



Marin IJ | June 3: Pletcher's Plan would not help Rape Victims

For **District Attorney**

By: **Evanthia Pappa**, *Deputy District Attorney specializing in domestic violence and sexual assault &*

Lisa Lewis-Javar, *Executive Director of Napa-Solano SANE/SART*

District attorney candidate Anna Pletcher's plan to abandon the Napa-Solano Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE), Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) partnership that Marin County developed with Kaiser Vallejo would be detrimental to prosecution of sexual assault cases in Marin and catastrophic for victims.

Pletcher says, "It's wrong that Marin forces sexual assault survivors to drive to Vallejo for a rape kit." This is contrary to the Marin grand jury findings (released May 4) concluding "Napa-Solano SANE-SART, in partnership with Kaiser Vallejo, has become a 'center of excellence' for Marin, and for the counties it serves," providing high-quality care and exams to victims.

Pletcher knew this partnership was forged to remedy problems Marin was having properly serving rape victims. Before submitting an op-ed piece (Marin Voice, Nov. 6, 2017), Pletcher asked one of us (Lisa Lewis-Javar, who has conducted over 1,000 rape exams), her thoughts.

Lewis-Javar asked Pletcher not to sensationalize that rape victims are brought to Vallejo. Marin stopped having rape exams at Marin General Hospital because two midwives were busy delivering babies and rape victims were waiting hours; there was poor evidence collection, and inadequate nurse training was compromising cases leading to poor expert testimony, injustice for victims and offenders going free. The grand jury came to the same conclusion.

Pletcher must justify why her position is at odds with the grand jury, law enforcement and medical professionals. Why does she want to provide worse care to victims and endanger evidence-gathering that puts their attackers behind bars?

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