

Mercy Northwest Arkansas Community Benefit Report

Regional SANE Coordinator



Mercy has joined with three advocacy organizations to establish a coordinated approach to training and supporting sexual assault nurse examiners in Northwest Arkansas. These nurses play a vital role in ensuring victims' proper medical care and assure that evidence is preserved for prosecution, among many duties.

One of the first steps was hiring a program coordinator, Dawn Thompson, an advanced practice nurse with nearly two decades of experience as a nurse, sexual assault nurse examiner and nurse educator. Her responsibilities include working with health care organizations to establish protocols for treating victims that present to clinics and hospitals. In addition, she will train nurses and coordinate scheduling for on-call sexual assault nurse examiners for the three organizations: Northwest Arkansas Center for Sexual Assault, Children's Safety Center of Washington County and Children's Advocacy Center of Benton County.

"This collaborative effort is the first of its kind in our state, and arguably across the nation, where agencies are coming together to put aside our own needs and take action to meet a community need," said Natalie Tibbs, executive director of the Child Advocacy Center of Benton County. "This position will coordinate a highly professional and effective response to victims of sexual assault of all ages for the Northwest Arkansas community."

The four collaborating organizations began discussing the possibility of a coordinated response two years ago. Mercy and the advocacy organizations are sharing costs for the project, which include Thompson's salary and benefits, office space and operational expenses.

Thompson is a Mercy co-worker; the nurse examiners she trains and manages will contract with their respective advocacy organization.

Total Community Benefit \$18,928,000

Charity Care

Includes the actual cost of providing free or discounted care to persons who cannot afford to pay and who are not eligible for public programs. Charity care does not include bad debt.
Benefit: \$4,915,000

Community Outreach Services

Includes activities carried out to improve community health and services that are subsidized because they are needed in the community. Examples: education, support groups, health screenings, and immunizations.
Benefit: \$552,000

Health Professionals Education and Research

Includes the cost of providing clinical placement for physicians, nurses and other health professionals plus the costs of the nursing anesthesia, EMS and radiology schools.
Benefit: \$2,503,000

Cash, In-Kind Donations, Workforce Enhancement and Fundraising

Includes cash, in-kind donations, fundraising costs, food & supplies to shelters, use of Mercy rooms and facilities, donated office space and recruitment of health professionals in medically underserved areas.
Benefit: \$57,000

Medicaid Subsidies

Includes the actual unpaid cost of providing care to Medicaid patients and represents the shortfall between cost of care and the payments received by the government.
Benefit: \$10,955,000