

Governor's Sexual Assault Kit Working Group (SAKWG)

Meeting Minutes

March 9, 2018

Members Present: Laura Cordes, Kerry Dalling, Marshall Porter, Guy Vallaro, Anne Mahoney, Linda Cimino

Members Absent: Cathy Malloy, Maureen Platt

Guests: Laura Varelas, Kevin MacMillan, Lady Mendoza

Approval of Minutes from February 9th: The minutes were reviewed and approved with minor edits. Linda Cimino abstained.

Updates:

Kit Collection and Numbers to Date:

Kevin MacMillan distributed updates of the testing results. The submitted number of tests has stayed the same. 80% of the kits have been tested. The kits that were sent to the vendor should come back in June.

Tracking: Hospitals will get more involved with the tracking of the kits. CHA and the SAFE program are starting to work together to ensure efficiency when tracking the kits.

Training: Members discussed the possibility of a training for law enforcement in the summer. Joyful Heart Foundation and other speakers will be invited to discuss victim notification practices.

Discussion:

Victim Notification Rollout:

Guidelines: Victim Notification Committee (VNC) had a conference call on March 2, 2018 and discussed final approval of guidelines. The Victim Notification guidelines have now been approved for public distribution by BJA. Final Guidelines were distributed to SAKWG members. Next VNC call will take place on May 4, 2018.

DNA Hit Notification Letter: After a letter regarding a CODIS hit is sent to Police Chiefs, Kevin will send an additional letter 1 day after the initial CODIS letter indicating that there was a CODIS hit to Police Departments, State's Attorney's, Member Centers, and the SAKWG Chair. Sample copies of the letter were distributed. No changes were made.

Letter to the Municipal PD Chiefs: Chief Porter and Detective Dalling shared their draft letter for chiefs regarding SAKI cases and notification guidelines. Feedback and suggested edits were recorded by the SAKI specialist and a revised draft will be sent out for last edits in March.

Regional Meetings: Following the Approval of the Victim Notification Guidelines, meetings will start to take place with PD's and Members Centers to discuss notification practices. Kevin and SAKI specialist will also be involved in those meetings. Kevin indicated that Guidelines should go onto the CT Alliance to End Sexual Violence Website and the Chief letter will be sent and then victims will start to get notified of CODIS hits going forward.

SB17: AN ACT PROMOTING FAIRNESS IN ACCESS TO INFORMATION, SUPPORT, AND JUSTICE FOR SEXUAL ASSAULT VICTIMS:

On 2/27/2018, Laura C, Maureen Platt, a representative from the Joyful Heart Foundation, and several speakers from The Alliance testified in support of bill SB 17 in the Public Safety Committee. Several committee members asked questions. An amendment was added to this bill that changed the word "barcode" to "electronic device."

House Bill 5222 is the bill that was presented to the Public Safety Committee which differs from SB 17, by focusing on one section of the bill and suggests that the Evidence Commission only *examine* ways to ensure that survivors have access to information about their kit.

NEXT MEETING

Several members have a conflict with Friday, April 13th.

Members agreed to move April's meeting to Friday, April 20th.

The May meeting date will remain the same: Friday, May 11th 2018 2:30-4pm.

Meeting Adjourned at 4:06pm