

Governor's Sexual Assault Kit Working Group (SAKWG)

Meeting Minutes

December 9, 2016

Members Present: Laura Cordes, Anne Mahoney, Kerry Dalling, Guy Vallaro, Michelle

Noehren, Linda Cimino, Marshall Porter, Maureen Platt

Members Absent: Cathy Malloy, Kerry Dalling

Guests: Kevin MacMillan

I. Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was convened at 2:10pm

II. Approval of Meeting Minutes from November 18 , 2016

The minutes of the November 18, 2016 meeting were discussed and approved.

III. Updates

Kevin Macmillan updated the group regarding the purchase of software to track the Ct-100 kits and provided an update on the total number of "untested" kits submitted to the lab, the number tested, as well as the number of CODIS hits to date. (A summary sheet was distributed to SAKWG members) Numbers were presented by Judicial District as well. A total of 891 kits have been received by the lab. As of December there were 40 CODIS hits.

Laura Cordes reported that discussions have been held with the New Haven and Fairfield State's Attorneys' Offices to set up meetings to discuss the progress that has been made processing the older sexual kits, and what steps should next be taken to review these cases.

Members reviewed the new survey which will be sent out to law enforcement agencies to determine the number of kits being held, and to account for any kits that were previously reported as being held which have not yet been submitted to the state lab.

A discussion was held regarding the importance of gaining the support of Law Enforcement in making sure that the kits are brought to the lab in a timely fashion, and in completing and returning the new survey. It was agreed that a request should be made to Police Chief Association President Chief John Salvatore to arrange for a speaker at their next meeting to discuss the SAKI group and the importance of timely kit testing.

The Victim Notification Protocol Subcommittee will be holding a meeting on December 19, 2016 at the office of the Connecticut Alliance to End Sexual Violence in East Hartford.

IV. New SAKI Grant Solicitation

The 2017 SAKI grant solicitation was discussed. Dr. Vallaro reported that only 50% of the funds applied for can be used for DNA testing. The intent is to test approximately 1000 kits which were submitted prior to 2008. Unlike the current kits identified in 2015, these kits were sent to the lab, but were only screened for biological materials due to the policy at the lab during this time. Other possible uses for the grant funds were discussed. It was suggested that funding could be provided for an Inspector in the Chief State's Attorney's Office to coordinate the processing of sexual assault kits and other related issues. The need for a researcher was also discussed.

V. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the SAKWG will be held on January 13, 2017 at 2PM at the Forensic Laboratory, 278 Colony Street, Meriden.