

Governor's Sexual Assault Kit Working Group (SAKWG)
Meeting Minutes
October 20, 2017

Members Present: Laura Cordes, Linda Cimino, Maureen Platt, Marshall Porter, Guy Vallaro, Anne Mahoney

Members Absent: Kerry Dalling, Michelle Noehren, Cathy Malloy

Guests: Kevin MacMillan, Olivia DeFilippo

Approval of Minutes from September 8: The minutes were reviewed and approved with minor edits.
Linda Cimino moved to approve with edits. Second by Laura.

Updates:

Kit collection and testing numbers to date

Kevin MacMillan distributed updates of the testing results. To date, 1,179 SAKS have been submitted of which 735 have been tested with 79 CODIS hits and 8 conviction matches. The last kit was submitted on June 27th by Thomaston. The definition of "conviction match" was clarified as an instance where a kit tested post-conviction matches the convicted person.

Outstanding kits

Laura spoke about Bridgeport's 16 un-submitted kits and her correspondence with the State's Attorney and the Police Chief. Additional follow-up will be made.

Tracking Software training

Kevin spoke about his visits with the ER nursing staff at hospitals. One thing the nurses would like is adding "Tracking information entered online" to the the checklist in the kits. Some hospitals have used it, some have been great at adopting it quickly, others are working on utilizing it better. Linda invited Kevin to attend a future meeting of SAFE practitioners.

Victim Notification Guidelines:

Review of Sample Call, Sample Letter and Notification Report

Laura reviewed the purpose of the Victim Notification Guidelines Document and summarized the committee's previous discussion of the language in the Sample Phone Script. The group discussed how other states have handled this same topic of discussion. The group members reviewed a proposed addition to the script for special circumstances where law enforcement officers offer an apology for the delay. A consensus was reached and the State's Attorneys noted they would share it with colleagues. Laura will incorporate changes and send updated guidelines.

Fall Trainings:

Members discussed upcoming trainings. Both have been approved by BJA.

- Thursday, November 30: Full day training for State Attorneys at DCJ in Rocky Hill.
- Thursday, December 7: Full day training for Law Enforcement at Farmington PD.
 - Experts will be coming in to speak about trauma informed interviewing.
 - The Alliance has agreed to collect registrations for this workshop.

New Business:

Working group Members

Laura announced that Michelle Noehren has left her position with the Commission on Women Children and Seniors. A recommendation was made that a health care provider/ER nurse be added to the working group.

2nd SAKI Grant Award

CT is 1 of 20 sites that received this funding. Funds will be used to: test approximately 1,000 previously partially tested kits; support a research component; hire an investigator in the chief state's attorney's office; as well as hire a victim advocate from The Alliance to team notification with the investigator. Laura will work with Dr. Vallaro to organize a meeting of the partners. Funds are expected in early spring of 2018.

Press Conference

The Governor will hold a press conference will be held on November 17th at 1:30 PM at the LOB to announce the new grant. Members discussed work group achievements to date that could be highlighted at the press conference. In addition to the second SAKI grant, committee members discusses progress to date of items that could be highlighted

- 70 % of kits tested to date
- Success in turning in kits
- One of the only states to voluntarily identify untested kits from all PDs in two surveys
- New tracking system set in place
- Coordinated response and procedure to CODIS hits
- Development of Victim Notification Guidelines
- Retesting of partially tested kits (only ~1 other state also looks at those)

SAKI Specialist

Plan to have a specialist to coordinate notification teams

Report

In Michelle's absence, Laura will seek support for the development of a report on the working group's progress.

Meeting Dates for Fall 2017:

- Friday, November 17, 2:30 - 4pm NOTE meeting will be held at the LOB in Hartford, room TBD
- Friday, December 8, 2:30 - 4pm at the Division of Scientific Service

Meeting Adjourned at 4:03 PM