Quarterly Meeting
Sexual Assault Forensic Examination (SAFE) Commission
of the
West Virginia Governor's Commission on Crime, Delinquency and Correction
5/28/2025

Members Present:

Nancy Hoffman	WV Foundation for Rape Information and Services
Debra Lopez-Bonasso	WV Foundation for Rape Information and Services
Dave Miller	WV State Police Forensic Laboratory
Tracy Shroyer-Carlyle	WV Child Advocacy Network
Terry Fenger	Marshall University Forensic Science Center
Tiffany Edwards	WVU Forensic and Investigative Science Programs
Katie Spriggs	Eastern Panhandle Empowerment Center
Larry Hasley	WVSAKI Project
Beth Cook	Director of Child Advocacy Center
Hallie Morgan	WV Hospital Association

Members Not Present:

Jonathan Adler	WV Association of Counties
Angelita Nixon	SANE Representative
John McComas	WV DHHR
Dr. Joan Phillips	CAMC Pediatrics Abuse Specialist
Dr. Christopher Goode	Emergency Room Physician
Gabrielle Mucciola	WV Prosecuting Attorneys Association

Guest:

Nikki Godfrey	WV Foundation for Rape Information and Services

DAS/JCS Staff Present:

Brittany DeCrease	WV SANE Coordinator
Ellen Vance	Criminal Justice Specialist Program Manager
Carol Blankenship	JCS Criminal Justice Specialist
Erica Turley	Research Specialist
Brad Bailey	Programs Assistant Director
Wendy Fink	Administrative Services Assistant

Welcome and Introductions: Chairperson Nancy Hoffman welcomed SAFE Commission members to the meeting and introduced Nikki Godfrey from WVFRIS.

Approval of 2/6/2025 Meeting Minutes: Tracy Shroyer-Carlyle made the motion to approve the minutes of the 2/6/2025 meeting. Beth Cook seconded the motion. Motion carried.

2024 Emergency Legislative Rule: The definitions for 'adolescent' and 'pediatric' were not included in the revised Rule. As per the recommendation of the House legislative attorney, a definition can be made by the Commission as a "policy" that will be added into the Legislative

Rule when it is resubmitted in 2030. After discussion and based upon IAFN standards and the recommendation of WV SANE Coordinator Brittany DeCrease, Tiffany Edwards made the motion for the definition of pediatric to be "pre-puberty, Tanner stage 1 or 2." The adolescent definition will be "post-puberty up to age 18 with a Tanner stage of 3 or above." Tracy seconded the motion. Motion carried. Brittany will compile an introductory paragraph to frame the two definitions. The Commission discussed adding a policy when pediatrics and adolescents refuse an exam. A work group was designated (Brittany, Tracy, Debra Bonasso) to work on these recommendations and definitions. It was suggested that these definitions be added to trainings for hospitals and law enforcement.

SAFE Commission Website Update: Erica Turley reported that an outline for the setup of the website pages has been compiled. It will include the SAFE Commission, annual reports, county plans, SANE information, kit tracking guide and SAKI. The work group is still gathering information for the individual pages.

WV SANE Coordinator's Report: Brittany stated that from February to May, 39 nurses completed WVFRIS' online didactic adult course. Four clinical skills days and 4 practicum skills trainings were held. Attendees included February training - 4 from Mon Health; March training - 16 from Cabell and St. Mary's; May training – nurses from CAMC, Camden Clark, and Wheeling, along with 2 NPs. From February to May, the total number of medical professionals taking the in-person courses was 37 for the clinical and 36 for the practicum. From May 2024 to May 2025, 150 have taken the online didactic course, 132 the clinical training, and 112 the practicum skills day. In June, trainings are scheduled at Cabell (15 registrations so far) for the clinical day and CAMC for the practicum skills day; July at MHMC (19) and WVU Steps, and in October at CAMC (3). To date, 29 nurses have submitted and been approved for their AA-SANE status, 10 have submitted for their PA-SANE, with 9 being approved.

