for creation of a SANE program in Dallas County

• **2009** - Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital - Dallas agrees to establish SANE program

• **2010** – SANE pilot program opens doors to serve sexual assault incidents reported within Northeast Patrol Division
History

• **Late 2010** – Charitable Foundations Texas provides funding for SANE program and DARCC (Dallas Area Rape Crisis Center)

• **April 2011** – Program expanded to include North Central Patrol Division

• **December 2011** – Choice between treatment at SANE program or pre-existing Parkland Hospital Program made available for all sexual assault victims reporting in the City of Dallas.
SANE BENEFITS FOR:
SEXUAL ASSAULT VICTIMS

• Consistent emergency medical treatment from professionals who understand victimization issues
• Immediate advocacy response as per the Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) Agreement
• Focus on transition from Victim to Survivor
• Police Report is not required to receive medical treatment and Sexual Assault Examination
• Exam is performed at no cost to the victim/survivor
BENEFITS FOR:
LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY

• Trained SANE Nurses conduct Forensic Exams and collect evidence
• SANE Nurses are trained to provide effective courtroom testimony
• Encourages victims to report and remain engaged during criminal investigation and prosecution
BENEFITS FOR: COMMUNITY

• “Victims-centered” approach encourages reporting of offenses
• Increased reporting improves law enforcement opportunities to identify and prosecute sex offenders
ALL SANE PROGRAMS IN TEXAS REQUIRE COLLABORATION FROM:

- Medical Facility & Nursing Staff
- Victim Advocacy Organizations
- Local Law Enforcement Agencies
- District Attorney’s Office
- Texas Attorney General’s Office
SANE EXAMINATION ROOM
EVIDENCE COLLECTED BY SANE NURSES

• Provide Identification of Suspect:
  – Fingerprints
  – DNA

• Additional Supporting Evidence for Sexual Assault Prosecution
  – Documentation of injuries
  – Toxicology screening to detect if drugs were involved
# EXAMINATIONS PERFORMED BY SANE

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ENDORSEMENTS OF SANE PROGRAM

Hospital builds a better haven

Public safety | ADVOCACY

The Dallas Morning News

Nurses lead police to suspect in rapes

Center a thoughtful, coordinated option

The Dallas Morning News
MEDIA CALLS FOR MORE SANE PROGRAMS IN DALLAS – FORT WORTH METROPLEX
COUNTY’S POPULATION INCREASE CREATES NEED FOR ADDITIONAL SANE PROGRAM

Southern sector residents of Dallas call for expansion of the program to Methodist Central Hospital Dallas.
Proposal

Methodist Central Hospital Dallas to staff and house next SANE program
target completion date: December 2013

Most of the current partners in the existing SANE program will be active participants with new site
Summary

SANE programs were created to address previous failings in medical evidence collection programs across the United States.

Dallas County recognized SANE programs as an improvement to existing programs that allows victims a choice in treatment.

SANE programs are expanding in response to community recognition.
QUESTIONS?