



**Albuquerque Sexual Assault Evidence
Response Team
(ASERT)**

Plan Prepared for Mayor Tim Keller

ASERT

- Meet at least quarterly under the leadership of APD Deputy Chief to resolve the backlog of untested evidence kits and ensuring processes for preventing a new backlog.
Projected Completion: Ongoing
Status: *The ASERT is meeting monthly beginning in February 2018*
Funding: staff time
- Identify solutions, policies, procedures that need to be implemented to resolve the current backlog and prevent a future backlog.
Projected Completion: December 2020
Status: *Developing victim notification plan to be completed by May 2018. Reviewing status of Policies related to SB 475.*
Funding: staff time
- Communicate quarterly to City Council and the Mayor's Office or as requested.
Project Completion: Quarterly until 2020
Status: *need to establish system for quarterly reports*
Funding: staff time
- Identify representative from Mayor's office to participate on the ASERT.
Projected Completion: January
Status: *Completed. Sarita Nair, CAO or her representative will participate.*
Funding: none required
- Coordinate with Mayor's Office and Albuquerque legislators to identify funds to support Albuquerque's untested SAEKS.
Projected Completion: 2019 Legislative Session
Status: *need to identify funding needed to fully test kits, maintain adequate investigators, prosecutors and advocates.*
Funding: TBD

Advocacy

- Identify/hire/train advocate to take leadership on victim notification with APD and to schedule notification efforts.
Projected Completion: April 2018
Status: *SANE advocate hired and will attend next scheduled RCCCNM Advocate Training. SAKI grant advocate hire still in process*
Funding: SANE/RCC funds and SAKI grant position
- Provide specialized training to Victim Notification Team(s) who will work conduct victim notification and address other victim issues.
Projected Completion: August 2018
Status: *still developing VN Plan which will in part determine training needed.*
Funding: \$5,000 (in-house training) or \$22,000 (for national trainers)
- Develop sample scripts and protocols to guide advocacy in their response to victim notification.
Projected Completion: August 2018

Status: VN subcommittee is developing protocol, scripts and FAQ

Funding: staff time

- Develop a Sexual Assault Information Line (SAIL) to field questions from the public and victims interested in learning about the status of their SAEK.

Projected Completion: May 2018

Status: *in development stage, SANE taking leadership for this activity*

Funding: \$1,000 - \$2,000 for brochures. \$10,000-\$20,000 for a larger media campaign

Albuquerque SANE

- Identify core messages and support materials for SANE to share with victims who present currently in terms of expectations and process of their SAEK being tested.

Projected Completion: February 2018

Status: *documents under review at this time*

Funding: none needed

- Support the policies being developed by the ASERT, Child Abuse MDT, Statewide SAKI and Albuquerque Metro SART.

Projected Completion: On-going

Status: *SANE Director co-chairs the ASERT and SANE has hired Advocate to support ASERT activities as needed*

Funding: through June 2018 combined funding from SANE/RCC, after June 2018 potential VAWA grant and other potential funds

- Administer SANE-RCC grant program that funds an advocate.

Completion: January 2018

Status: *Advocate has been hired and funded through 6/30/18. Applications submitted to VAWA to continue funding in new fiscal year*

Funding: Needed approximately \$40,000

APD Sex Crime Unit

- Increase the number of sex crimes detectives working on current cases by April 2018.

Projected Completion: April 2018

Status: *Three (3) detectives have been recently added to the unit giving the Sex Crimes Unit a total of four (4) detectives working on current cases and training. Two (2) additional detectives are currently on FMLA with the expectation of returning by April 2018 to assist with current cases for a total of six (6) detectives assigned to work on current cases by April 2018.*

Funding: City Funded positions (Positions are currently in APD's budget of 1000 officers, the allocation of detectives will be needed on the already stressed sworn positions.)

- Increase the number of sex crime detectives working on backlog/old cases by June 2018.

Projected Completion: December 2018

Status: *Currently we have one part-time CSO detective and a Sex Crimes Detective working on CODIS hits. By June 2018, the projection of incoming DNA test results will result in a need for two*

additional full time detectives, and a CSO detective for the Cold Case Sex Crimes Unit to assist with the CODIS/Backlog cases.

Funding: City Funded positions (Positions are currently in APD's budget of 1000 officers, the allocation of detectives will be needed on the already stressed sworn positions.)

