



BUTTE COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY



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PRESS RELEASE

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Local Sexual Assault Nurses Receive Advanced CSI Training

CHICO- District Attorney Mike Ramsey announced that nurses from Butte and Yuba Counties will participate in specialized forensic training offered by the California Clinical Forensic Medical Training Center (CCFMTC) today at the Chico Police and Fire Training Center. The local nurses have already been specially trained in the medical/evidentiary examinations of sexual assault victims. Today's training will expand their skills by teaching them CSI-type forensic photography to document and preserve their findings.

Ramsey said today's training is part of a continuing effort to improve and enhance the local availability and quality of sexual assault examinations. CCFMTC is based in Sacramento under the auspices of the California District Attorneys Association. Eighteen nurses from Feather River Hospital (Paradise), Enloe Hospital (Chico), Oroville Hospital, Rideout Hospital (Marysville), and Butte County Public Health as well as Butte County's veteran forensic pathologist, Dr. Thomas Resk, are expected to attend.

In the past year, a local cooperative effort resulted in the recruitment and training of twelve nurses in Butte County to become Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANEs). The effort included funding by all local law enforcement agencies, the Probation Department and the District Attorney's Office. Additional coordination was provided by the Butte County Department of Public Health and Rape Crisis Intervention. Funding was also generously provided by Enloe Hospital, Feather River Hospital and Oroville Hospital to send their staff nurses to a five-day Sexual Assault Forensic Examiner's training presented by CCFMTC last fall.

Today's one-day forensic photography course will provide enhanced training to develop skills in injury photography for those nurses. The course involves some lecture, but is largely experiential skill-based learning. A professional makeup artist will produce life-like injuries on CCFMTC staff for the nurses to practice photographing. The photographs will be printed in class for discussion, training purposes, and tips.

CCFMTC will be back in subsequent weeks to provide training on courtroom communications for the nurses which will involve mock testimony and questioning by Butte County deputy district attorneys and to provide a consultation for the Butte County SART (Sexual Assault Response Team). Butte County SART is a multi-disciplinary intervention approach to the crime of sexual assault which involves law enforcement agencies, the rape crisis center, the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners, the District Attorney's Office, Public Health and the state Department of Justice's Chico crime laboratory.

To learn more about the CCFMTC, visit their website at www.ccfmtc.org. William Green, MD is the Medical Director, and Marilyn Peterson is the Program Director.

***The training will be held at the Chico Police and Fire Training Center from 8:30 to 5:00 with a photo opportunity for local media between 1:00 p.m. and 2:00 p.m. Contact Butte County District Attorney Chief Investigator Rick West at 518-5801 for entry instructions.**