

MINUTES
Sexual Assault Forensic Examiners Advisory Committee
May 12, 2021

The Sexual Assault Forensic Examiners Advisory Committee met via Microsoft Teams from 2:05 p.m. to 3:02 p.m.

Members in Attendance: Edith Atwerebour, Denise Covington, Marielle Daniels, Heather Deming, Beth Hamilton, Brittany Kaplan, Kristin Loranger

Members Excused or Absent: Linda J. Cimino, Dr. Alexis Cordiano, Dr. Stephanie Paulmeno, Natasha Pierre, Sharmese Walcott

OVS Staff in Attendance: Valina Carpenter, Pat Moriarty, Jean M. Weisbrod

Guests in Attendance: Alison Chandler, Denise Poncini

Agenda:

1. Welcome and Introductions
Denise Covington called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m.
2. Approval of March 10, 2021, meeting minutes
Denise asked for a motion to accept the minutes of March 10, 2021. The motion was moved and seconded and the minutes were approved as presented.
3. Information provided to sexual assault patients
Denise reviewed the objectives of the information packets and stated the goal is to establish a standardized resource packet for patients who present in emergency departments as victims of sexual assault.
Denise reviewed the suggestions from committee members which included electronic access to resources in the packet, an updated pamphlet from the Department of Public Health, and an electronic victim survey.

Denise stated that a mock-up packet of resource materials from OVS, CT Alliance to End Sexual Violence, the CT Coalition Against Domestic Violence would be provided to Committee Members for review at a future meeting. Included in the packet would be a template of a victim survey and Kit tracking information.

Committee members agreed upon the proposed items and will move forward with creating a standardized resource packet to be provided to patients of sexual assault.

4. Update on the revision of the pamphlet by Department of Public Health
Edith Atwerebour reported that a vendor for the revisions has been chosen. Edith stated that due to COVID-19 along with staff and administrative changes the process has been slowed but is continuing to move forward.

5. Update on the template of the list of SAFEs

Denise reported that the goal is to have the list of SAFEs completed by the end of August 2021 and it will include the fall 2020 class. The expectation is to have the list distributed to the Committee by the September meeting. The delay is due to Covid-19 restrictions. The goal is to update the list each January and July.

The Committee Members agreed to a recommendation to create a letter that will accompany the approved list of SAFEs to hospitals. The letter would include statutory mandate and will provide information regarding those individuals who are approved to provide SAFE services in the state of CT.

6. SAFE Practice in CT

Denise reported that the SAFE Program enrollment has decreased by fifty percent over the past year due to the increased workload of nurses during the pandemic, retirement, and continuing education of nurses. The SAFE Strategic Planning Committee had a discussion related to the focus of the program and it was concluded that it should continue as a training and response program. There was an agreement to expand recruiting and marketing efforts in the specialties of surgical, labor and delivery, and retired nurses.

Denise reported that all SAFE training as of July 1, 2021, will be provided at no cost. The goal is for six of the twenty six seats in each bi-annual session to be individuals who will be a part of the SAFE Program.

7. SAFE Training Program Update

Patricia Moriarty reported on the following:

- Twenty one students from eleven different hospitals completed their clinical training
- Three students from the fall 2020 class are also completing their clinical component of their class now with the spring 2021 class
- The last Clinical Training Day is May 15, 2021
- The last mock exam day will be May 21, 2021, and then the Spring 2021 and Fall 2020 classes will be completed
- The Fall 2021 SAFE training class
- Plans to develop the Train the Trainer Program
- Hospital three hour virtual training sessions
- Volunteer advocate training sessions
- A training with American Medical Response on 5/13/2021

8. New Business

No new business.

9. Adjournment

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

Jean M. Weisbrod, Recorder