

MINUTES
Sexual Assault Forensic Examiners Advisory Committee
March 8, 2023

The Sexual Assault Forensic Examiners Advisory Committee met via Microsoft Teams (MS Teams) from 2:02 p.m. to 3:10 p.m.

Members in Attendance: Denise Covington, Chair, Alexis Cordiano, Heather Deming, Beth Hamilton, Rachel Henderson, Brittany Kaplan, Natasha Pierre, Robin Tousey-Ayers, Sherylyn M. Watson

Members unable to attend: Linda J. Cimino, Marielle Daniels, Anne Mahoney

OVS Staff in Attendance: Mary Kozicki, Jean M. Weisbrod, Robin Vincent

Guests in Attendance: Amanda Mendoza, Denise Poncini

Agenda:

1. Welcome and Introductions
Denise Covington, Chair, called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m.
Committee members were advised that the meeting is being recorded and will be available for viewing on the Judicial Branch YouTube Channel.

Denise introduced Robin Vincent as the new Administrative Assistant for the SAFE Program and the SAFE Advisory Committee.

Committee members and invited guests introduced themselves.
2. Approval of January 11, 2023, meeting minutes
Motion to accept by Beth Hamilton and seconded by Robin Tousey-Ayers.
The minutes were approved as presented.
3. Update on the revision of the Department of Public Health Pamphlet
Robin Tousey-Ayers reported that the Connecticut Alliance to End Sexual Violence (The Alliance) focus group completed their review of the pamphlet and that the Department of Public Health (DPH) is now compiling the resource list. A draft of the pamphlet or an update will be provided at the May 10, 2023 meeting.

Robin reported that The Alliance, Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Community Health Center Association of Connecticut, and DPH hosted a webinar, *Trauma-Informed Conversations on Teen Dating Violence*, on February 8, 2023, in recognition of Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month.

4. SAFE Program Website Development Update

Denise reported that the development of the website is complete and can be found at <https://www.jud.ct.gov/crimevictim/safeprogram.htm>.

In addition, the list of SAFEs is now available and has been provided to the Connecticut Hospital Association for distribution to those who qualify to receive this information. The list will be updated twice a year following the Spring and Fall SAFE Program Training sessions.

5. Statewide Discharge Packet

Denise provided information about the contents of the discharge packet which included resources from the DPH, OVS, The Alliance, and CT Coalition Against Domestic Violence.

Committee members discussed issues related to the survey that is included in the discharge packet and provided to patients as a tool to provide feedback regarding the forensic exam and their experience at the hospital emergency departments. The Alliance created and monitors the results of the survey.

6. New Business

Denise reviewed the discussion from the January meeting in regard to the SAFE Advisory Committee's wish to expand the SAFE Program state-wide as a response program.

Denise asked the Committee to take on the task of developing the infrastructure for a state-wide response program, inclusive of needed resources and timeline. The remaining agendas for the year will reflect this new task.

Denise adjourned the meeting at 3:10 p.m.

Jean M. Weisbrod, Recorder