

**Year 2 Public Description of Work for
Action Collaborative on Preventing Sexual Harassment in Higher Education**

University of Miami

**Development of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between
UM and Roxcy Bolton Rape Treatment Center**

Relevant Rubric Area(s):

Other efforts to remediate the harm of sexual harassment and/or support those that experience sexual harassment. The new initiative to formalize and strengthen the relationship between the University of Miami and the only Rape Treatment Center in Miami Dade County has the goal of increasing access and provide more coordinated support to survivors of sexual harassment.

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.

Throughout the years, members of the University community have advocated for the University to make SANE exams available on-campus. While this request has been seriously considered by University administrators, it has been determined that the University cannot, at this time, make the examination services that RTC provides available to individuals on-campus. Considering this challenge, we set to think how we could instead develop a more collaborative relationship with RTC to enhance student access and experiences as RTC continues to provide those services to our constituents, even if still off campus. Following outreach from RTC in August 2020, a new initiative to develop a MOU to formalize and expand the collaborative relationship between the University and RTC took form.

The project happened in several stages. The first stage consisted of exploratory conversations between representatives from the Title IX Office and RTC. The second stage consisted of a working group that was created within the University to develop the draft MOU agreement. The working group consisted of representatives from the Title IX Office, Student Affairs, campus police, Student Health Services, and the Counseling Center. During this stage, drafts of the proposed document were also shared and reviewed with RTC. The third stage of the process consisted of review and approval of the draft document by General Counsel and University Leadership. The last stage consisted of review by University contracts in executing the MOU. The MOU has now been fully executed.

The University and RTC have started to implement elements of the agreement which will serve to increase access and resources to services. For example, the organizations have started implementing a referral system by which individuals who visit RTC and disclose a University affiliation are given an option of having

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RTC share their contact information with the University's Title IX Coordinator so that a member of the University's Title IX team can reach out to the individual to offer support and explain options and resources available through the University. This removes a barrier to services by allowing a smooth connection to University resources when individuals consent to being connected to the Title IX Office. Prior to the MOU, a survivor would have had to seek out University resources as a separate step from visiting RTC.

As another example, the University has begun participating in monthly community meetings hosted by RTC and holding meetings with RTC representatives each semester.

As all elements of the MOU get implemented in practice within the next year, we look forward to assessing this project through impact surveys and tracking referral data.

We hope that the increased collaboration and transparency between the University and RTC will allow us to enhance the access and quality of services that our organizations collaboratively provide for the University population, resulting in greater support for sexual harassment survivors.

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

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