- Provide civilian support for Law Enforcement to assist with the investigation of the backlog of SAEK

Projected Completion: December 2018

Status: *Currently there are three part-time temporary employees. APD is currently trying to create four new positions by June 2018. The plan is to post and hire three (3) APD Sex Crimes investigators (\$25.00/hr) and one (1) APD sexual assault victim liaison (\$22.00/hr) in July 2018.*

Funding: Estimated at approximately \$78,000/year (benefits included) x 4 = \$314,000.

- Fill two vacant advocate positions who will assist with current sexual assault cases and the backlog of sexual assault cases with untested evidence kits.

Completion: December 2018

Status: *Hiring in process for both positions*

Funding: SAKI Grant and VAWA grant

- Coordinate and formalize a process for sharing investigative information amongst Sex Crimes, Crime Lab and the District Attorney's office.

Projected Completion: December 2018

Status: *In-Progress. SharePoint system has been created. Cold Case Sex Crimes Unit is now downloading information to assist with the SAKI grant required inventory of the untested kits. In the process of working with City IT to customize reports to assist the Crime Lab, Budgeting, DA's Office and ensure a proper management of SAEK cases.*

Funding: City and SAKI Grant (overtime and regular work hours)

Important Consideration: The APD Sex Crimes Plan includes the creation of 8 additional staff positions. These positions are needed to conduct the investigations on the CODIS hits resulting from testing the backlog as well as to ensure that all current sexual assault cases are investigated in a timely manner. Currently, there is no additional space at the FAC to house these additional positions. Adding these positions requires offices/cubicles, computers, phones, phone lines, chairs desks and other miscellaneous supplies.

Funding: Rough estimate – rent in existing building \$50,000-\$75,000 annually, office equipment and supplies \$15,000

APD Crime Lab

- Inventory untested SAEKs.

Projected Completion: March/April 2018

Status: *In progress*

Funding: Staff Time

- Outsource a minimum of 50 untested/backlogged SAEKs per month to commercial vendor(s).
Projected Completion: Completion of this project is dependent on final inventory numbers and availability of additional funding.
Status: *In progress. Due to time/money deadlines, approximately 700 SAEKs will be sent for testing by April 2018. From that point on it is estimated that 50-100 SAEKs will be sent each month for testing.*
Funding: City Budget and Grant Funds (see below – Funding Plan). Additional current staff time.
- Effective October 2018, analyze new SAEKs with three (3) months of submission with ten (10) APD DNA analysts.
Projected Completion: Late 2018/early 2019
Status: *All available efforts will be made to comply with City Council Resolution 143*
Funding: City budget (see below – additional staffing needed)
- Implement DOJ SAKI Grant Objectives.
Projected Completion: Estimated 2019/2020
Status: *In progress – Reference APD SAKI Timeline document*
Funding: SAKI Grant Funds
- Complete process to hire SAKI Grant Coordinator including: position description and approval, recruitment, interviews, selection, and approvals through HR.
Projected Completion: Late April/May 2018
Status: *In progress – currently ahead of schedule, possible hire in April 2018.*
Funding: SAKI Grant Funds
- Initiate process for sending kits to NMPDS Crime Lab beginning July 1, 2018
Projected Completion: TBD.
Status: *State Lab cannot start testing APD SAEKs until July 2018 based on their current caseload and legislation. Legislation stipulates \$800/kit which is \$150 more than what the primary vendor currently charges APD.*
Funding: Additional funding. \$800/kit

2nd Judicial DA's Office

- Administer City Grant program that funds an attorney and staff.
Projected Completion: July 1, 2018
Status: *Attorney has been hired and funded through the City through 6/30/2018. Additional positions are awaiting contract review and signature.*
Funding: none needed for this cycle. Additional funding may be needed after 7/1/2018 for attorney and staff to continue/complete review of backlog cases.

- Attorney will determine the viability of cases with and without DNA results. Attorney will make charging recommendations for cases which are viable. With the assistance of the paralegal(s), attorney will obtain appropriate materials for the proper review and prosecution of the cases.
Projected Completion: June 30, 2018
Status: *Attorney has been hired and funded through 6/30/2018*
Funding: None needed for this cycle. Additional funding may be needed after 7/1/2018 for attorney to continue/complete review of backlog cases.
- Provide required reports to City of Albuquerque as stipulated in agreement between City and District Attorney's Office. First report due April 15, 2018 and second report due July 15, 2018. Reports will include the number of cases received, initiated, and concluded, the manner of disposition, and the number of cases pending as of the end of the reporting period.
Projected Completion: April 15, 2018 and July 15, 2018
Status: *Pending*
Funding: None needed for this cycle. Additional funding may be needed after 7/1/2018 for attorney to continue/complete review of backlog cases.
- Administer sub-award from APD SAKI grant that funds Attorney positions, paralegal and victim advocate.
Projected Completion: December 31, 2020
Status: *Pending.*
Funding: SAKI grant. Once the two-year cycle of funding has been exhausted, will likely need additional funding to continue prosecution of backlog cases to final disposition.

