**Responding to Disclosure of Sexual Violence 4/19/2022**

**Pittsburgh Action Against Rape**

Many reasons SV goes unreported – Shame; self blame; fear; think no one will believe them; it’s a family member or partner; not sure how to report; language barrier; attitudes toward LE; still processing; threats

75% of children delay reporting for at least a year

With children, the disclosure includes disclosure of something else; went to party or somewhere they shouldn’t have been; start discussing known person or person in authority. Parents need to wait, let them open up as you listen

Trauma presents differently for people – anger, sadness, vengeful, shame, etc

Don’t assume they want you to do something other than listen; okay to ask if they want advice or comfort.

Recent v. past trauma – response may be different; recent may involve actively presenting

Sexual Assault Testing and Evidence Collection Act (SATEC) – can get rape kit processed anonymously, then report later.

First response is critical

Needs: to be believed; to be informed about the process and your roles & limitations; make active choices with how to proceed; time and space to process; to feel safe; to be informed about resources and services.

Need to know what they are experiencing is normal response to trauma

Be empowering & strength-based; provide choice & control

Use active listening

Be aware of biases

Remember THEY can make the best choices for their lives