



Oregon Attorney General's Sexual Assault Task Force

**Testimony in support of HB2375-1
House Committee on Healthcare
Submitted by: Nicole Broder, SANE Coordinator
April 4, 2019**

Chair Salinas, Vice Chairs Hayden and Nosse, and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Oregon Attorney General's Sexual Assault Task Force (SATF), **I am pleased to provide testimony in support of HB2375-1.**

The Sexual Assault Task Force is a private, non-profit, non-governmental statewide agency with over 100 multi-disciplinary members appointed by Attorney General Rosenblum. Members serve as advisors on 1 of 8 subcommittees including: Advocacy Response, Campus, Criminal Justice, Legislative & Public Policy, Medical-Forensic, Men's Engagement, Offender Management, and Prevention and Education.

Our mission is to advance a multi-disciplinary, survivor-centered approach to the prevention of and response to sexual violence in Oregon. Our goal is to prevent sexual violence from happening in the first place, while simultaneously improving our response efforts to mitigate trauma and ensure the safety and security of all victims.

As the SANE Coordinator for Oregon, I oversee and implement the *Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) Program*, which provides technical assistance and support to Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners/Sexual Assault Examiners, clinics, and hospitals across the state of Oregon. The SANE Program also provides administrative support to the Oregon SANE/SAE Certification Commission, which upholds training and practice standards for SANEs across the state.

SANEs are nurses who have been trained in the specialized care available to a patient following a sexual assault. They know how to use a trauma-informed approach in order to provide sensitive and empowering care; how to discuss a patient's options around medical treatment, forensic evidence collection, and risk factors for STD transmission and pregnancy; and how to carry out any of these interventions that the patient chooses. They stay up to date on current best practices around medical care, as well as the latest recommendations from our state forensic laboratory.

SATF hosts a 40-hour adult/adolescent sexual assault patient training for registered nurses, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, and doctors. We provide advanced training, including mock exams, courtroom training, forensic photography, population-specific training (e.g.

human trafficking, Latinx patients in rural settings, etc.), and a variety of online webinar training events.

An important tenet of SANE practice is empowerment: our patients should be empowered to make informed decisions about what kind of care they receive after an assault, and they should be empowered to seek and obtain that care with as few barriers as possible. We want that to be the standard across the state, and yet we know that access across the state has not historically been equal. In particular, information and resources are often more easily accessible in urban areas.

To that end, since 2015, SATF has invested significant time and resources, thanks to grants funded by the Oregon Department of Justice and US Department of Justice, focusing our efforts on rural and frontier communities. In addition to training, we administered a scholarship program for 15 Oregon SANEs to receive out-of-state clinical skills training in Ohio, Minnesota, and Texas, providing them the opportunity to develop skills and competency in their medical-forensic practice, and support their path to certification. As a result of this investment, we have experienced an 819% increase in technical assistance requests from healthcare providers, clinics, and hospitals and a 62% increase in the number of SANEs who have sought and been granted state certification. In Curry County, where there is now a budding SANE program, the local program has experienced a 500% increase in sexual assault survivors reaching out to their program. ***See the attached supplemental materials.***

While we have made many strides over the last few years, our work is not complete. Over the next three years, in collaboration with DOJ, we are piloting two rural technical assistance projects to increase SANE technical assistance capacity in two regions of the state, including the North Coast & Eastern Oregon. We will continue to administer training scholarships for SANEs seeking out-of-state clinical skills training.

As part of our commitment to build SANE capacity and support SANE practice, SATF intends to devote staff time to support coordinated community response efforts, particularly in rural regions. One of the many ways that we can advance the efforts of Sexual Assault Response Teams, and keep SANEs engaged and supported in their practice, is for local SARTs to have a place at the table for SANEs and/or healthcare staff.

We believe that amending ORS 147.401¹ related to Sexual Assault Response Teams, will strengthen local efforts to improve sexual assault patient access to medical-forensic care.

¹ SB557, which established county Sexual Assault Response Teams (SART), passed in 2011. <https://www.oregonlaws.org/ors/147.401>

The -1 amendment adds a sexual assault nurse examiner **or a representative of a hospital** to the sexual assault response team in each county.

In addition to the -1 amendment, SATF and Oregon Hospital Association have committed to developing a model transfer protocol for hospitals to adapt and adopt, to ensure that any sexual assault patient who seeks medical-forensic care, is able to seek treatment without the added burden of transportation and eliminate uncertainty for survivors when seeking care.

Immediate access to comprehensive medical-forensic care following a sexual assault, mitigates long-term trauma and negative health consequences and supports survivors on their path toward healing and health.

