

MINUTES
Sexual Assault Forensic Examiners Advisory Committee
October 5, 2022

The Sexual Assault Forensic Examiners Advisory Committee met via Microsoft Teams from 2:01 p.m. to 3:03 p.m.

Members in Attendance: Linda J. Cimino, Chair, Denise Covington, Marielle Daniels, Heather Deming, Brittany Kaplan, Kristin Loranger, Amanda Mendoza, Robin Tousey-Ayers

Members unable to attend: Dr. Alexis Cordiano, Beth Hamilton, Natasha Pierre, Sharmese Walcott, Sherylyn M. Watson

OVS Staff in Attendance: Jean M. Weisbrod

Guests in Attendance: Lori Johnson

Agenda:

1. Welcome and Introductions
Denise Covington, serving as Chair, called the meeting to order at 2:03 p.m. She reminded members that the meeting is being recorded and will be available for viewing on the Judicial Branch YouTube Channel.
2. Approval of July 13, 2022, meeting minutes
The minutes were approved as presented.
3. Update on the revision of the Department of Public Health Pamphlet
Robin reported that the final version has been completed and will be reviewed by The Office of Communications to ensure the pamphlet meets statutory requirements.

Lori discussed issues related to delivery, publishing, quantities, and translation into other languages.

Robin cited CGS Sec. 19a-112 and committee members discussed the responsibility for the cost of printing and distribution.

Additionally, a business card has been proposed with a QR scan code to the resources available in the brochure. The benefits of the card are convenience, privacy, and safety.

It was agreed that upon approval from Department of Public Health, the brochure will be reviewed by the SAFE Committee prior to distribution.

4. State-wide Discharge Packet Discussion

Denise reported that the pamphlet will eventually become part of a state-wide discharge packet, in a QR scan code or paper form, to provide to patients who have reported a sexual assault or have had a medical-forensic exam completed. Suggested links that the QR scan code could include the websites for Office of Victim Services, CT Alliance to End Sexual Violence, and CT Coalition Against Domestic Violence and their CTSafeConnect telephone number. A state-wide survey for recipients regarding quality of services provided will be a topic of discussion in the future.

5. SAFE Program Website Development Update

Linda reported that the Judicial Branch Web Board is scheduled to meet to review the proposal for the page, which is intended to be a resource for medical providers who are interested in becoming a SAFE or joining the SAFE Program. An update will be provided at the November meeting.

6. SAFEs in Connecticut Update

There are currently 120 SAFEs either maintaining their certificates through the Annual Competency Days, or whose certificates are not expired, although not every SAFE in this group has attended the Annual Competency Day. By the end of December, there will be 143 SAFEs in the State of CT.

The goal is to provide a list of SAFEs to the Connecticut Hospital Association in January and July each year.

7. New Business

It reported that a \$1.2 million grant from the U.S. Department of Justice was awarded to support the National Sexual Assault Kit Initiative.

The November meeting will include the dates for 2023 meeting schedule.

There are several new topics that will be discussed and developed by the SAFE Advisory Committee in 2023.

Denise adjourned the meeting at 3:03 p.m.

Jean M. Weisbrod, Recorder