

## **Governor's Sexual Assault Kit Working Group**

### **Meeting Minutes**

**July 13, 2018 (draft)**

**Members Present:** Chief Marshall Porter, Detective Kerry Dalling, Linda Cimino, Detective Kerry Dalling, Anne Mahoney, Dr. Guy Vallaro, Laura Cordes

**Members Absent:** Maureen Platt

**Guests:** Dr. Michael Bourke, Laura Varelas

**Approval of Minutes from May 18:** Laura Cordes and Detective Dalling motioned to approve meeting minutes from May 18. Chief Porter, Linda Cimino, and Anne Mahoney abstained. Minutes were approved with no edits.

#### **Updates:**

2015 Kit Testing and Tracking: Dr. Bourke reported on the number of kits that are left to be tested. All remaining data to outsourced lab is being worked on and final 23 kits are being worked on at the lab. It is anticipated that tested will be completed on the remaining kits by the end of August.

2017 SAKI Grant-Testing on the first partially-tested kits supported through the 2017 SAKI grant will begin this year. These are cases where forensic biology tests were already completed. There are 1008 partially tested kits. It is anticipated that there will be 300-400 CODIS hits on these kits due to 60% of the kits had foreign DNA in them.

Regional Meetings: Laura V. reported that regional meetings between sexual assault victim advocates and police officers to learn about victim notification are in the process of being scheduled. Regional meetings are scheduled for towns in parts of the following judicial districts: Milford-Ansonia JD, towns in Waterbury JD and New Britain JD.

Victim Notification: Laura V. reported that victim notification is moving forward with member center victim advocates and police departments. Out of 14 cases, there were 6 cases where victim advocates met with detectives and moved forward with the victim notification process. The remaining 9 cases were cases where the detectives decided not to move forward with contacting the victim.

PA 18-83: Laura C. reported that both she and Dr. Bourke met with Marielle Daniels from the Connecticut Hospital Association regarding training for hospitals on the new UPS tracking

system for kits as required under Public Act 18-83. Guidelines for evidence collection will be drafted and offered as required by the Commission on the Standardization of the Collection of Evidence in Sexual Assault Investigations. The Connecticut Hospital Association and the Division of Scientific Services will put a training together by October 1st, 2018. There will be 2 recorded webinar trainings available for hospitals which will then be re-posted for viewing.

**Discussion:** Members discussed possible training for PD's regarding SAKI cases. Topics that were introduced were trauma-informed interviewing, case review of previous SAKI cases, and Sexual Assault and homicide. Speakers on trauma informed interviewing will be brought to the training and will include lecture followed-by group work and roll-play. The training will tentatively be held during the 1st week of December.

Dr. Bourke suggested that group members explore the numbers of kits being sent to hospitals that may be used for trainings or are unable to be used and coming up with a system to track these kits so they are not assumed utilized and missing.

**Next Meeting Date:** September 14, 2018 2:30-4pm

**Meeting Adjourned:** 3:42pm