

MINUTES
Sexual Assault Forensic Examiners Advisory Committee
November 20, 2024

The Sexual Assault Forensic Examiners Advisory Committee met in person at the Judicial Branch Office of Victim Services (JB-OVS) 4th Floor conference room, 225 Spring Street, Wethersfield, CT 06109 from 2:05 PM to 4:00 PM.

Members in attendance: Heather Deming, Beth Hamilton, Rachel Henderson, Brittany Kaplan, Mary Kozicki, Sevasti Papakanakis, Sherylyn Watson (via phone)

Members unable to attend: Marielle Daniels, Karen Jubanyik, Kristin Loranger, Anne Mahoney, Natasha Pierre, Robin Tousey-Ayers

JB-OVS staff in attendance: Janet Mantello, Kim McKinnon

Guests in attendance: Denise Poncini

Agenda:

1. Welcome and Introductions
Mary Kozicki, (Chair) called the meeting in order at 2:05 PM. Committee members and guests made introductions.
2. Approval of August 14, 2024 meeting minutes
Minutes for the August 14, 2024 meeting were approved as presented by Heather Deming and seconded by Rachel Henderson.
3. Update from SAFE Response Program Manager
Rachel Henderson provided a SAFE Response Program update including:
 - Current number of precepting SAFEs,
 - Anticipated release of Spring 2025 RFI and significant interest from current SAFEs in Spring 2025 class, and
 - SAFE Response and Training Program manager attendance at:
 - International Association of Forensic Nursing (IAFN) State Coordinators meetings, and
 - Experiential Testimony Training hosted by the University of New England.
4. Update from the SAFE Training Program Manager
Kim McKinnon provided a SAFE Training Program update including:
 - Fall 2024 class completion which included largest number of students to date,
 - Exploring opportunities to expand training capacity, and
 - IAFN accreditation application status.
5. Discharge Packet: DPH Pamphlet
No update available currently.
6. Update on SAEC Kit Revisions and Technical Guidelines
Mary Kozicki reported that the request for proposals closes on November 27th with the proposal review process to commence following bid closure. Continued revision of The Technical Guidelines will commence following the selection of a vendor.
7. Suspect Evidence Collection
It was confirmed that the request for suspect evidence collection utilizing a CT100 is a rare occurrence and does not require additional discussion.
8. Maintaining a SAFE Certificate
Rachel Henderson led a discussion exploring alternate pathways for SAFEs in Connecticut to maintain competency.
9. Appointment of Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP) Designee
Sevi Papakanakis was welcomed as the newest DESPP appointee to the SAFE Advisory Committee.
10. New Business - Committee
Updates from the SAKI workgroup include (1) efforts to explore statute language within C.G.S Sec. 19a-112a subsection (d) to align statute and practice related to reporting and (2) revisions to kit storage.

Mary adjourned the meeting 4:00 PM.
Janet Mantello, Recorder