



NEWS from Shelby County Government
Lee Harris, Mayor
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**SHELBY COUNTY CRIME VICTIMS & RAPE CRISIS CENTER DOUBLES ITS
CAPACITY TO SERVE VICTIMS OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE**

The center is doubling its capacity to serve the community with an additional exam room, a new room for follow-up care, and more experienced providers to provide trauma-informed healthcare.

WHAT: Celebration of Expanded Healthcare Offerings for Victims of Sexual Violence
WHEN: 1 p.m., Thursday, March 2, 2023
WHERE: Shelby County Crime Victims & Rape Crisis Center, 1060 Madison Avenue, Memphis, TN 38104

Shelby County, TN – On Thursday, March 2, 2023 at 1 p.m., the Shelby County Crime Victims & Rape Crisis Center (CVRCC) will mark the start of expanded services for victims of sexual violence with a ribbon-cutting ceremony and tour of the facility.

The CVRCC provides free, confidential acute care to over 800 victims of sexual violence each year. With increased funding from the United States Department of Justice’s Sexual Assault Services Formula Grant Program (SASP) and a donation from St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, the CVRCC has added new staff, a new exam room, and a new room for follow-up care to double their capacity to offer compassionate care to Shelby County residents.

Shelby County Government’s expansion will enable the CVRCC to offer free, confidential follow-up medical care to patients to complement the acute forensic exams currently offered. The new services will be provided by a full-time registered nurse who will offer patients a more holistic care plan at the

CVRCC. The follow-up medical visits will be scheduled at four to six weeks, three months, and six months post-assault in accordance with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines.

Many victims have reported they did not seek recommended follow-up medical care after their assault due to various reasons, such as not being able to afford a medical provider or not wanting to revisit the assault with their primary care provider. To encourage victims to get the medical treatment they deserve after an assault, the CVRCC offers a safe place with a trusted nurse who has already provided trauma-informed services.

The expansion comes at a time when many providers are ramping up to treat more sexual assault victims as the CDC has extended the timeframe for when assault survivors can receive a forensic exam from 96 hours to 120 hours. In addition, the follow-up medical visits align with the CVRCC's victim-centered approach by allowing victims to reconnect with their victim advocate or trauma counselor, or both, while they are here for their medical visit.

Shelby County Mayor Lee Harris: “I am proud of the Shelby County Crime Victims & Rape Crisis Center staff for their continuous commitment to providing compassionate, timely, and comprehensive healthcare for survivors of sexual violence. This expansion is a critical step to ensure that survivors of sexual violence receive the help they need to heal and recover.”

Sandy Bromley, Deputy Director, Shelby County Division of Community Services: “The support from both the U.S. Department of Justice and St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital comes at a critical time. Both the investment and the new CDC guidance will allow us to expand our capacity to provide the compassionate and comprehensive care that victims of sexual violence need. We hope that more victims will seek out both our initial exam services and the trauma-informed follow-up healthcare that too many often forgo.”

Dr. Teresa Jones, Executive Director, Shelby County Crime Victims & Rape Crisis Center: “We are thrilled to expand our services to better support survivors of sexual violence. With the addition of follow-up medical care, we hope to empower survivors to prioritize their physical health and well-being after a traumatic experience.”

The CVRCC provides free and confidential services 24/7. If you are a victim of sexual assault and need acute or follow-up care, please call the CVRCC at 901-222-4350.

(End of Release)