Bernalillo County Sheriff's Office

- BCSO has 472 untested kits included in the APD Crime Lab Backlog. BCSO will continue to work with the ASERT team to ensure testing of these kits is conducted and appropriate victim notification and investigation is conducted.
Projected Completion: Dependent on APD's SAKI grant and other funding.
Status: *60 kits have been sent for testing. 10% of future APD shipments will be BCSO kits until testing is completed. BCSO SVU staff will review cases, acquire SANE records and submit to Crime Lab.*
Funding: Staff time

Coordination with State efforts

- Key representatives from ASERT will attend the Statewide MDT SAKI grant meetings and benefit from statewide activities including statewide tracking, policy development, and training.
Projected Completion: On-going
Status: *Representatives from SANE, APD Sex Crimes and APD Crime Lab routinely attend.*
Funding: staff time
- Update and revise current APD policies relating to SANE and SAEK to meet new criteria as required by state law (SB 475).
Projected Completion: law went into effect October 2017, 1st report due 11/1/18

Status: *draft recommendations being reviewed by DPS and NM Chief of Police Assoc. Review of APD policies being conducted by APD Crime Lab staff*

Funding: staff time and other activities to ensure compliance

- Coordinate APD law enforcement trainings with NM Law Enforcement Academy.

Projected Completion: On-going

Status: *1) ensure certified law enforcement officers completed the 2017 Biennium 1 hour module "Sexual Assault Biological/DNA Evidence: Laws, Responsibilities, Working with Crime Labs, Advocates and Prosecutors to Enhance your Sexual Assault Investigation, 2) ensure relevant frontline field officers obtain minimum training as first responders to sexual assault victims, and 3) provide advanced training for sex crime detectives as training and conference opportunities arise.*

Funding: work with statewide SAKI team to support officer training; officer training time

- Participate in the NM legislative presentations to committees on the status/progress of testing SAEKs.

Projected Completion: On-going

Status: *Identify key leadership to speak on behalf of APD and provide updates to legislative interim and full committees as they meet during the year*

Funding: staff time

Attachments

Additional Information (Crime Lab)

SAKI Grant Timeline

Additional Information

Current Funding Plan for Backlog

Source	Amount	# Kits Tested
2015 NIJ Grant	\$67,740	68
FY18 City Funds	\$452,921	453
2016 NIJ Grant	\$191,995	192
SAKI Grant	\$1,249,500	1250
FY18 City Funds - Recurring (FY19)	\$452,921	453
* FY19 City Funds	\$1,750,000	1750
Totals:	\$4,165,077	4165

* Dependent upon FY19 funding approval

Vendors

Primary: Sorenson Forensics

Status: Testing in Progress (534 kits sent/94 tested as of 3/8/18)

Funding: City Budget and Grant Funds (see above)

Secondary: Bode Cellmark

Status: Testing in Progress (6 "test" kits sent 2/14/18)

Funding: City Budget and Grant Funds (see above)

Additional Position for hire: DNA Analyst

Status: Issue Paper Submitted (9-IP-DNA Analyst)

Funding: City Budget - \$107,893 (Salary and Benefits)

Completion (Hiring): 6 months after position is posted

Completion (Training): 8-12 months after hiring date (Mid/Late 2019)

Current Staffing - DNA Analysts

(6) Case-working Analysts

- (1) Tech Leader - Responsible for training new analysts, reviewing returned outsourced cases, validating procedures and equipment, etc. (<25% caseload)
- (1) Maternity Leave (March-June 2018)
- Only two (2) are able to work complex cases

(2) Analysts in Training

- (1) Assigned full time to SAEK Backlog Project
 - Will begin training after the SAKI Site Coordinator has been hired
 - **Completion (Training):** January/February 2019
- (1) New Trainee (3/3/18)
 - **Completion (Training):** March/April 2019

(1) New Hires

- Start date of March 31, 2018
 - **Completion (Training):** March/April 2019

(1) Additional DNA Analyst Position Needed

- See above - Additional Position