

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-17



STATE OF TEXAS

§

IN THE COMMISSIONERS COURT

COUNTY OF COMAL

§

**A RESOLUTION APPOINTING MEMBERS TO THE ADULT SEXUAL
ASSAULT RESPONSE TEAM FOR COMAL COUNTY**

WHEREAS, sexual violence is a serious issue impacting the public health and safety of our community and those around us; and

WHEREAS, sexual assault continues to be a severely underreported crime – only 9.2 % of victims report their experience to the police according to the Institute of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault; and

WHEREAS, in 2021, the 87th Texas Legislature has recognized the serious nature of this crime and has enacted Subchapter J. County Adult Sexual Assault Response Teams under Chapter 351 of the Texas Local Government Code requiring that all Texas counties form an adult Sexual Assault Response Team (SART); and

WHEREAS, counties with a population of 250,000 or less in a contiguous area may join together to form a regional response team; and

WHEREAS, Section 351.252 of the Texas Local Government Code, requires the commissioners court of each county to establish an adult sexual assault response team that includes the following members appointed by the commissioners court:

- The Chief Administrator of a Sexual Assault Program;
- A prosecutor with jurisdiction in the county over cases involving sexual assault committed against adults;
- The Chief of the municipal police department with the largest population in the county;
- The Sheriff of the County;
- A Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner, a Forensic Examiner from a facility that conducts sexual assault forensic exams for the county, or a representative from the largest health care provider operating in the county;
- A mental or behavioral health services provider operating in the county or, if the county does not have a behavioral health services provider within the county;
- Other persons the presiding officer of the response team considers necessary for the operation of the response team or as recommended by the response team; and

WHEREAS, Comal County and Kendall County recognize that work must be done at a societal and local level to reduce the incidence of sexual assault, hold offenders accountable and to help heal victims.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Commissioners Court of Comal County that the following are hereby appointed to serve as members of the SART in Comal County:

- The Crisis Center of Comal County, or their designee, as The Chief Administrator of a Sexual Assault Program;
- Comal County Criminal District Attorney jointly with Kendall County Criminal District Attorney, as the prosecutors with jurisdiction in the county over cases involving sexual assault committed against adults;
- New Braunfels Police Chief, or the Police Chief's designee, as the Chief of the municipal police department with the largest population in the county;
- Comal County Sheriff, or the Comal County Sheriff's designee;
- Noella Hill as the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner, a Forensic Examiner from a facility that conducts sexual assault forensic exams for the county;
- Hill Country MHDD as the mental or behavioral health services provider operating in the county;
- Other persons the presiding officer of the response team considers necessary for the operation of the response team or as recommended by the response team, to include but not limited to the Children's Advocacy Center of Comal County, Resolute Hospital, Christus Santa Rosa

Hospital, Methodist Specialty and Transplant Hospital, Kendall County Sheriff's Office representative, Fair Oaks Ranch Police Department representative, Garden Ridge Police Department representative, Kendall County Women's Shelter representative, Boerne Police Department representative, Selma Police Department representative, Bulverde Police Department representative, Live Oak Police Department representative, and Schertz Police Department representative.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the above-mentioned appointees shall serve in their respective capacities as indicated within this resolution.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 31st Day of OCT., 2024.


SHERIDAN KRAUSE, COUNTY JUDGE


DONNA ECCLESTON
COUNTY COMMISSIONER, PCT. #1


SCOTT HAAG
COUNTY COMMISSIONER, PCT. #2


KEVIN WEBB
COUNTY COMMISSIONER, PCT. #3


JEN CROWNOVER
COUNTY COMMISSIONER, PCT. #4



Bobbie Koepf
By: *Bobbie Koepf*, deputy
BOBBIE KOEPP, COUNTY CLERK