

**MINUTES**  
**Sexual Assault Forensic Examiners Advisory Committee**  
**July 14, 2021**

The Sexual Assault Forensic Examiners Advisory Committee met via Microsoft Teams from 2:02 p.m. to 3:08 p.m.

**Members in Attendance:** Denise Covington, Dr. Alexis Cordiano, Marielle Daniels, Heather Deming, Beth Hamilton, Brittany Kaplan, Natasha Pierre, Sharmese Walcott

**Members Excused or Absent:** Linda J. Cimino, Edith Atwerebour, Kristin Loranger

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

**Guests in Attendance:** Alison Chandler, Denise Poncini

**Agenda:**

1. Welcome and Introductions  
Denise Covington called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m. She reminded everyone that the meeting was being recorded and would be available for viewing on the Judicial Branch YouTube channel.

2. Approval of May 12, 2021, meeting minutes  
Denise asked for a motion to accept the minutes of May 12, 2021. The motion was moved by Marielle Daniels, seconded by Brittany Kaplan, and approved as presented.

Prior to continuing with the July Agenda, Heather Deming provided an update about the Connecticut Emergency Nurses Association and an introduction to the SAFE Program at their upcoming July meeting.

3. Update on the revision of the pamphlet by Department of Public Health  
Denise shared an update from Edith Atwerebour regarding the vendor that was selected and approved. The next step is to set meeting dates to discuss details with the Alliance to End Sexual Violence.

4. Update on Information Packet  
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 and report a sexual assault.

Discussion included packet contents, as well the need to provide electronic access and hard copy resources.

Beth Hamilton reported on the victim survey that is currently provided to sexual assault patients when they present in the Emergency Departments. She discussed the goals and the plan to provide statewide electronic access to the survey. Denise

and Beth discussed the possibility of the Alliance hosting access for the Information Packet for patients who report a sexual assault.

5. SAFE Program Website Development

Denise shared a screen of the Judicial Branch OVS website and reviewed the SAFE Program page with its resources for patients who report a sexual assault. How to expand the website with a link to a separate page for healthcare providers interested in becoming a SAFE or being in the SAFE Program was reviewed.

6. Update on Annual Competency Days and the List of SAFEs

Denise reviewed the Annual Competency Day Agenda, as well as the number of SAFEs In CT, including those completing the Annual Competency Day.

7. SAFE Training Program Update

Denise reported on behalf of Pat Moriarty on:

- A Train the Trainer Program to provide consistent training for non-SAFE hospital staff and community partners
- Developing a training program for healthcare providers as part of the DPH CME requirement
- Additionally, Committee members discussed issues related to provider requirements and options, definitions of the various healthcare providers, which healthcare providers are in this category, and how the training would be provided. Discussions on this topic are to be continued

8. New Business

No new business.

9. Adjournment

Denise adjourned the meeting at 3:08 p.m.

Jean M. Weisbrod, Recorder