

# *News Media Release*

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**For Immediate Release**

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**Date:** Jun 4, 2024  
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## PARTNERSHIP CREATES RESPONSE TEAM FOR VICTIMS OF SEXUAL ASSULT IN PRATT COUNTY

Pratt, KS - Sexual assault victims will soon have more resources for care locally. A partnership between the Pratt Police Department and Pratt Regional Medical Center, has brought specialized training which has led to the creation of the SANE-SART program, which stands for Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner-Sexual Assault Response Team. The response team is comprised of nurses, law enforcement, sexual assault victim advocates, prosecutors, and others who have been trained to work together in caring for the physical and emotional needs of victims of sexual assault. This team also handles evidence collection, investigates the crime, and prosecutes the offenders.

This program requires extensive training with a collaborating team of examiners, advocates, and law enforcement. Jackie Forssberg, APRN, and Lyndel Theis, RN, will provide SANE exams at PRMC Women's Health and Wellness. Anyone over the age of eighteen may elect to have an exam and treatment without reporting to law enforcement if they choose.

Conversations regarding the creation of this program started approximately three years ago with leaders from PRMC, the Pratt Police Department, and the Pratt County Attorney's Office. During that time, the Pratt Police Department secured grant funding which was used for the purchase of specialized equipment necessary to conduct sexual assault exams, training was completed, and the program is now ready when it is needed.

According to RAINN (Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network), 68 percent of sexual assaults are not reported to law enforcement. Our hope with providing this service is that victims in our area know they are not alone, that they feel safe reporting, and that there are many resources and supporting agencies available which will provide them with compassionate and knowledgeable care in their time of need.

If you or someone you know may be a victim of sexual assault, we are here for you.

You may schedule an exam by calling 620-672-6454 during business hours or by contacting your local law enforcement agency.

**CASE NO:**