

MINUTES
Sexual Assault Forensic Examiners Advisory Committee
September 8, 2021

The Sexual Assault Forensic Examiners Advisory Committee met via Microsoft Teams from 2:02 p.m. to 3:02 p.m.

Members in Attendance: Linda J. Cimino, Chair, Edith Atwerebour, Denise Covington, Marielle Daniels, Beth Hamilton, Brittany Kaplan, Natasha Pierre, Sherylyn M. Watson

Members Excused or Absent: Dr. Alexis Cordiano, Heather Deming, Kristin Loranger, Sharmese Walcott

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

Guests in Attendance: Alison Chandler, Lori Johnson, Denise Poncini

Agenda:

1. Welcome and Introductions
Denise Covington called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m. Members introduced themselves.
2. Approval of July 14, 2021 meeting minutes
Denise asked for a motion to accept the minutes of July 14, 2021. The motion was moved by Marielle Daniels, seconded by Natasha Pierre. Sherylyn M. Watson and Linda J. Cimino abstained. The minutes were approved as amended.
3. Update on the revision of the pamphlet by Department of Public Health
Edith Atwerebour introduced Lori Johnson, CEO at commVerge Marketing. Lori stated that she was attending this meeting to become familiar with the SAFE Program and to receive input about the intensions of the pamphlet. Lori offered to share her contact information with the Committee so that members can receive information through the stages of the pamphlets development.

Linda offered to provide a copy of JDP-VS-30, *Information for Victims of Sexual Assault and Their Families*, which is the brochure that the Office of Victim Services provides to patients who present and report a sexual assault to Lori and Edith so the information would not be duplicated.

Committee members discussed issues related to including QR codes, translation into other languages, and links for resources.

Prior to moving on to the next agenda item, Denise Covington provided an update on behalf of Heather Deming on the CT Emergency Nurses' Association (CT ENA) July meeting. She reported that the CT ENA will offer the SAFE

program a table at the Annual ASCEND conference to provide information regarding the CT SAFE program and to bring the program to the attention of newer nurses. She reported that the conference will be hybrid and is scheduled for October 26, 2021, at the Double Tree Hotel in Bristol, CT. Linda Cimino stated that this offer will be reviewed by the Judicial Branch Legal Services.

4. SAFE Program Website Development

Denise Covington reported that the Judicial Branch OVS website will contain a link that leads to a page for the SAFE Program which will include FAQs, description of the SAFE Training Program, the training schedule, the application process, qualifications and requirements, and a link to apply. She stated that the website will be presented to the Judicial Branch's Web Board for review.

Committee members discussed issues related to the best methods to bring public awareness to the website.

5. Update on Annual Competency Day Trainings and the List of SAFEs

Denise reported that the list of SAFEs includes all those who completed each class from Fall 2018 (first class to be completed under PA 17-99) through Spring 2021. Program SAFEs who have resigned but whose certificates were valid prior to the date of resignation, current Program SAFEs, SANE-As whose training is from out of state, as well as the SAFE Training Manager and the SAFE Program Manager, are included on the list.

Denise reported that 7 Annual Competency Day trainings have already been completed for 2021 and there are at least 2 other dates scheduled for this fall. She stated that 40 of the 52 SAFEs that are required to attend have completed the training.

6. SAFE Training Program Update

Pat Moriarty reported on:

- The development of the Train the Trainer Program which prepares members to participate in the SAFE Training Program's Speakers Bureau. The goal of the Speaker's Bureau is to promote a statewide standard of care for the patient who reports sexual assault. The training consists of 4 two hour sessions in August and September 2021. There are 7 SAFEs participating in the Train the Trainer Program.
- The Fall SAFE Program Training Program begins October 4, 2021. The number of students in the class will be known by September 20, 2021.

- The goal of the Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) initiative is to provide up-to-date training of the patient who reports sexual assault to providers/nurses so consistent care is provided statewide. CHA will market this 3 hour training by OVS, provide CEUs to attendees, and offer this training on an ongoing basis. Further information will be available as this program develops.
- All hospital SAFEs are invited to the monthly SAFE QAs when the topic relates to the patient who reports sexual assault.

7. New Business
No new business.

9. Adjournment
Denise adjourned the meeting at 3:02 p.m.

Jean M. Weisbrod, Recorder