

MINUTES
Sexual Assault Forensic Examiners Advisory Committee
May 21, 2012

The Sexual Assault Forensic Examiners Advisory Committee met at 225 Spring Street, Wethersfield, in the fourth floor conference room on Monday, May 21, 2012, from 2:35 p.m. to 3:40 p.m.

Statutory Members in Attendance:

Chair Linda J. Cimino, Anna Doroghazi for Laura Cordes, Hakima Bey-Coon for Michelle Cruz, Marielle Daniels, Candida Fusco, Regina Owusu, Catherine Austin for Maureen Platt-Temchin, and Joy Reho

Non-Statutory Members in Attendance:

Audrey Courtney

Statutory Members Excused or Absent:

Zoe Casey, Chief Robert Hoffman, and Sergeant James Thomas

OVS and SAFE Staff Present:

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

Agenda:

1. Welcome and Introductions:
Linda Cimino called the meeting to order at 2:35 p.m. and welcomed members. Members introduced themselves. Linda reported that Chief Robert Hoffman has retired from the Plainfield Police Department.
2. Approval of the January 26, 2012 and March 27, 2012 Meeting Minutes:
Linda asked for a motion to accept the minutes of January 26, 2012, and March 27, 2012. The motion was moved and seconded; the minutes were accepted as presented.
3. SAFE Program Update:
Denise reported that since the SAFE Program launched on December 2, 2010, there have been 236 cases among the 6 participating hospitals, with 73 case responses this year. There are 19 SAFEs participating in the Program, and 15 nurses are either actively precepting or working on completion of the Program's requirements.

Denise reported on the progress of relationships with community partners. Denise reported meetings are scheduled with Quinnipiac University, Planned Parenthood, and the Forensic Lab. Denise also reported that a meeting with the participating hospitals will be held at the Office of Victim Services (OVS) on June 8, 2012.

Denise reported that she will be co-teaching with a certified instructor at the Police Officer Standards and Training Council (POST). Denise also reported that a training was held at the Hartford Police Academy as well as a training for sexual assault advocates.

Denise reported that the last SAFE training course under the grant will be held in the fall at Quinnipiac University, 20 nurses have expressed interest.

Denise provided members with a handout of the SAFE Program statistics based on 65 completed cases from January 1, 2012, to April 30, 2012. The statistics are as follows:

- Hartford Hospital had the highest number of cases totaling 28 cases.
- Tuesdays and Thursdays had the highest number of cases totaling 12 cases.
- 29 cases were patients between the ages of 13-17, 10 of which were transfers from Connecticut Children's Medical Center.
- 52 cases were reported to the police: 38 of which were non-stranger and 14 were stranger.
- The average time of a case (admission to discharge) is 3 to 4 hours (use of Secure Digital Forensic Imaging (SDFI) photography adds to duration).
- 65% of patients have consented to the SDFI photos.

Denise provided members with a map of Connecticut illustrating the locations of the 6 participating hospitals in relation to where the SAFE's live. Members discussed statistics, the location of the hospitals in connection to SAFE response time, and expansion of the Program to other hospitals.

4. Clinical Coordinator Update:

Deborah Rubio reported that chart reviews were conducted for February and March 2012. A few issues that came up were the use of paraphrasing when recording the patient's summary of the assault, medications/doses that the patients received were not always recorded in the documentation, and the legibility of the SAFE's handwriting. All issues noted are being addressed with the SAFEs. Deborah also reported there have been many improvements in areas such as the advocates being called as soon as the SAFE receives notification of a case, calls being placed to mandatory reporting agencies, injury documentation, and the discharge/follow-up instructions that patients receive are clear and complete.

Deborah also reported that reviews of the use of the SDFI software were conducted for February and March 2012. A few issues that came up were

some of the uploaded images were either out of focus or dark and some files were not being labeled correctly. Deborah explained the SAFEs are doing a great job completing the SDFI consent forms, taking the photos in the correct sequence, documenting the photographs, and uploading the images. Members discussed the SDFI photography process.

5. Financial Update:

Linda reported that grant funding for the SAFE Program ends on February 28, 2013. Linda explained a budget pick-up request for state appropriations for March – June 2013 was awarded in the amount of \$125,000. A full 2 year pick-up request for the following budget cycle July 2013 to June 2015 will be submitted.

Members discussed budgetary restrictions in connection with expansion of the Program as well as hospitals not participating in the Program transferring patients to the participating hospitals.

Linda also reported on House Bill 5365, An Act Concerning Court Operations and Victim Services. The bill extended the termination date of the SAFE Advisory Committee from June 2012 to June 2013.

Denise provided a demonstration on SDFI photos.

6. New Business:

This agenda item was not discussed.

7. Next Meeting Date:

The next meeting will be held on Monday, September 17, 2012, at 2:30 p.m.

8. Adjournment:

Linda adjourned the meeting at 3:40 p.m.

Katie Nesta, Recorder