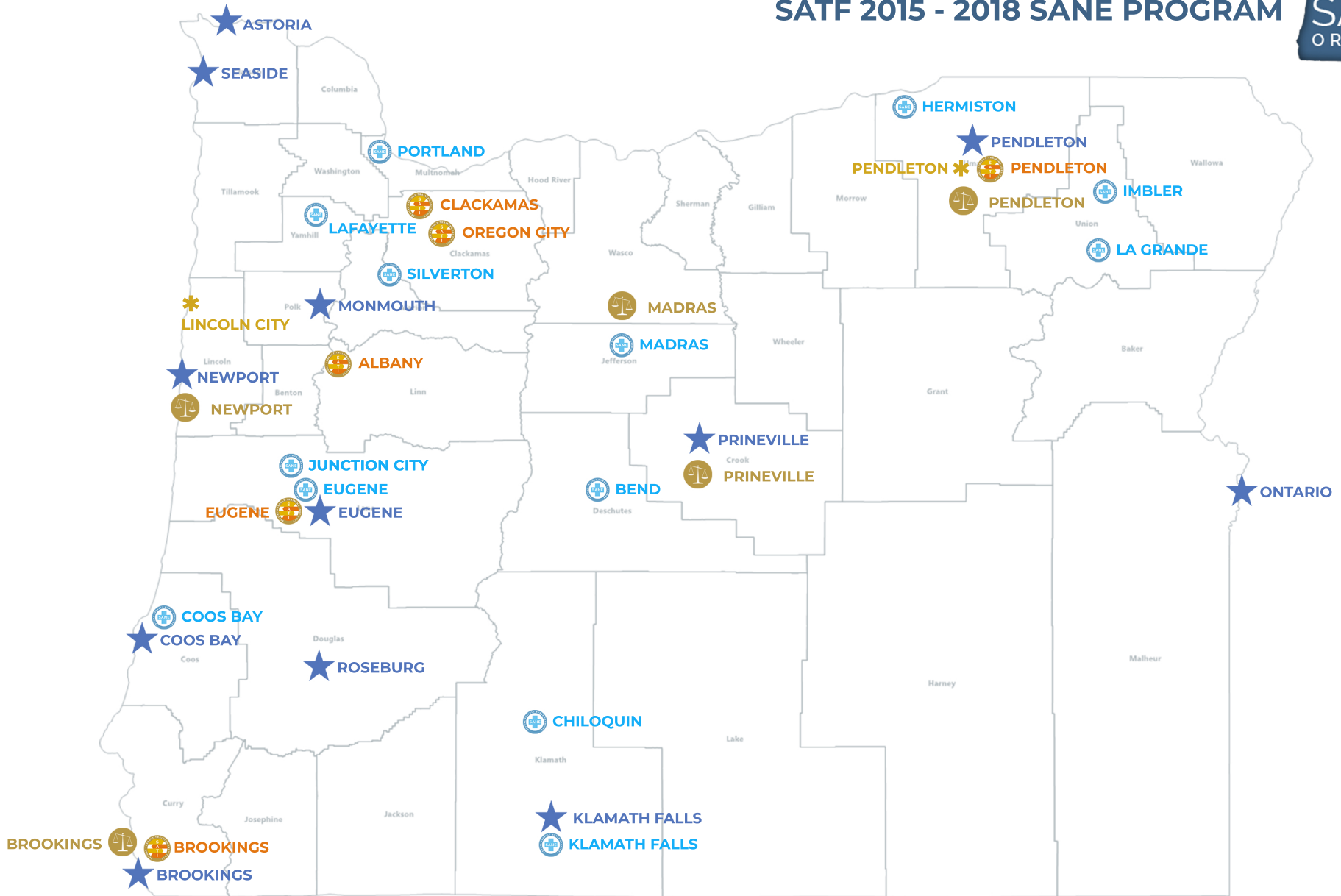
We know that the most effective sexual assault response occurs through a chain of coordinated multidisciplinary efforts. Holding hospitals to their part in that chain, and giving them the support to succeed even when resources are scarce, is an important step to ensure that survivors have access to consistently expert-level care. HB 2375 with the -1 amendment accomplishes just that, and for this reason we urge your support.

Sincerely,



Nicole Broder, BSN, RN, OR-SANE-SANE-A
SANE Coordinator
nicole@oregonsatf.org

SATF 2015 - 2018 SANE PROGRAM



17 Nurses have traveled to Houston, St. Paul, & Cleveland to attend 2-day IAFN-approved Clinical Skills training with scholarship funds awarded by SATF, thanks to VOCA, OVW Rural, and OVC grant awards.



Completed SANE Trial and Testimony In-person Trainings



Completed 40-Hour Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner In-Person Trainings

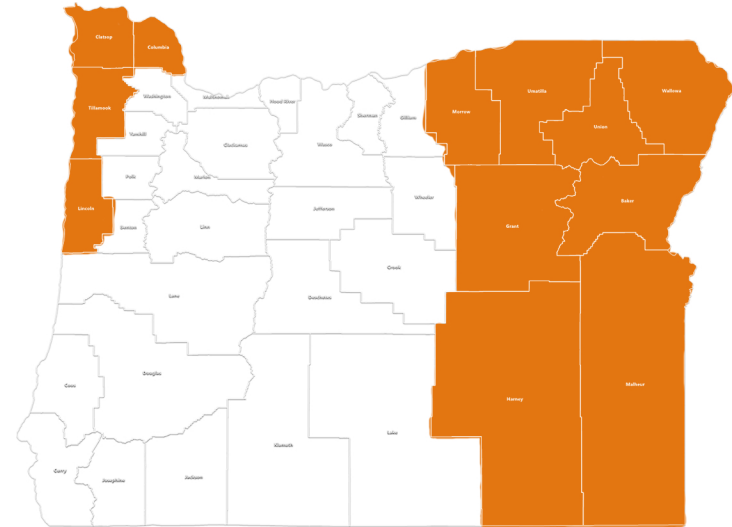


Completed Advanced, In-Person SANE Mock Exams
* = SANE "Train-the Trainer" Mock Exam Training

to learn more about upcoming SANE trainings and events, please visit the SATF website : www.oregonsatf.org

819% increase

in technical
assistance provided
2014 - current



CAPACITY BUILDING PROJECT (2019)

Region 1: North Coast | Region 5: Eastern Oregon

EXAMPLES OF SANE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AREAS

SAVE Fund ,
Human Trafficking,
HIV nPEP Following Sexual Assault,
Trial and Testimony Basics,
STI Screenings and Updates,
State Exam Forms

61.7% increase

in SANE
certifications
2014 - current

