

MINUTES
Sexual Assault Forensic Examiners Advisory Committee
March 11, 2020

The Sexual Assault Forensic Examiners Advisory Committee met at 225 Spring Street, Wethersfield, Fourth Floor, Room 4B, from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Members in Attendance: Linda J. Cimino, Edith Atwerebour, Dr. Alexis Cordiano, Denise Covington, Heather Deming, Beth Hamilton, Kristan Loranger, Sarah Martino-Kelley, Natasha Pierre

Members Excused or Absent: Marielle Daniels, Brittany Kaplan, Dr. Stephanie Paulmeno, DNP, Maureen Platt, Dr. Guy Vallaro

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

Agenda:

1. Welcome and Introductions
Chair Linda J. Cimino called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m. and members introduced themselves.
2. Approval of January 9, 2020, meeting minutes
Linda asked for a motion to accept the minutes of January 9, 2020. The motion was moved and seconded and the minutes were accepted as presented.
3. Update on the discussion of Public Act 19-114 Section 2
The recommendation formulated during the January 9th meeting was forwarded to the Judicial Branch Chief Court Administrator and was approved on February 27, 2020. The memo was forwarded to the International Association of Forensic Nurses (IAFN) on March 10, 2020. The memo and a comment by the IAFN chief executive officer was posted the same day.
4. Development of process to inform hospitals of the medical professionals who may function as a SAFE
Committee members discussed how to identify who can practice as a SAFE and the frequency of updates to the hospitals.

Denise Covington distributed a list of current SAFEs.

Committee members discussed issues related to providing information to hospitals so they know who to call on so patients have appropriate care.

5. Discussion on standardization of materials given to sexual assault patients by Emergency Department staff

Linda distributed and reviewed a packet of materials given to sexual assault patients by the Emergency Room staff at the time of discharge.

Committee members discussed a revision and update of current materials and a standardized resource book for hospitals. Also discussed was the option of giving the patients the choice to receive the materials electronically at discharge.

6. SAFE Program Update

Patricia Moriarty discussed the status of Memorandum of Agreements (MOAs) with hospitals and how the goal is to develop a cohort of SAFEs in each hospitals. Patricia reported that some of the barriers include staffing costs and a resistance to the state's decision for consistency.

Patricia reported that OVS is working to increase participation in the SAFE Program through the SAFE Training Course. She stated that future plans to market the SAFE Program will be through hospital meetings and trainings.

Committee members discussed the increasing concerns felt by sexual assault victim advocates due to the COVID pandemic. Members discussed providing Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) for hospital accompaniments and tele-work as a way to communicate with victims.

7. New Business

No new business was introduced.

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

Jean M. Weisbrod, Recorder