

**MINUTES**  
**Sexual Assault Forensic Examiners Advisory Committee**  
**June 24, 2013**

The Sexual Assault Forensic Examiners Advisory Committee met at 225 Spring Street, Wethersfield, in the fourth floor conference room on Monday, June 24, 2013, from 2:38 p.m. to 3:51 p.m.

**Statutory Members in Attendance:**

Garvin Ambrose, Zoe Casey, Laura Cordes, Marielle Daniels, Candida Fusco, Regina Owusu, and Maureen Platt-Temchin

**Non-Statutory Members in Attendance:**

Anna Doroghazi, Patti LaMonica, and Karen Zott

**Statutory Members Excused or Absent:**

Chair Linda J. Cimino, Joy Reho, and Sergeant James Thomas

**OVS and SAFE Staff Present:**

James Morgan, Denise S. Covington, and Katie Nesta

According to Section 19a-112f (c) of the Connecticut General Statutes the Sexual Assault Forensic Examiners (SAFE) Advisory Committee terminates on June 30, 2013.

**Agenda:**

1. Welcome and Introductions:  
James Morgan called the meeting to order at 2:38 p.m. and welcomed members.
2. Approval of the May 21, 2012; December 17, 2012; and March 25, 2013 Meeting Minutes:  
Jim asked for a motion to accept the minutes of May 21, 2012; December 17, 2012; and March 25, 2013. The motion was moved and seconded; the minutes were accepted as presented.
3. SAFE Program Update:  
Denise Covington reported that to date, there have been a total of 188 cases among the 6 participating hospitals for fiscal year July 2012 – June 2013.

Denise provided members with a handout of the SAFE Program statistics based on 436 completed cases from December 1, 2010, to June 1, 2013.

The statistics are as follows:

- Hartford Hospital had the highest number of cases totaling 170 cases.
- Sundays had the highest number of cases totaling 88 cases.
- 159 cases were patients between the ages of 25-59.
- 300 cases were reported to the police: 197 of which were non-stranger, 96 were stranger and 7 unknown.
- SDFI photography was used in 134 cases.
- The average time of a case (admission to discharge) is 4 to 5 hours (use of Secure Digital Forensic Imaging (SDFI) photography adds to duration).

Members discussed statistical data regarding patient's consent to evidence collection and SDFI photography.

Denise distributed and reviewed the draft SAFE Data Reporting Form that is scheduled to be implemented next fiscal year. Denise explained changes made to the form including extending the evidence collection deadline from 72 hours after the assault to 120 hours after the assault due to advances in DNA technology and additional options under the offender to victim relationship category.

Denise reported that there are 32 SAFE's participating in the Program, nurses are either actively precepting or working on completion of the Program's requirements.

Denise provided an overview of Program developments including data collection, recruitment and training, and changes to SAFE's schedules since the Program's start in December 2010.

Denise reported on various issues the Program has encountered, such as staffing and coverage, patient's consent, and length of time from the assault to response.

Denise also reported that an in-house SAFE training course is currently scheduled for September 23, 2013, and October 2, 2013, at the Office of Victim Services (OVS).

Denise reported that starting July 1, 2013, all SAFE's will be required to work 8 hours of weekend time per month as well as 8 hours of holiday time a year.

Denise reported that she is assisting several hospitals not participating in the Program to create a hospital-based version of the Program.

Denise thanked committee members, Linda Cimino, as well as OVS staff for all their help.

4. Clinical Coordinator Update:

Denise reported that 15 new SAFEs joined the Program; 2 of the SAFEs have completed all the Program requirements while the remaining are working on completion of SDFI training and mock exams.

Denise reported that chart and SDFI photography reviews were conducted and overall the SAFEs are showing a huge improvement in documentation.

5. Financial Update:

Jim reported that the 2 year pick-up request for July 2013 to June 2015 for state funding was approved.

6. Wrap Up and Closing Remarks:

Members thanked Denise for all her work on the Program.

Members discussed holding press conferences as a way to inform the public about the Program.

7. Adjournment:

Jim adjourned the meeting at 3:51 p.m.

Katie Nesta, Recorder