



Wesleyan University (Wesleyan) seeks to strengthen sexual assault prevention and response programs by developing partnerships with local community resources. We seek to formalize this partnership with the **Women and Families Center of Middletown (WFC)** and **Connecticut Sexual Assault Crisis Services, Inc (CONNSACS)** through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

These three agencies enter into this MOU, which formalizes the commitment of all three parties to work together to provide trauma-informed services to student and employee victims of sexual assault and to improve the overall response to sexual assault at Wesleyan and within the greater Middletown community. The parties share the goal of preventing sexual assault on campus and in the community, and responding appropriately to students and employees who have been victimized.

#### **I. Description of the Partner Agencies**

- a. **WFC** is a non-profit, community-based organization dedicated to the elimination of sexual violence in all its forms. WFC provides free, confidential and empowerment based sexual assault crisis and advocacy services including a 24-hour hotline, individual counseling, medical and legal accompaniment and support, and community education and training programs. WFC is a CONNSACS member agency.
- b. **CONNSACS** is the coalition of Connecticut's nine community based sexual assault crisis services programs, whose mission is to end sexual violence and provide high quality, comprehensive and culturally competent sexual assault victims services. CONNSACS coordinates the Connecticut College Consortium to End Sexual Violence which brings together representatives from Connecticut's colleges and universities and sexual assault victim advocates to discuss and model best practice for the prevention of and response to sexual violence on college campus.
- c. **Wesleyan** was founded in 1831 by Methodist leaders and Middletown citizens. The student body is made up of approximately 2,900 full-time undergraduates and 200 graduate students, as well as about 200 part-time students in Graduate Liberal Studies. An ongoing faculty of more than 300 is joined each semester by a distinguished group of visiting artists and professors. Wesleyan is an institution devoted to learning, openness, and the life of the mind; it follows that its character can be measured in part by the kind of human relationships built and sustained within this small but complex environment.

#### **II. History of Previous Collaboration:**

Wesleyan has been a member of the CONNSACS Consortium. Wesleyan and WFC have collaborated previously for on-campus educational programs. The purpose of previous has been to provide information to students about sexual violence (and/or) organize educational programs to address sexual violence. This MOU builds on the previous collaboration to provide services to victims and training to additional school officials as resources and capacity allow.

#### **III. The Role of WFC and CONNSACS – WFC and CONNSACS agree to:**

- a. appoint a qualified staff member to focus on making services accessible to and appropriate for students and employees referred by Wesleyan;
- b. continue to make the 24-hour sexual violence hotline service numbers in both English and Spanish available to students and employees of Wesleyan;
- c. provide confidential crisis intervention, counseling, information and referral, and accompaniment to medical and legal services as requested by Wesleyan students and employees;
- d. provide students and employees of Wesleyan with information on reporting options, including how to file a complaint with Wesleyan University how to report a crime to campus or local law enforcement and offer to assist students throughout the process;
- e. meet regularly with the Wesleyan's Title IX Coordinator or designee to share information about: the needs of victims, trends in sexual violence services provided, additional services that are needed by students and employees and the effectiveness of Wesleyan's sexual assault prevention and response program;
- f. in coordination with Wesleyan and (CONNSACS), provide training opportunities to Wesleyan student services staff, officials involved in student conduct proceedings, and Wesleyan campus security on the incidence and prevalence of sexual violence, myths about sexual violence, the physical and emotional effects of sexual violence on victims, the neurobiology of trauma and appropriate methods for interviewing and communication with victims;
- g. assist Wesleyan with the development and provision of preventing and programming and training to faculty, students and school officials; and
- h. participate, where feasible, in Wesleyan sexual assault team (SART) or other coordinated team efforts, as deemed appropriate.

#### **IV. The Role of Wesleyan – Wesleyan agrees to:**

- a. identify a central point of contact for WFC and CONNSACS staff to facilitate referrals for confidential services;
- b. provide training to WFC and CONNSACS staff about: on-campus resources that are available to student and employee

victims of sexual assault; the federal and state requirements for colleges in responding to sexual assault; reporting procedures for victims who wish to file a report with campus law enforcement and/or a complaint with college officials; the student code of conduct and disciplinary process; and the educational accommodations that can be provided to victims of sexual assault;

- c. provide to WFC and CONNSACS printed and online materials about reporting options for students and employees, including information about how to file a complaint with Wesleyan and how to report a crime to campus or local law enforcement;
- d. inform WFC and CONNSACS about the reporting obligations of Wesleyan employees and identify those school employees with whom students can speak confidentially (and any exceptions to that confidentiality) ;
- e. inform WFC and CONNSACS about Wesleyan's prohibitions on retaliation, how allegations of retaliation can be reported, and what protections are available for students who experience retaliation;
- f. ensure availability of its Therapist/Sexual Violence Resource Coordinator and/or Title IX Coordinator or designees to meet regularly with the WFC coordinator and appropriate CONNSACS representatives;
- g. collaborate with the WFC and CONNSACS on prevention approach and activities. Invite WFC and CONNSACS to participate in an advisory capacity as Wesleyan updates policies, procedures, and educational campaigns focused on the eradication of sexual violence;
- h. conduct victim satisfaction surveys or use other methods to assess the effectiveness of the services provided to students and employees by Wesleyan; and.
- i. provide office/meeting space for WFC and/or CONNSACS staff to meet with faculty, staff and students.

**V. Confidentiality:**

WFC, CONNSACS and Wesleyan mutually affirm the importance of providing students with options for confidential services and support. All services provided by The Agency to students and employees of Wesleyan will be kept confidential in accordance with state statute C.G.S. Section 52-146(k) and the confidentiality policies of WFC and CONNSACS, except in the following circumstances:

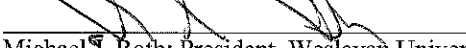
If the student or employee wants information, which is in the possession of WFC or CONNSACS, shared with Wesleyan or campus security, campus or local law enforcement, WFC and/or CONNSACS will obtain informed consent for the release of information. When releases of information held by WFC and/or CONNSACS are required, they will be written, specific, and reasonably time-limited.


Wesleyan is committed to maintaining the privacy of student record information, consistent with the law, especially with respect to matters pertaining to sexual violence. The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) requires that Wesleyan University not provide access to or disclose personally identifiable student information maintained in Wesleyan University records without the prior written consent of the student, unless access or disclosure is permitted or required pursuant to the limited provisions of FERPA that permit access or disclosure to such information without the student's prior written consent.


**VI. Designees - the parties hereto designate the following individuals as primary points of contact for this MOU:**

<b>Wesleyan</b>	<b>Name:</b> Michael J. Roth	<b>Title:</b> President	<b>Phone:</b> (860) 684-3500
<b>WFC</b>	<b>Name:</b> Robyn-Jay Bage	<b>Title:</b> CEO Women and Families Center	<b>Phone:</b>
<b>CONNSACS</b>	<b>Name:</b> Laura Cordes	<b>Title:</b> Executive Director, Connecticut Sexual Assault Crisis Services, Inc	<b>Phone:</b>

**VI. Signatures – Agreed to this 19<sup>th</sup> day of Dec., 2014**

By:   
Michael J. Roth; President, Wesleyan University

By:   
Robyn-Jay Bage; CEO Women and Families Center

By:   
Laura Cordes, Executive Director, Connecticut Sexual Assault Crisis Services, Inc