May 14, 2026

TO:
Blanco County Commissioners Court
Burnet County Commissioners Court
Llano County Commissioners Court

FROM:
Highland Lakes Family Crisis Center
Conny Steele, Program Director
Former SART Presiding Officer

RE: SART Presiding Officer Vacancy

In 2022, the **Burnet-Llano-Blanco County Regional Sexual Assault Response Team (SART)** was formulated. The purpose of the SART, as directed by Senate Bill 476 of the 87th Texas Regular Legislative Session, is to collaborate effectively, honestly, and respectfully between all working agencies to enhance victim safety and increase offender accountability. The team will exhibit consistent and effective cross-agency roles to improve survivor resources, health outcomes, evidence collection, and prosecution. The mandatory six (6) agency members from the three (3) counties are:

- Administrator of a Sexual Assault Program-Highland Lakes Family Crisis Center
- Prosecutor-33rd/424th- Judicial District Attorney's Office
- Sheriff of the County
- Chief of the largest municipal law enforcement agency
- Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner
- Mental or behavioral health provider

Per our By-laws, Article II, Section 3, I am reporting to the Commissioner's Courts that our Presiding Officer position is officially vacant. We have attempted to recruit a new Presiding Officer at our last four (4) quarterly meetings with no success. Historically, the Highland Lakes Family Crisis Center has been the Presiding Officer for over twenty-five (25) years! The current By-laws, Article III, Section 2, state that the Presiding Officer will be elected for a two (2) year term and is eligible for up to four (4) consecutive terms. The Highland Lakes Family Crisis Center has respectfully stepped down from the position. We will continue to be an active member of the regional SART.

Any assistance that the Commissioners Court's could provide with filling the Presiding Officer vacancy would be greatly appreciated.

Feel free to contact me if you have any questions regarding the current SART.

Sincerely,
Conny Steele, Program Director
830-693-3656