

MINUTES
Sexual Assault Forensic Examiners Advisory Committee
June 6, 2011

The Sexual Assault Forensic Examiners Advisory Committee met at 225 Spring Street, Wethersfield, in the fourth floor conference room on Monday, June 6, 2011, from 2:02 p.m. to 2:28 p.m.

Statutory Members in Attendance:

Candida Fusco, Hakima Bey for Michelle Cruz, Marielle Daniels, Chief Robert J. Hoffman, Nancy Kushins, Maureen Platt, Zoe Casey, and Sharon Tarala

Non-Statutory Members in Attendance:

Anna Doroghazi and Martin Libbin

Statutory Members Excused or Absent:

Chair Linda J. Cimino, Joy Reho, and Sergeant James Thomas

OVS and SAFE Staff Present:

Denise S. Covington, Brenda Jordan, and Katie Nesta

Agenda:

1. Welcome and Introductions
Brenda Jordan called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m. and welcomed members. Brenda reported that Chair Linda J. Cimino was unable to attend the meeting and sends her apologies. Members introduced themselves.
2. Approval of the March 28, 2011 Meeting Minutes
Brenda asked for a motion to accept the minutes of March 28, 2011. The motion was moved and seconded; the minutes were accepted as presented.

Brenda distributed a report from the U.S. Department of Justice entitled "The Road Ahead: Unanalyzed Evidence in Sexual Assault Cases."

3. Update: SAFE Program
Denise Covington provided the following updates:
 1. General Update:
Since the SAFE program launched on December 2, 2010, there have been a total of 58 cases among the six participating hospitals. Three classes of nurses have completed the SAFE course training and a fourth class will begin in the fall. The Forensic Lab held two training sessions for the new SAFE nurses on April 18, 2011, and May 18, 2011. Program updates and presentations were delivered

to the College Consortium Against Sexual Assault at St. Vincent's Hospital on April 15, 2011. Presentations were also delivered at the University of Connecticut for their community response team.

A member inquired if the grant contained the number of sexual assault victims that would be served during the grant period. Brenda responded that she did not believe the number of sexual assault victims served was indicated in the budget but would verify that information and respond to members via e-mail.

2. Equipment:

SDFI software was installed in two of the six participating hospitals. The goal is to have the remaining hospitals install completed and the camera utilized in the fall. Logbooks for documenting the chain of custody as well as the program policy for the locked refrigerators have been delivered to four of the hospitals.

3. Community Partners:

The VoiceShot notification system was extended to Connecticut Sexual Assault Crisis Services to allow the same notification as the SAFE Program. In addition, a policy change was implemented removing the responsibility of the advocate notification from the hospitals to the SAFEs.

4. Issues:

A new approach was developed to address an issue with precepting SAFEs within the Program. Precepting SAFEs are now required to be on the schedule.

4. Update: Grant Funding

Brenda reported that the Office of Victim Services is continuing to keep track of grant expenses versus the budget.

5. Update: Connecticut Sexual Assault Crisis Services' Regional Trainings and Statewide Conference

Nancy Kushins reported on two regional trainings that were held on May 6 and May 10, 2011. Nancy stated there were a total of 100 people in attendance which included advocates, law enforcement, and state's attorneys.

Nancy distributed materials for a two-day multi-disciplinary conference entitled "Systems in Sync: Responding to Sexual Assault in Connecticut" that will be held June 16-17, 2011, at Central Connecticut State University. Nancy stated that there are currently 175 registrants. The deadline to register is Wednesday, June 8, 2011.

6. New Business
Brenda reported that the next quarterly meeting will be held in September with a date to be announced via e-mailed.
7. Adjournment
Brenda adjourned the meeting at 2:28 p.m.

Katie Nesta, Recorder