

MINUTES
Sexual Assault Forensic Examiners Advisory Committee
March 25, 2013

The Sexual Assault Forensic Examiners Advisory Committee met at 225 Spring Street, Wethersfield, in the fourth floor conference room on Monday, March 25, 2013, from 2:36 p.m. to 3:42 p.m.

Statutory Members in Attendance:

Garvin Ambrose, Zoe Casey, Laura Cordes, and Maureen Platt-Temchin

Non-Statutory Members in Attendance:

Audrey Courtney and Patricia Moriarty

Statutory Members Excused or Absent:

Chair Linda J. Cimino, Marielle Daniels, Candida Fusco, Regina Owusu, Joy Reho, and Sergeant James Thomas

OVS and SAFE Staff Present:

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

Agenda:

1. Welcome and Introductions:
James Morgan called the meeting to order at 2:36 p.m. and welcomed members. Members introduced themselves.
2. Approval of the May 21, 2012, and December 17, 2012 Meeting Minutes:
Jim stated that without a quorum the minutes from May 21, 2012, and December 17, 2012, cannot be approved. Committee members had no questions regarding the minutes.
3. SAFE Program Update:
Denise Covington reported that to date, there have been a total of 141 cases among the 6 participating hospitals for fiscal year July 2012 – June 2013.

Denise reported that there are 34 Sexual Assault Forensic Examiners (SAFEs) participating in the Program, nurses are either actively precepting, working on completion of the Program's requirements, or scheduled to return from leave of absences.

Denise also reported that in-house SAFE training courses are currently being developed and should be up and running by fall.

Denise provided members with an overview of the topics that have been presented at the Quality Assurance sessions since January.

Denise reported that various equipment and supplies that are being used by the SAFEs, such as the Secure Digital Forensic Imaging (SDFI) photography, gynocarts, and HEPA filtered swab dryers. Denise explained that the use of toluidine blue dye is currently being reviewed by the forensic lab and provided members with a draft of the policies and procedures.

Denise reported that she is working with hospitals not participating in the Program on creating a hospital-based version of the SAFE Program.

Denise provided members with statistics regarding transfers from Connecticut Children's Medical Center (CCMC) to Hartford Hospital. Denise explained that about 1/3 of the cases Hartford Hospital receives are transfers from CCMC.

Denise also provided members with draft criteria for adolescent patient transfer.

Members discussed parental consent for adolescents and bills associated with transfers.

Denise reported on multiple trainings and meetings that were held for law enforcement, military advocates, and hospitals.

Denise also reported on various issues the Program has encountered, such as staffing and coverage, hospital education requirements, and length of time from the assault to response.

4. Clinical Coordinator Update:

Deb Rubio reported that 12 students from the fall and spring SAFE training course at Quinnipiac University are currently placed at clinical sites; all but 3 of them are at Planned Parenthood.

Deb reported that new SAFEs are required to complete 2 precepted cases. Deb explained that since it is unlikely that the SAFE will be training with the same preceptor for both cases, a meeting was held in February to discuss using www.lore.com, which is a site that is used to track and share the SAFE's progress report with the preceptors.

Deb reported that chart reviews were conducted for January and February; although several nurses have had longer spans of time without using the SDFI equipment than others, overall the SAFEs are doing a great job with the SDFI equipment and documentation.

Deb reported that all 6 participating hospitals are now using the HEPA filtered swab dryers, which will aid in decreasing the length of time to complete a case.

Deb also reported on multiple meetings with managers from Planned Parenthood centers to discuss clinical sites and with The Hospital of Central Connecticut to discuss evidence collection training for the emergency department staff.

5. Financial Update:

Jim reported that grant funding for the SAFE Program ended on February 28, 2013. Jim explained a budget pick-up request for state appropriations for March – June 2013 was awarded in the amount of \$125,000. Jim explained that funding has been requested in the Governor's budget to continue the Program for fiscal year 2013-2014 and 2014-2015.

6. New Business:

Laura Cordes reported that a federal grant was awarded to Connecticut Sexual Assault Crisis Services (CONNSACS) to invest in updating training materials and technical guidelines.

Maureen Platt-Temchin reported on amending technical guidelines versus statutory changes to address the issues associated with consent of intoxicated patients and unresponsive patients.

7. Next Meeting Date:

The next meeting will be held on June 24, 2013, from 2:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

8. Adjournment:

Jim adjourned the meeting at 3:42 p.m.

Katie Nesta, Recorder