

MINUTES
Sexual Assault Forensic Examiners Advisory Committee
November 14, 2011

The Sexual Assault Forensic Examiners Advisory Committee met at 225 Spring Street, Wethersfield, in the fourth floor conference room on Monday, November 14, 2011, from 2:33 p.m. to 3:42 p.m.

Statutory Members in Attendance:

Chair Linda J. Cimino, Zoe Casey, Laura Cordes, Candida Fusco, and Maureen Platt

Non-Statutory Members in Attendance:

Audrey Courtney, Anna Doroghazi, and Patti LaMonica

Statutory Members Excused or Absent:

Michelle Cruz, Marielle Daniels, Chief Robert J. Hoffman, Joy Reho, Regina Owusu, and Sergeant James Thomas

OVS and SAFE Staff Present:

Denise S. Covington, Deborah Rubio, James Morgan, and Katie Nesta

Agenda:

1. Welcome and Introductions:
Linda J. Cimino called the meeting to order at 2:33 p.m. and welcomed members. Members introduced themselves.
2. Approval of the September 12, 2011 Meeting Minutes:
Linda stated that without a quorum the minutes from September 12, 2011, can not be approved. Members had no questions regarding the September 12, 2011 minutes.
3. SAFE Program Update:
Clinical Coordinator and Role:
Denise Covington introduced the new SAFE Clinical Coordinator Deborah Rubio. Deborah Rubio is a registered nurse who became part of the SAFE Program in the spring of this year.

On Call Response:

Denise reported that since the SAFE Program launched on December 2, 2010, there have been a total of 146 cases among the 6 participating hospitals. There are a total of 16 SAFEs participating in the Program with 10 actively precepting.

Denise also reported on various Program updates and trainings including; a Trauma Coordinators meeting at the Connecticut Hospital Association,

at ASCEND, an annual education event held by the Emergency Nurse Association, and 2 advocate trainings which were held for Hartford/New Britain and Eastern Connecticut Sexual Assault Crisis Services.

Denise reported that all of the SAFEs were trained on the SDFI equipment. Drafts of the SDFI consent and policies were created and are currently in the approval process.

Denise also reported that a meeting will be held for the participating hospitals on December 1, 2011.

Storm Suspension:

Denise reported there have been 3 suspensions of the SAFE Program this year due to inclement weather. Denise provided a handout that was sent to the participating hospitals outlining suspension criteria for the SAFE Program.

Members discussed inclement weather conditions and alternative ways of communication when telephone lines and the Internet are down. Members also discussed notification of Program suspension to the participating hospitals as well as hospital back up procedures for SAFEs.

Goals for 2012:

Denise reported that liaison committees within each of the participating hospitals will be developed. Denise also reported that there will be a section in the OVS brochure outlining step by step instructions to victims on how to report anonymous kits. There will also be focused education for police departments as well as an E-Newsletter containing Program briefs for each of the community partners.

4. Training Update:

Denise reported that a fourth class of nurses has completed the SAFE course training at Quinnipiac University, making a total of 30 SAFEs participating in the Program. Next year 3 courses will be held at Quinnipiac University.

5. Financial Update:

Linda reported that due to a delayed start to the on-call portion of the SAFE Program, the lower number of SAFEs on contract when the Program launched, and less nurses participating in the Quinnipiac University training program, there will be sufficient grant funds available to fund the SAFE Program as currently operational until the end of the grant period (February 28, 2013).

Members discussed the importance of the Program and continuation beyond the grant period.

6. New Business:
Anna Doroghazi reported that since the roll out of the SAFE follow-up surveys on October 1, 2011, there have been a total of 2 surveys returned. Data from the surveys rank SAFEs and advocates high, however police had lower scores.

Members discussed ways to receive more responses from the surveys.

7. Next Meeting Date:
Members discussed the dissolution of the SAFE Advisory Committee in June 2012. The next meeting will be held Tuesday, January 24, 2012, at 2:30 p.m.
8. Adjournment:
Linda adjourned the meeting at 3:42 p.m.

Katie Nesta, Recorder