

Governor's Sexual Assault Kit Working Group
Meeting Minutes
September 14, 2018 (draft)

Members Present: Laura Cordes, Kerry Dalling, Dr. Guy Vallaro, Anne Mahoney, Linda Cimino

Members Absent: Marshall Porter, Maureen Platt

Guests: Laura Varelas, Dr. Michael Bourke, Emma Durgin

Approval of Meeting Minutes from July 13: Laura C. motioned to approve minutes from July 13. Minutes were approved with no edits.

Updates:

Kit Tracking and Testing: Dr. Bourke shared his monthly report on kit numbers (see attached) and reported that all untested kits submitted in 2015 have been tested to completion and there were a total of 104 CODIS Hits.

Dr. Bourke will present a spreadsheet at the next meeting to review all CODIS hits.

The partially tested kits (kits from 1995-2008 that were tested for DNA at the lab but not entered into CODIS) that are covered under the 2017 SAKI Grant were sent to the outsourced lab to be tested. They are being held to allow for active cases to be tested, which will help decrease the number of active cases that are pending as active cases are taking upwards of 5 months to test. Dr. Vallaro reported that the state has provided additional JAG funding to complete the testing of active kits.

Regional Meetings: Laura V. reported that regional meetings that bring together police departments and The Alliance member center sexual assault victim advocates by judicial district to discuss victim notification are taking place across the state. There have been meetings in Milford, New Britain, and Stamford-Norwalk thus far. Meetings will continue to best scheduled through the rest of the year. There has been lots of positive feedback on the Victim Notification Guidelines and Laura V. thanked Chief Porter, Detective Dalling and Dr. Bourke for their participation at the regional meetings.

Victim Notification: Laura V. shared new monthly report that she will provide regarding the status of Victim Notification (see attached) following the SAKI Victim Notification letters being sent out. Out of 104 CODIS hits to date, there have been 18 letters that have been sent out from the lab to community stakeholders letting them know there was a CODIS hit in a case. Out of the 18 letters:

- 8 meetings were held between the advocates and police officers to notify the victim. Of these:
 - 2 victims were notified over the phone
 - 3 victims were not able to be reached
 - 3 police officers declined to notify the victim after meeting the advocate

- There were 2 cases where the officer declined to meet the advocate and declined to notify the victim
- 6 meetings are pending between advocates and officers to discuss notification
- There is 1 case where the officer notified the victim without the advocate present
- There is 1 case where the status is unknown if the police officer made contact with the advocate to discuss notification

Stakeholder Trainings 2018: Laura V. and Dr. Bourke updated the group on trainings for police officers to be held at the end of 2018 and the beginning of 2019. They reported that after speaking with RTI because the 2017 SAKI grant is a grant and not a cooperative agreement, there are no restrictions for training approval. The group decided that a training the first week in December 2018 will be planned with funding from the 2017 SAKI grant and then an additional training would be planned for Spring 2019.

Discussion:

The Working Group discussed Victim Notification for 79 kits with CODIS hits that pre-date the SAKI Victim Notification letters being sent out to community partners. It was decided that the Division of Scientific Services would send letters for the 79 CODIS hits and slightly modify the letters to remind Police Departments to reach out to their local victims advocates to meet to discuss notification.

Meeting Adjourned 3:52pm

Fall Meeting Dates

October 12, 2018 2:30-4pm

November 9, 2018 2:30-4pm

December 14, 2018 2:30-4pm