

Governor's Sexual Assault Kit Working Group (SAKWG)

Meeting Minutes

May 18, 2018

Members Present: Laura Cordes, Kerry Dalling, Maureen Platt, Dr. Guy Vallaro

Members Absent: Cathy Malloy, Linda Cimino, Anne Mahoney, Chief Marshall Porter

Guests: Laura Varelas, Dr. Michael Bourke

Approval of Minutes from April 20: Maureen Platt and Detective Dalling motioned to approve the minutes from last meeting. The minutes were reviewed and approved with minor edits.

Updates:

Testing: Dr. Bourke reported that there was minimal change in the number of kits tested. There were 10 more profiles entered into CODIS with 1-2 hits. He reported that there was a slight delay in testing due to an audit at the lab. Dr. Vallaro reported that the lab is working on hiring a new SAKI Coordinator.

Training: Laura V. reported that there was a workshop on Tuesday May 15, 2018 for SAKI member center victim advocates on victim notification. Advocates will be beginning to notify victims with detectives upon receiving CODIS hits. Detective Dalling and Dr. Michael Bourke also spoke at the workshop.

Victim Notification Rollout: Laura V. spoke to the group about victim notification rollout. Members discussed ways to encourage collaboration between police departments and victim advocates. Laura C. Dr. Vallaro, and Chief Porter will reach out to the CPCA to schedule a meeting.

Regional Meetings: Laura V. reported that regional meetings will begin in the Ansonia-Milford judicial district in the next few weeks. Peggy Pisano, Director of Victim Services at the Rape Crisis Center of Milford will work with Laura V. to help organize this meeting for key stakeholders.

Passage of SB 17: Laura C. announced that SB 17 passed in the House and the Senate. It is anticipated that the Governor will have a bill-signing ceremony which Working Group members will be invited to.

Division of Scientific Services Active Caseload: *Dr. Bourke and Dr. Vallaro noted that there are 424 current sexual assault kits that need to be processed. This number is out of a total of 2616 forensic biology/DNA related evidence brought to the lab. The backlog of current cases is a result of a number of factors including- an increase in demand for processing evidence (including the 900 + SAKI cases), the state's fiscal crisis which has slowed the ability to hire staff in the appropriate departments, and unexpected staff turnover. Kits are now taking about twice as long to process - up 145 days from 60 days. Outsourced labs are also at capacity. The lab has been working with the Administration to address the issue and has received approval to hire 4 new staff members. Typically new employees must complete 6-12 months of training before they can process and test kits*

Next Meeting:

June 8th, 2018 2:30-4pm

Meeting Adjourned 3:45pm