

MINUTES
Sexual Assault Forensic Examiners Advisory Committee
November 9, 2022

The Sexual Assault Forensic Examiners Advisory Committee met via Microsoft Teams from 2:01 p.m. to 3:21 p.m.

Members in Attendance: Linda J. Cimino, Denise Covington, Chair, Marielle Daniels, Dr. Alexis Cordiano, Beth Hamilton, Brittany Kaplan, Anne Mahoney, Sherylyn M. Watson

Members unable to attend: Heather Deming, Kristin Loranger, Robin Tousey-Ayers, Natasha Pierre

OVS Staff in Attendance: Cheryl Black, Mary Kozicki, Jean M. Weisbrod

Guests in Attendance: Dante Gennaro, Lori Johnson, Lucy Nolan, Denise Poncini, Colleen Violette

Agenda:

1. Welcome and Introductions
The meeting was to order at 2:01 p.m. Denise reminded members that the meeting is being recorded and will be available for viewing on the Judicial Branch YouTube Channel. Committee Members and invited guests introduced themselves.
2. Approval of October 5, 2022, meeting minutes
The minutes were approved as presented.
3. Update on the revision of the Department of Public Health Pamphlet
Colleen reported that the Department of Public Health (DPH) pamphlet is in the final stages of review and there are a few revisions that need to be made before the pamphlet is available for distribution.

Dante reported that the pamphlet was presented to the Office of Communications. He discussed issues related to the expense of the printing the pamphlet, distribution, and quantities. He reported that the DPH is considering creating an electronic edition of the pamphlet with a QR code to link the resources.

Members discussed issues related to mandated HIV testing for offenders and how to implement that process. Members suggested technical methods to maintain the QR code on the electronic version of the pamphlet.

In addition, members discussed the pamphlets measurements and format of the hard copy.

It was suggested that DPH and service provider agencies should collaborate to maintain the resource contact list.

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

DPH also reported that additional funding will be needed to translate the pamphlet into other languages. An update will be provided at a future meeting.

4. State-wide Discharge Packet Discussion

Denise reported that the pamphlet will eventually become part of a state-wide discharge packet, QR code or hard copy format, to provide to patients who have reported a sexual assault or have had a medical-forensic exam completed. Suggested links that the QR 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 on a meeting with the Judicial Branch Web Board about the creation of a website specifically for health care professionals who are interested in becoming part of the SAFE Program.

SAFEs who are new to the Program are encouraged to provide feedback on the website once it's been developed.

6. SAFEs in Connecticut Update

The list of SAFEs in Connecticut, intended to be used as a resource, is not complete at this time due to a variety of factors and will continue to be developed.

7. New Business

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

Denise adjourned the meeting at 3:21 p.m.

Jean M. Weisbrod, Recorder