

MINUTES
Sexual Assault Forensic Examiners Advisory Committee
November 16, 2020

The Sexual Assault Forensic Examiners Advisory Committee met via Microsoft Teams from 2:00 p.m. to 3:05 p.m.

Members in Attendance: Linda J. Cimino, Edith Atwerebour, Dr. Alexis Cordiano, Denise Covington, Marielle Daniels, Beth Hamilton, Brittany Kaplan, Kristin Loranger, Dr. Stephanie Paulmeno, DN, Maureen Platt

Members Excused or Absent: Heather Deming, Natasha Pierre, Kristin Sasinouski

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

Guests in Attendance: Joseph Pelegano, Thomas MacLean

Agenda:

1. Welcome and Introductions
Chair Linda J. Cimino called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m.
2. Approval of September 9, 2020, meeting minutes
Linda asked for a motion to accept the minutes of September 9, 2020. The motion was moved and seconded and the minutes were accepted as presented.
3. Information provided to sexual assault patients (continued)
Report deferred to the January meeting.
4. Update on the revision of the pamphlet by Department of Public Health
Edith Atwerebour reported that the pamphlet is outdated and will be revised. Edith reported that marketing and digital companies have been contacted to provide proposals, but the efforts have been stalled due to COVID-19 restrictions. She stated that the proposals will be forwarded to the Department of Health for final approval. An update will be provided at the January 2021 meeting.
5. SAFE on the template of the list of SAFEs
Denise Covington reported that a list will be created in January 2021 of the Connecticut trained SAFEs. Denise stated that the list will be formatted in alphabetical order by the name of the SAFE and will be updated in January and July of each year. Denise reported that the list will include statutory language as a framework, as well as referral information to the SAFE Program Manager for nurses who use the SANE or SAFE title on their resume that travel or relocate to Connecticut.

Denise reported that each SAFE will be informed of the SAFE Advisory Committee work so that they are all aware that they are on a list to be updated every six months. She stated that this will be in addition to updating them on the status of the Annual Competency Day.

Denise reported that in July 2021, the expectation is that the list will include the names from the Fall 2020 and Spring 2021 training classes.

Denise stated that if a SAFE is unable to attend the Annual Competency Day in June, and the make-up date in July, a second make-up will be arranged in August or September so the SAFE will not lose their opportunity to practice as a SAFE.

6. SAFE Practice in CT

Denise Covington recognized 3 new Board certified SANEs; Pat Moriarty, Nicole Mott, and Rachel Henderson.

Denise reported that COVID-19 continues to impact the SAFE Program. She stated that the number of cases has decreased but the injuries are more severe.

Denise reported that the increasing number of applications for the SAFE training sessions indicates the need and interest in the SAFE program.

Beth Hamilton reported on the status of the statewide sexual assault service agencies and their responses to emergency rooms.

7. SAFE Training Program Update

Patricia Moriarty reported that all hospital trained SAFEs are invited to the monthly SAFE Quality Assurance (QA) meetings whenever there is an invited speaker. She reported that the topic for the November 10, 2020, meeting was Human Trafficking for Emergency Room Personnel.

Patricia reported that 26 students completed the 2020 Fall SAFE training program. She stated that the class represented nurses from 12 hospitals.

Patricia reported that because of the sudden COVID-19 restrictions the clinical site had to implement these restrictions and could no longer accommodate the clinical training days' scheduled for November 7, 14, and December 5, 2020, at their facility. She stated that an alternative clinical site could not be found and therefore all clinical training day sessions have been postponed pending the lessening of COVID-19 restrictions. She reported that rescheduled dates are planned for 2021.

Patricia provided a summary of the 2020 training:

- o 2020 Spring SAFE training class cancelled due to COVID-19 restrictions

- 2020 Fall Safe training class completion of 26 students plus one student from a 2019 that needing the clinical portion of the class was postponed until the clinical portion of training can be completed pending the lessening of COVID-19 restrictions
- Results: SAFE training impacted in 2020 by the COVID-19 pandemic and as a result no SAFEs were trained in 2020

8. New Business

Linda will provide an update on the victims needs survey.

Linda adjourned the meeting at 3:05 p.m.

Jean M. Weisbrod, Recorder