

Governor's Sexual Assault Kit Working Group (SAKWG)
Meeting Minutes
February 10, 2017

Members Present: Laura Cordes, Kerry Dalling, Linda Cimino, Marshall Porter, Maureen Platt, Anne Mahoney, Guy Vallaro

Members Absent: Cathy Malloy, Michelle Noehren

Guests: Kevin MacMillan, Kristin Sasinouski, Christine Landino, Eleanor Michael

I. Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was convened at 2:10pm

II. Approval of Meeting Minutes from January 13, 2017

The minutes of the January 13, 2017 meeting were reviewed and approved.

III. Updates

Unprocessed Kit Collection and Testing Numbers to Date

Mr. Macmillan updated the group that there has been one additional CODIS hit since the last report for a total of 41. Additional hits are anticipated. While private vendors are doing some of the testing, they do not enter or have access to CODIS. The lab does a review of the results before they are entered into CODIS.

Software Update

Mr. MacMillan reported that En Pointe Technologies has a contract with the State of Connecticut for software purchasing. Mr. MacMillan, UPS, and En Pointe have spoken about this software purchase. A decision memo has been submitted internally with DESPP and there are no IT barriers. There is a \$608.00 monthly hosting fee. The software purchase will hopefully be completed soon. At the next meeting Mr. MacMillan hopes to have more about the purchase and how hospitals will be trained on using the technology. In the interim, the lab is tracking all the kits with a spreadsheet.

Stakeholder Meeting

Ms. Cordes has scheduled a meeting on March 9th with the New Haven State's Attorney and the Sexual Assault Unit in New Haven to review the cases with CODIS hits in their Judicial District. Ms. Cordes encouraged OVS Victim Service Advocate attendance.

Survey Results

Ms. Cordes acknowledged an increase in responses since the January meeting and thanked Ms. Mahoney and Ms. Platt for their assistance in engaging State's Attorneys in ensuring responses from police departments in their respective Judicial Districts. The numbers have increased. Thus far there are 53 newly identified untested kits.

Ms. Cordes reported that 25 towns have not reported. Members agreed to extend the deadline through March 3rd in order to reach 100% participation. Mr. MacMillan will divide up the outstanding towns by judicial district and forward back out to the State's Attorney.

Training Dates

Captain Porter has scheduled a time with the SAKI technical assistance provider, RTI and the International Chief of Police representative to coordinate a state visit on either May 3rd or May 4th.

Ms. Dalling has contacted POST University to reserve the auditorium for September 11th and 12th for law enforcement training.

Mr. MacMillan, Ms. Cordes, and Ms. Dalling agreed to do a draft agenda before it goes to RTI. It was suggested that the second day of training could be a workshop and officers can bring their files. It was also suggested to film the training.

Victim Notification Guidelines (VNG)

Ms. Cordes thanked subcommittee members for their time and effort. There have been three meetings to discuss framework. Thus far members felt strongly that the proposal for notification should be considered guidelines and not protocols, allowing for discretion, and sensitivity to both case dynamics and victims needs. While members imagine that at somepoint a letter should be sent to victims in ALL cases regardless of a CODIS hit, that the initial focus of notification efforts and guidelines would be for the notification of victims where there is a CODIS hit and where there is a determination that the investigation should either be started or reopened. Members are propping that for each CODIS hit case, that a team consisting of the local law enforcement officer, State's Attorney, and sexual assault victim advocats review the case to make this determination. If a decision is made to reopen or begin an investigation, nofication would be conducted in tandem by the local detective and victim advocate.

Committee members are working on a draft of the guidelines for review at the next full SAKWG meeting. The next meeting of the VNG Committee is scheduled for Wednesday March 1, 2017 from 9:30-12:00 at the Alliance office in East Hartford.

SAKI Grant Application

Dr. Vallaro and Mr. MacMillan reported that the 2017 SAKI Grant is due March 2, 2017. The focus of the grant is on the following items:

- *Testing* previously submitted but only partially tested kits (where no DNA was previously done)
- *Researching* the unsubmitted kit cases for demographics of victims and perpetrators, factors that led to kit being used or not, or the investigation moving forward or not and and to help identify best practices in investigations and utilization of evidence for future SA cases
- *Investigating cases* through the support of an investigator in the Chief State Attorney's office who would work with State's Attorneys on these cases
- *Supporting Victim Notification* through the hiring of a victim notification coordinator through Connecticut Alliance to End Sexual Violence who would work with the Inspector and coordinate cases among sexual assault crisis centers

Members discussed the approach that the researcher would take if the grant was successful. With nearly 900 kits, researchers would not be able to examine each case file. Members discussed a number of options: sampling cases from all towns; one Judicial District or several town/city types. Additional suggestions were made to conduct qualitative interviews, a focus group and or or a survey of police departments as to why they believe kits were not submitted.

(Note: From Detroit we need to look at how did the cities who did the research choose? Detroit looked at 100 cases which took a few days to examine.)

Mr. Macmillan reported that this is the first year that SAKI grants will allow for partially tested grants. The anticipated start date is October 1, 2017. Notification to the successfull awardees will be in late summer early fall.

Next Meeting

Members discussed and agreed to push back the start of the monthly meeting time from 2pm to 2:30pm The next SAKWG meeting is scheduled for **Friday, March 10th from 2:30pm - 4:00pm** at the Division of Scientific Services, Forensic Science Laboratory.