WVFRIS relaunched a mini-grant for SANE equipment in February 2025, with 10 hospitals participating. The WV SANE/SAFE Discharge document has been created with guidelines to ensure all patients' discharge needs are met. A sample discharge information packet was created for hospitals seeking discharge materials to provide to patients to satisfy the requirements of the Legislative Rule. A pediatric clinical log had a drafted version in 2024, but Brittany created a group to address the clinical log and the unique needs of WV examiners to obtain the training they need. A checklist has been created for hospitals regarding the new legislative requirements. The transfer/treatment document and the hospital plans and rules have been updated. WVFRIS' online pediatric course has 2 remaining modules that need to be completed. Once finalized, these will be uploaded to WVFRIS's learning management system. A contractor will need to be selected to create the pediatric clinical skills course. WVFRIS is partnering with WVCAN in a project to attempt to pair students with CACs to gain experience in pediatric exams. Brittany hosted a webinar on 5/27/2025 with 61 participants to provide WV hospitals with an update on the Legislative Rule requirements, edits to the documents, and to answer any questions. During this webinar, it was requested that the hospitals' SANE Coordinators/Champions meet. A meeting has been scheduled for 6/23/25. Brittany is hosting open virtual office hours on 6/19/2025.

SAFE Standards Sub-Committee Work Group Update: The work group met 8 times since the last SAFE meeting. There are 33 counties with completed plans; all counties have submitted

updates. Currently, 22 still have no plan approved, with 11 of those just waiting on MOUs. JCS has added special conditions to two grant applications to require completed plans for funding eligibility.

SAFE Training Sub-Committee Update: Provided via the WV SANE Coordinator's report.

SAFE Data Collection Sub-Committee Update: Dave Miller reported that the crime lab has 650-700 kits on hand. There seems to be a 10% increase in kits received. Dave would like to do a new order of kits by November; some updates will be needed.

In the Legislative Rule, sections 7.4 and 7.5 require that the Commission address the disposal and repackaging of older non-reported kits. Dave Miller and Marshall University Forensic Science Center's (MUFSC) Terry Fenger and an additional MUFSC staff person will meet to develop a protocol to recommend to the Commission.

Legislative Audit by WV Legislature's Performance Evaluation and Research Division: The Commission is being audited by the WV Legislature's Performance Evaluation and Research Division as part of an audit of JCS. Nancy has met with auditors twice and responded in writing to three sets of questions. The auditors' findings and recommendations will be presented to a legislative committee in November.

SAFE Commission Role in Handling Complaints: A preliminary discussion was held on the role of the Commission in handling compliance complaints. This discussion will continue at the next meeting. Dave will share a complaint/feedback form that the lab utilizes.

SAKI Project Update: The WV State Police has created a WV State Police Violent Crime Task Force. The State Police have partnered to assist with investigating the CODIS hit cases in the SAKI project, previously committing 2 BCI officers and 2 civilian retired state trooper investigators. They recently committed 6 troopers, one from each troop to help with obtaining local contacts. Along with the Task Force, SAKI Project Coordinator Larry Hasley trained the original 4 troopers in March on how to respond to sex crime victims and will be training the 6 new troopers in July. During the 1st quarter of 2025, the project cleared 40 CODIS hits across the state. At WVFRIS' sexual assault symposium, Larry introduced the SAKI project and made some additional contacts. The project is having an impact: from one victim interview, 6 additional victims from assaults going back to the 70s-90s were identified. None of the 6 victims had filed a police report. The serial rapist was charged and the perpetrator, who confessed to the crimes, was extradited back to WV.

Other Business: The election of officers will be held in August. Nancy (chairperson) will be retiring at the end of the year, and Dave (vice-chair) is finalizing his retirement plans as well.

Next Meeting: By consensus, the next virtual meeting will be on August 21st at 9 a.m.