

**MINUTES**  
**Sexual Assault Forensic Examiners Advisory Committee**  
**November 10, 2021**

The Sexual Assault Forensic Examiners Advisory Committee met via Microsoft Teams from 2:02 p.m. to 2:59 p.m.

**Members in Attendance:** Linda J. Cimino, Chair, Edith Atwerebour, Dr. Alexis Cordiano, Denise Covington, Marielle Daniels, Lucy Nolan for Beth Hamilton, Natasha Pierre, Sharmese Walcott,

**Members Excused or Absent:** Heather Deming, Brittany Kaplan, Kristin Loranger, Sherylyn M. Watson

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

**Guests in Attendance:** Alison Chandler, Lori Johnson, Jordan Luxembourger, Denise Poncini

**Agenda:**

1. Welcome and Introductions  
Denise Covington serving as Chair called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m. Members introduced themselves.
  
2. Approval of September 8, 2021 meeting minutes  
Denise asked for a motion to accept the minutes of September 8, 2021. The motion was moved by Marielle Daniels, seconded by Natasha Pierre.  
  
Denise thanked Heather Deming for offering to provide information about the SAFE Program at the ASCEND conference. She stated that the Program was not able to take advantage of that though she hopes there will be a future opportunity.
  
3. Update on the revision of the pamphlet by Department of Public Health  
Edith Atwerebour reported that she is working with commVerg Marketing to revise the outdated pamphlet. Linda Cimino clarified that the pamphlet being created is a statutory requirement, Chapter 368, Sec.19a-112c, which is a collaborative effort by the Department of Public Health and The Alliance to End Sexual Violence to provide educational materials brochure for victims of sexual assault.  
  
Lori Johnson provided a presentation to demonstrate the template for the pamphlet. The subsections of the pamphlet may include subjects such as how to care for yourself, questions to ask health care providers, and statistics. She stated that the pamphlet will include QR codes, will be translated into other languages, include links for resources, and be in the format of a folding card.

Committee members provided feedback which included suggestions to make the pamphlet more relatable to the ever-increasing diverse population of sexual assault patients.

4. SAFE Program Website Development

Denise reported on the need and purpose of the website which is to market the SAFE Program as a response program. She stated that factors such as the impact of the pandemic, vaccine mandates, and travel nursing, have led to the resignation of many nurses and it's become difficult to staff an on-call response program.

Linda Cimino has arranged a meeting with the Judicial Branch Web Board to discuss the content that has been developed that includes information on Sexual Assault Forensic Examiners and the SAFE Program and the different components.

Denise requested that Committee Members provide suggestions at the January SAFE Advisory Committee meeting about the best methods to bring public awareness to the website.

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

Denise reported the last 2 dates for the Annual Competency Days are November 23, and December 9, 2021. She stated that the final list of SAFEs will be made available at the January SAFE Advisory Committee meeting.

Committee members discussed issues related the list of SAFEs and the best practices for accessing and maintaining the list.

6. SAFE Training Program Update

Pat Moriarty reported on:

- The Fall SAFE Program Training Program will conclude next week and was attended by 11 students.
- The Train the Trainer Program will conclude this evening when the 7 SAFE participants are expected to conduct a professional presentation as part of the graduation process. The goal of the Train the Trainer Program is to promote a statewide standard of education on the care of the patient who reports sexual assault.
- Collaboration with Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) and the SAFE Program to create CEU approved basic training for the care of the adult or adolescent patient who reports sexual assault is underdevelopment and the training dates are to be determined.

- A plan for training members of law enforcement on the care of the adult or adolescent patient who reports sexual assault is in the development stages.
- All hospital SAFEs are invited to the monthly SAFE QAs when the topic relates to the patient who reports sexual assault.

7. New Business

Committee members requested confirmation for the meeting date of September 14, 2022.

9. Adjournment

Denise adjourned the meeting at 2:58 p.m.

Jean M. Weisbrod, Recorder