

August 25, 2015

Metissa Kelly, Program Administrator
Gallatin County Re-Entry Program
Community, Counseling, and Correctional Services Inc.
675 South 16th Ave.
Bozeman, MT 59715

RE: Sexual Abuse Medical Exams in the Emergency Department

Dear Ms. Kelly:

You contacted us regarding sexual abuse exams and asked us to forward a letter informing you that we do perform these exams in the Emergency Department at Bozeman Deaconess Hospital.

Some of our nursing staff is trained to perform these exams. A SANE (Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner) is a registered nurse (RN) who has specialized forensic training in treating sexual assault victims. They are available through the Emergency Department 24-Hours per day to help victims of sexual assault. SANE nurses have advanced knowledge of evidence collection, documentation, and preservation. They understand legal proceedings that will follow and what is necessary to successfully prosecute the perpetrators. Included are STD prophylaxis, pregnancy preventions, as well as referral for counseling, legal aid, and advocacy groups. We work closely and collaboratively with the Gallatin County Prosecutor Office, the Gallatin County Sheriff's Office, and the Bozeman Police Department.

In addition to the SANE component of the exam, all patients coming to the ED will receive a medical physical evaluation for trauma and illness by the ED physician or mid-level provider.

Thank you for your continued support of Bozeman Deaconess Hospital. Please feel free to contact either of us if we can provide any additional information. We believe the above covers the information in the Responsive Planning Document 115.21-115.22 that you have shared with us, but if anything was overlooked, please call us.

Sincerely,

Tiffany Kuehl, MD, FACEP
Medical Director of Bozeman SANE services
Bozeman Deaconess Emergency Department
Bozeman Health and Absaroka Emergency Physicians
915 Highland Blvd.
Bozeman, MT 59715