May 21, 2019

Board of Supervisors  
County of Marin  
3501 Civic Center Drive  
San Rafael, CA 94903

SUBJECT: Report from Marin Women’s Commission regarding Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners/Sexual Assault Response Team (SANESART) examination practices for victims of sexual assault in the County of Marin.

Dear Board Members:

RECOMMENDATION: Accept attached report from the Marin Women’s Commission.

SUMMARY: During fiscal year 2017/18, the Marin Women’s Commission undertook a preliminary study to understand the impact of conducting out-of-County SART (Sexual Assault Response Team) exams on victims of sexual assault. The goal was to research the current SART process, understand the rationale for conducting exams outside of the County, and determine the Commission’s next steps based upon the findings.

The Committee noted that due to the anonymity of much of the data, as well as disparate data sources, “hard” data points were difficult to obtain. Once the Committee began to review available information, it quickly became clear that “where exams should be conducted” was a complex and multi-facted issue. While it appears the current process is adequate for the purpose of forensic evidence collection, the Commission questions whether it is the best option for our residents.

Catherine Hargrave, Chair of the Marin Women’s Commission, will make a brief presentation to your Board outlining the attached report. Stakeholders, including individuals from Center for Domestic Peace, the Marin Women’s Commission, and law enforcement agencies will explore and follow up on the Commission’s report.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Baker,  
Assistant Director, Human Resources