

Governor's Sexual Assault Kit Working Group (SAKWG)

Meeting Minutes

October 14, 2016

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

Members Absent: Cathy Malloy, Linda Cimino, Marshall Porter

Invited Guests: Eleanor Michael, Kevin MacMillan, Denise Covington (representing Ms. Cimino)

I. Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was convened at 2:05pm

II. Approval of Meeting Minutes from September 9, 2016

Ms. Mahoney noted typos to correct in the minutes. The minutes were approved unanimously with correction of the typos.

III. SAKI Grant Update

Untested Kit Collection and Testing numbers to date

Mr. MacMillan reported 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 861 kits have been received by the lab, which is 100 less than was reported on the CONNSACS survey. 192 of these kits will be outsourced for processing. This outsourcing is expected to begin shortly. Mr. MacMillan noted that the Connecticut numbers are in line with national averages.

Tracking Software

Dr. Vallaro reported that he communicated with DAS regarding the sole source acquisition of the tracking software. He estimated that if the sole source acquisition is approved in the next month or so, we could likely complete the purchase of the software by the beginning of the year.

Mr. MacMillan added that because the kits are already bar coded kits will not be lost, regardless of when the software is ultimately obtained.

Ms. Covington inquired whether it would make sense to set aside kits without barcodes for training purposes. Mr. MacMillan responded that the reason for the software is to insure that the kits get returned to the lab. It is expected that there will be some that "fall through the cracks," and that is preferable than having kits in circulation that do not have bar codes. Ms. Cordes suggested this might be an appropriate conversation topic for discussion at the Evidence Commission.

Training and Technical Assistance Request Process

Mr. MacMillan reported that it takes 6 months to set up a training using the SAKI grant funds due to the BJA's extensive approval process, and in order to begin this process, we would need a hard date for the training, as well as a site for the training.

Ms. Cordes shared that instead of a more formal training using grant funds at this juncture, RTI would send an expert to host a discussion with police chiefs about the for no cost. Ms. Dalling offered that there is a meeting of the Capitol Region police chiefs in one month, and that might be an appropriate place to have this discussion. Ms. Cordes stated that Chief Salvatore is open to this idea, and indicated that there was a consensus of the group to move forward with it.

Mr. MacMillan discussed reaching out to towns to remind them how many kits they indicated they had in the initial survey, and how many remaining they still have not transferred to the lab. Ms. Platt stated that she will share the chart that she created for the Waterbury region meeting at the State's Attorney's meeting, and Ms. Cordes indicated that she would send something to the police departments indicating that the lab is still missing about 100 kits.

III. SAKWG Workplan Updates

Ms. Cordes stated that we had in our SAKWG Workplan a goal of issuing another survey of untested kits in November. Our initial survey was done before we received the SAKI grant, and the grant terms require more detailed information, such as an Agency ID number for every police department. She also indicated that some states found there were kits at hospitals, and hospitals were not included in our initial survey. Ms. Cordes indicated that she will work on drafting a new survey that will be presented at the next meeting.

There was general discussion about communicating with police departments about another survey to encourage strong statewide response. Ms. Cordes indicated that she would draft a letter regarding the survey to notify them of the intent and timing.

DNA Databank Oversight Panel

Ms. Cordes, Dr. Vallaro and Mr. MacMillan and Ms. Platt met with Kevin Kane and Mike Gailor regarding the tracking of cases that come to this Panel's attention. There was agreement to pay close attention to the the SA cases and Mr. MacMillan indicated he sent and will continue to send a listing of CODIS hits to Mike Gailor so he will know which cases are SA cases

Judicial District Meetings

Ms. Platt reported that the first judicial district meeting was held in Waterbury. She said that victim services and the police were present, as well as Mr. MacMillan and Ms. Cordes. She requested that the police and prosecutors present specific case information and details on kits that were not tested. In particular, an explanation of underlying facts and details for cases in which there is a CODIS hit. She is working on a way to chart all of the information received, and will encourage other state's attorneys to use the same format. Ms. Platt indicated that Chief Reddick was very supportive.

Ms. Cordes thanked Ms. Platt for setting the stage for other upcoming Judicial District meetings, and indicated that there was an agreement that the police and prosecutors should work together with the

community based sexual assault victim advocates and court based victim services advocates going forward in cases that are reopened and where victim notification is needed.

Mr. MacMillan concurred that it was an excellent meeting, and that getting that additional data was very helpful.

There was general discussion about how there has been a shift in the law enforcement community on this topic and how the police have learned a lot and been very cooperative, but there is still work to do.

Victim Notification

Ms. Cordes stated that the group needs to come up with its own victim notification protocol. She invited members of the group to join the member programs, who are discussing this topic, on Monday, November 14th at 2:00pm at the Alliance in East Hartford. Ms. Noehren and Ms. Dalling indicated that they would attend that meeting.

IV. Next Steps

Ms. Michael shared that Captain Marshall Porter of the Farmington Police Department had been appointed by the Governor to the SAKWG and would be joining the group at its next meeting.

Ms. Dalling suggested creating a liaison in each police department on sexual assault and Ms. Cordes agreed that was a good idea, and suggested we could propose that as regional meetings with PDs are conducted.

V. Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, November 18th at 2pm in the State Capitol Room

VI. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 4:05pm