

**MINUTES**  
**Sexual Assault Forensic Examiners Advisory Committee**  
**March 9, 2022**

The Sexual Assault Forensic Examiners Advisory Committee met via Microsoft Teams from 2:01 p.m. to 3:11 p.m.

**Members in Attendance:** Linda J. Cimino, Chair, Edith Atwerebour, Dr. Alexis Cordiano, Denise Covington, Marielle Daniels, Beth Hamilton, Brittany Kaplan, Kristin Loranger, Sharmese Walcott, Sherylyn M. Watson

**Members unable to attend:** Heather Deming, Natasha Pierre

**OVS Staff in Attendance:** Jean M. Weisbrod

**Guests in Attendance:** Alison Chandler, Lori Johnson, Robin Tousey-Ayers

**Agenda:**

1. Welcome and Introductions  
Denise Covington, serving as Chair, called the meeting to order at 2:01 p.m.
2. Approval of January 12, 2022 meeting minutes  
Denise asked for a motion to accept the minutes of January 12, 2022. The motion was moved by Brittany Kaplan, seconded by Alexis Cordiano. The minutes were approved as presented.
3. Update on the revision of the Department of Public Health Pamphlet  
Edith Atwerebour thanked the committee members for providing their feedback and comments about the pamphlet. She reported that members of the CT Alliance to End Sexual Violence, Department of Public Health, and commVerge Marketing recently met to review the pamphlet and issues related to gender-inclusive and victim sensitive language and images were discussed. An updated draft the pamphlet is expected to be distributed to committee members by mid-April for review and discussion at the May 11, 2022, meeting.
4. SAFE Program Website Development  
Linda Cimino reported that the SAFE Program page has been created and can be found on the Judicial Branch Website at [www.jud.ct.gov](http://www.jud.ct.gov) under the Careers and Job Opportunities tab. She reported that the content is still under development and it's expected to be completed soon.
5. SAFE Training Program Update  
Denise reported that Pat Moriarty retired, and the position, SAFE Program Training Manager, has been posted on the Judicial Branch website. An update will be provided soon.

Denise reported that the Memorandums of Agreement (MOAs) between hospitals and the Judicial Branch expired in June 2021. Many of the hospitals signed extensions but those that didn't may not participate in the SAFE training program.

Denise reported that recently the MOAs have transitioned to agreements with Hospital Systems from agreements with individual hospitals. A report will be provided at the May meeting.

Denise shared with committee members the draft list of SAFEs who are eligible to practice in Connecticut. The list is pending approval from the Chief Court Administrator. Denise described the mandatory annual competency day training curriculum which must be completed to be included on the list. Members discussed issues related to distributing the list on various intranet and internet locations.

Denise reported that the Connecticut League for Nursing emailed their members and, as a result, 13 applicants interviewed and accepted positions with the SAFE Program.

Marielle Daniels reported on the SAFE training sessions to be offered to providers and nurses, March 22 and 23, 2022, sponsored by the Connecticut Hospital Association.

Sharmese Walcott reported on the efforts by the Commission on the Standardization of the Collection of Evidence in Sexual Assault Investigations to add user-friendly features to the State of Connecticut Technical Guidelines for Health Care Response to Victims of Sexual Assault.

Denise reported that the Judicial Branch, Purchasing Unit, is reviewing a contract intended to employ instructors who are not members of the SAFE Program for training sessions.

6. New Business

Denise confirmed the September 15, 2022, meeting is not the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday, but rather a Thursday, due to a SAFE Training Day conflict.

Agenda items for May 11, 2022, meeting:

- Update on Health Resources and Services Administration List of Awards
- Suggest topics that have not been addressed by the Committee for future meetings

Denise adjourned the meeting at 3:11 p.m.

Jean M. Weisbrod, Recorder