

MINUTES
Sexual Assault Forensic Examiners Advisory Committee
March 10, 2021

The Sexual Assault Forensic Examiners Advisory Committee met via Microsoft Teams from 2:00 p.m. to 3:37 p.m.

Members in Attendance: Linda J. Cimino, Dr. Alexis Cordiano, Denise Covington, Marielle Daniels, Heather Deming, Beth Hamilton, Brittany Kaplan, Sharmese Walcott

Members Excused or Absent: Edith Atwerebour, Kristin Loranger, Dr. Stephanie Paulmeno, Natasha Pierre

OVS Staff in Attendance: Pat Moriarty, Jean M. Weisbrod

Guests in Attendance: Alison Chandler, Denise Poncini

Agenda:

1. Welcome and Introductions
Chair Linda J. Cimino called the meeting to order at 2:04 p.m.
Committee members introduced themselves.
2. Approval of January 13, 2021, meeting minutes
Linda asked for a motion to accept the minutes of January 13, 2021. The motion was moved and seconded and the minutes were approved as presented.
3. Information provided to sexual assault patients (continued)
An update will be provided at a future meeting.
4. Update on the revision of the pamphlet by Department of Public Health
An update will be provided at a future meeting.
5. Update on the template of the list of SAFEs
Denise reported that the draft of the template is underway and is expected to be complete by the end of March 2021.
6. SAFE Practice in CT
Agenda item #6 was discussed following the approval of the January 13, 2021, meeting minutes.

Denise Covington acknowledged the ten year anniversary of the SAFE Program. She reviewed the original intent which was to be a statewide rapid response program where trained forensic examiners would respond to hospitals. She discussed the barriers to hospitals to maintain their own trained staff to perform sexual assault forensic exams which include funding and issues related hospital emergency department staffing. Denise noted that hospital emergency

departments have become dependent on SAFE's to respond but very few want to be a part of the SAFE Program. Denise reported these issues were addressed at a recent meeting with participating hospital administration.

Committee members discussed methods to develop health care provider training as a core component.

Pat Moriarty discussed the feedback received from SAFEs after completing the fall training. She noted the comments from SAFEs emphasized the need for this specialized and continuing education.

Denise reported that the strategic planning committee formed from SAFEs within the program will brainstorm methods to have this type of training included as a core competency.

7. SAFE Training Program Update

Pat Moriarty reported that the deadline for registration for the spring class is March 15, 2021, and training begins on March 29, 2021. The anticipated spring class count is 20 students.

Pat reported that the continuing education unit application was approved by the International Association of Forensic Nurses, an accredited approver by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation.

8. New Business

No new business.

9. Adjournment

Linda adjourned the meeting at 3:37 p.m.

Jean M. Weisbrod, Recorder