

**MINUTES**  
**Sexual Assault Forensic Examiners Advisory Committee**  
**January 26, 2012**

The Sexual Assault Forensic Examiners Advisory Committee met at 225 Spring Street, Wethersfield, in the fourth floor conference room on Thursday, January 26, 2012, from 2:06 p.m. to 2:52 p.m.

**Statutory Members in Attendance:**

Chair Linda J. Cimino, Candida Fusco, Maureen Platt, Marielle Daniels, and Regina Owusu

**Non-Statutory Members in Attendance:**

Audrey Courtney, Anna Doroghazi, Patti LaMonica, and Karen Zott

**Statutory Members Excused or Absent:**

Laura Cordes, Michelle Cruz, Chief Robert J. Hoffman, Joy Reho, Sergeant James Thomas, and Zoe Casey

**OVS and SAFE Staff Present:**

Denise S. Covington, Deborah Rubio, James Morgan, and Katie Nesta

**Agenda:**

1. Welcome and Introductions:  
Linda J. Cimino called the meeting to order at 2:06 p.m. and welcomed new committee member Regina Owusu, who replaced Sharon Tarala. Members introduced themselves.
2. Approval of the November 14, 2011 Meeting Minutes:  
Linda asked for motions to approve the minutes of November 14, 2011, and the minutes of September 12, 2011. The motions were moved and seconded; the minutes were accepted as presented.
3. SAFE Program Update:  
Denise Covington reported that since the SAFE Program launched on December 2, 2010, there have been a total of 176 cases among the 6 participating hospitals. There are a total of 18 SAFEs participating in the Program with 8 actively precepting and 4 working on completion of the Program's requirements, for a total of 30 SAFEs.

Denise reported that registration has begun for the March 2012 SAFE course at Quinnipiac University. The SAFE course scheduled for January - March 2012 was postponed.

Denise also reported that changes have been made to the precepting process. Precepting SAFEs are now scheduled on the calendar and receive on-call pay as well as case pay.

Denise thanked Brenda Jordan for her help with the SDFI consent forms and made the forms available for members to review. Denise reported that the SDFI cameras should be in use next week at the 6 participating hospitals.

Denise provided members with a handout of the SAFE Program statistics based on 163 completed cases from December 2, 2010, to December 31, 2011. The statistics are as follows:

- Hartford Hospital had the highest number of cases totaling 56 cases.
- Sundays had the highest number of cases totaling 36 cases.
- 39% of patients were between the ages of 25-59.
- 53% of patients were of Caucasian ethnicity.
- The average time of a case (admission to discharge) is 3 to 4 hours.
- 66% of cases are reported to the police at the time of the evidence collection.

Denise provided members with the revised SAFE Data Reporting Form and reviewed the changes. Denise also reported that Brenda is working on a database to track requirements that SAFEs need to meet for the Program.

4. Clinical Coordinator Update:

Deborah Rubio reported on site visits that she has made to the 6 participating hospitals to ensure the SDFI equipment is working properly as well as provide a refresher training to the SAFEs on how to use the equipment.

Deborah reported that a resource book has been created for the SAFEs to use in the field. Signs were created for the SAFEs to put in their cars when parked at a hospital and for the examination room while an exam is in progress. Deborah also reported that the orientation packets are being reviewed for updates.

5. Financial Update:

Linda reported that the SAFE Program's total expenses in 2011 were \$229,000. On-call services were \$49,000, equaling 36% of the total expenses. Linda also reported that the budget pick-up request for March 2013 - June 2013 is estimated at \$120,000, not including training courses at Quinnipiac University. The 2 year budget pick-up request for July 2013

– June 2015 is estimated at \$400,000 per year, which includes 40 SAFEs, training at Quinnipiac University, and increased case pay.

Members discussed the state budget cuts impact on funding for the Program and the importance of expanding the Program beyond the 6 participating hospitals.

Members also discussed the Program statistics as well as training for prosecutors on the SDFI equipment.

6. New Business:

Maureen Platt requested members to contact her if they know a physician/gynecologist that would be interested in serving on the Commission on the Standardization of the Collection of Evidence in Sexual Assault Investigations.

7. Next Meeting Date:

The next meeting will be held Tuesday, March 27, 2012, at 2:00 p.m.

8. Adjournment:

Linda adjourned the meeting at 2:52 p.m.

Katie Nesta, Recorder