

**Year 3 Public Description of Work for
Action Collaborative on Preventing Sexual Harassment in Higher Education**

University of Miami

**Review of Existing University-Provided Services and
Implementation of New Services to Increase Student Access to
Local Rape Treatment Center**

Relevant Rubric Area(s):

1. Confidential Resources and Support Services
2. Other Remediation
3. Evaluating Policies and Procedures
4. Using Evaluation to Inform Action

Description of Work:

The University of Miami (University) is a private research university in Miami Dade County. Roxcy Bolton Rape Treatment Center (RTC) is the only comprehensive rape treatment center in Miami-Dade County where individuals can access Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANE-trained) to obtain the required forensic specimens when there is police involvement. Pre/post-exposure prophylactic medication is also provided. RTC provides care 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to all victims of sexual abuse and rape.

Through the 2020-2021 year, the University developed an MOU to formalize a more collaborative relationship between the University and local RTC (See [2021 Description of Work](#) for additional insight on that process). The goal of that collaboration was to enhance student access and experiences at the RTC through increased communication and transparency between the organizations.

Increased communication and transparency from the MOU resulted in new referral protocols, feedback loops, and educational collaborations that increased RTC visibility on campus. Also from those processes, an interest arose to see how we could in a more practical manner “close the gap” between our students and the RTC services being provided off campus.

The project included a (1) review of services currently offered by the University and re-examining whether additional services could be offered on campus and, (2) having concluded that the RTC services could not, at this time, be offered on campus, identifying alternative services to help “bridge the gap.”

Year 3 Public Description of Work for Action Collaborative on Preventing Sexual Harassment in Higher Education

A key aspect of the project was identifying all campus partners who should be involved in the exploratory conversations about this topic. For our institution, this resulted in a working group including representatives of the following departments/ university partners:

Student Health Service; Title IX Office, Dean of Students Office; Sexual Assault Resource Team; University Police Department; Student Government advisor; and General Counsel.

Review of Services

A review of services currently offered by Student Health Service was done. Then, the discussion about whether additional services (particularly forensic evidence collection) could be offered on campus included identifying challenges around:

- Medical equipment: What medical equipment would be necessary to provide additional services on campus
- Medical providers: What medical providers would be needed. In Florida, the requirement to keep a certification active for these purposes is of 15 exams over 3 years. There were considerations as to whether these individuals would have to be hired on an on-call basis or a full-time basis and financial challenges of each option. Concerns also were considered about quality of care depending on demand and how often the physicians would engage in the exam.
- Storing of evidence: Questions were considered about storage of samples as well as how to maintain chain of custody.
- Access to building/ availability of service: RTC provides 24/7 services but this is not true of Student Health. Noting that the University does not have a 24/7 medical facility on campus, questions arose about how and when services would be available and whether it would be more confusing to provide services during limited hours than not at all, particularly since SANE exams are typically 3-4 hours in length.
- Cost of service: RTC provides almost all of its services free of charge without billing insurance. Discussion was had about whether this would be feasible for the University.
- Student Need: Most notably the discussion yielded considerations about the lack of data about student use of the RTC and the obstacle that this presents to understanding the value which added services would bring.

Bridging the Gap

Having reviewed some of the challenges of providing services on campus, the second part of the project consisted of discussions about alternative services that the University could provide to increase access to the off-campus services. The following two items were identified and in the process of being implemented:

- Possibility of providing transportation from Student Health to Roxcy Bolton, instead of Student Health staff having to refer students but putting the transportation burden on them.
Student Health will work on a transportation service so that students who go to Student Health seeking these services will be transported to the Center by UM if they so wish. It is worth noting that the University already provides

Year 3 Public Description of Work for Action Collaborative on Preventing Sexual Harassment in Higher Education

transportation services to RTC from the Counseling Center (but students must complete intake) and from UMPD (but understanding many students might not want to involve the police).

- Possibility of resuming SART service by which volunteers accompany a student to Roxcy Bolton, or alternatively exploring the possibility of other individuals being made available to accompany students.

The Counseling Center and Student Health are working to identify who might be an appropriate individual to engage in this role.

Last, additional steps have been taken to help us better understand the identified question of student need for future reference in the future.

We will continue to work with Roxcy Bolton to obtain data from them about UM students who seek treatment

The Campus Climate Survey has been edited to add the following question:

Question: Did you use the Roxcy Bolton Rape Treatment Center's services in downtown Miami?

Possible responses:

- Yes
- No, I did not need their services
- No, I did not know about the center at the time
- No, I had no way to get there
- No, but I went to another rape treatment center
- Other, please specify: _____

In conclusion, the University takes pride in its constant assessment and re-assessment of student needs and resources, and we are proud to envision creative collaborations with off-campus partners to ensure increased access to services for anyone in need. We hope our sharing of this reflective exercise will assist other member Universities in exploring ways in which they can bridge the gaps for their student survivors.

Website for further information (if applicable): www.miami.edu/TitleIX

Point of Contact Name: Maria Sevilla

Email Address for Point of Contact: msevilla@miami.edu