

Governor's Sexual Assault Kit Working Group (SAKWG)
Meeting Minutes
November 17, 2017

Members Present: Laura Cordes, Maureen Platt, Guy Vallaro, Anne Mahoney

Members Absent: Kerry Dalling, Cathy Malloy, Linda Cimino, Marshall Porter

Guests: Kevin MacMillan, Olivia DeFilippo, Ashlei Flemming, Eleanor Michael

Approval of Minutes from October 20: The minutes were reviewed and approved with minor edits.
Maureen Platt moved to approve with edits. Second by Dr. Vallaro.

Updates:

Kit collection and testing numbers to date

Kevin MacMillan distributed updates of the testing results. To date 1,188 SAKS have been submitted of which 760 have been tested with 81 CODIS hits and 9 conviction matches.

Outstanding kits

All kits identified from the 2015 survey have been sent to the lab for testing, including those recently received from Bridgeport. A total of 25 kits were recently submitted from Bridgeport. 9 were identified in the 2015 and 2016 survey. The other kits were from cases in 2015 and 2016, and they expect to be done testing all the kits by late spring of 2018.

Tracking Software Training

Many hospitals are responding to Kevin and integrating the new tracking program.

Victim Notification Guidelines

Laura thanked everyone for the work on the guidelines. A PO Box address was set up in East Hartford and added to the guidelines in order to allow PDs to use that address for correspondence with victims about their cases. The guidelines are pending approval by BJA.

Fall Trainings

- November 30: This will be a full day training for States Attorneys at DCJ in Rocky Hill. The experts coming to speak at the event are Patti Powers and John Wilkenson. This training will be recorded so that people can view it online Attorneys can receive CLE credit for attending.
- December 7: This will be a full day training for Law Enforcement at Farmington PD. This training will be based around the physiological effects of trauma. The experts coming to speak at the event are Kelly Taylor and Jordan Satinsky. Police officers can earn Post credits for attending this training. Kevin is managing set up and day of logistics. The Alliance created and forwarded a training registration online and will manage registration. It was sent to CPCA and other officers. Maureen will send out the training information to the chiefs.

Victim Notification:

DNA Letters

Laura asks the group at what point can they start the letters. More information is required in order to set the letters up.

SAKI Specialist

Ashlei Flemming is the new SAKI Specialist. She has worked with the CT Alliance to End Sexual Violence for 6 years as a victim advocate on the specialized probation sex offender management unit. Her work has involved notifying victims when offenders return to the community on probation. As a former SACS volunteer advocate, she has supported victims through the forensic exam at the hospital.

Approach to Training on Guidelines

Members discussed how best to approach training for notification teams. The request for National Trainers cannot be met for several months, so members agreed to see if a regional approach could work. Members also discussed how to engage more members of the criminal justice system in applying best practice to investigating and prosecuting sexual assault cases in the field. Laura will reach out to Joyful Heart and NJP.

2nd SAKI Grant Award

A Press Conference will be held on December 15 at 11:30am Room 1A of the LOB

Speakers include the Governor and First Lady, and will highlight that the state has received not only the SAKI Grant Award but also a competitive grant that will allow the state to compare the current testing method, which involves serologically searching the evidence for body fluids with a newer method, termed male DNA screening. With this new screening method you are processing evidence items directly to DNA testing and searching for the presence or absence of male DNA. The Governor's office will organize speakers. Members discussed having a kit with a tracking barcode on hand for a visual

Partners Meeting

Members discussed holding a partner's meeting in early 2018

2018 Meeting Dates:

- Friday, December 8, 2017 2:30 - 4pm at the Division of Scientific Service
- Friday, January 12, 2018 2:30 - 4pm
- Friday February 9, 2018 2:30 - 4pm
- Friday March 9, 2018 2:30 - 4pm
- Friday April 13, 2018 2:30 - 4pm
- Friday May 11, 2018 2:30 - 4pm

Meeting Adjourned at 3:48 PM