Quarterly Meeting
Sexual Assault Forensic Examination (SAFE) Commission
of the
West Virginia Governor's Commission on Crime, Delinquency and Correction
10/30/2025

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
Larry Hasley	WV SAKI Project
Hallie Morgan	WV Hospital Association
Gabrielle Mucciola	WV Prosecuting Attorneys Association
Beth Cook	Director of Child Advocacy Center
Dr. Christopher Goode	Emergency Room Physician

Members Not Present:

Katie Spriggs	Eastern Panhandle Empowerment Center
John McComas	WV Department of Health
Angelita Nixon	SANE Representative
Dr. Joan Phillips	CAMC Pediatrics Abuse Specialist
Jonathan Adler	WV Association of Counties

Guests:

Jason Chute	Marshall University Forensic Science Center
Kasey Forsell	WV Foundation for Rape Information and Services
Sheri Lemons	WV State Police Forensic Laboratory
Jim Samples	WV Prosecuting Institute

DAS/JCS Staff Present:

Brittany DeCrease	WV SANE Coordinator
Carol Blankenship	JCS Criminal Justice Specialist
Erica Turley	Research Specialist
Monika Sterling	Administrative Services Assistant
Wendy Fink	Administrative Services Assistant

Welcome and Introductions: Chairperson Nancy Hoffman welcomed SAFE Commission members to the meeting, and everyone introduced themselves.

Approval of 8-21-25 Meeting Minutes: Dave Miller made the motion to approve the minutes of the 8-21-25 meeting. Debra Lopez-Bonasso seconded the motion. Motion carried.

SAFE Commission Website Update: Erica Turley and Monika Sterling reported that the website information is live, but they are still working on adding any additional information that the committee would recommend. **Nancy will send Erica the completed county plans to post to the site. The group discussed having a JCS email posted to receive questions or comments.**

WV SANE Coordinator's Report: In September and October, 15 additional nurses completed their didactic online training for the adult/adolescent course and 17 nurses completed their online didactic training for the pediatric course. The first in-person pediatric/adolescent clinical skills train-the-trainer event was held in September with 10 nurses. For the adult/adolescent courses from May 2024 to October 2025, 193 nurses have completed the didactic course, 170 nurses completed the clinical training, and 152 completed the practicum. Brittany DeCrease already has several training courses scheduled for 2026 but is seeking sites for pediatric courses. A total of 75 nurses have been approved to perform adult/adolescent SANE exams. Raleigh General has requested a mini-grant from FRIS, which makes a total of 24 mini-grants that have been granted. Every hospital that has an ER has turned in its plans (49); 41 have been approved, with 8 still having some items to address for approval. A map was shared showing the counties with trained SANEs. Several documents were created in the past few months, including a caregiver worksheet (which can be included in the transfer kit), an updated STI flowchart, a Tanner stages reference chart, a quick reference guide for indication of abuse, and an STI quick reference chart.

SAFE Standards Sub-Committee Update: Nancy reported that only 8 counties remain without completed plans; most just need MOUs. With all committee chairs retiring in the upcoming year, the group discussed how to make a seamless transition for the work to be done. Nancy suggested, and the group concurred, that each work group meet and create a list of activities to be completed and outline 'next steps.' The Commission will then determine which work groups are still needed or if additional or different work groups should be created. The Commission needs a plan for how often county plans should be updated. **Work groups were asked to post their meeting dates to the full Commission so that any Commission member wishing to be part of that planning process can be included.**

SAFE Training Sub-Committee Update: Debra Lopez-Bonasso reported that the tracking system needs to be updated, with a focus on enabling forms to be completed electronically. An upgrade will require financial resources. **Nancy asked for that work group to prepare recommendations for the February meeting.**

SAFE Data Collection Sub-Committee Update: Dave Miller reported that the lab has received over 300 kits this year, with kits opened/assigned within 2-3 weeks of receiving them and about a 90-day turnaround time. He agreed that the tracking system (including the lab's review component) needs to be updated, as questions are included that are no longer applicable. The group discussed using the data in approving hospital plans/nurses (e.g., tiering the number of years of approval based on the quality of kits collected). **Dave will compile some ideas for changes to bring to the Commission.**

The group also agreed that a letter should go out to all state law enforcement agencies, asking them to certify that they have no untested kits stored.

Definition of Adolescent and Child Clarification: In the approval of this definition at the last meeting, some words seemed to be missing. Tracy Shroyer-Carlyle moved that the definition be changed to "Adolescent patients are individuals who are Tanner Stage 3 and above, but who are under the age of 18. This stage of development is characterized by the development of secondary sex characteristics, such as breast or genital maturation, and the onset of menarche in females." Beth Cook seconded the motion, which passed.

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. Additional questions have been answered; the audit should be completed by April.

Protocol for storing and repackaging non-report kits: A document was created titled "Maintenance of non-reported sexual assault evidence kits." The legislative rule states that the victim will be notified of the intent to destroy a kit. However, the victim's address is not included in the kit and needs to be added to the non-report consent form. The notification form has not been fully developed yet. Tracy offered to assist in reviewing the wording of that document. The group discussed how to move forward with the storing and repackaging for non-reports. The destruction process is still being developed (no kits would be eligible for destruction until 2029). **Dave will do a tracking system query for older kits**. MUFSC recently received a request for an item from a stored kit. A discussion was held about establishing a process for victims who may want items returned that were collected as evidence. It was agreed that a consent form could be developed and the rape crisis centers be part of the process for confirming the identity of the victim and assisting in submitting the request.

SAFE Commission Role in the refusal of exams: This discussion was tabled for the next committee meeting.

SAFE Commission Role in Handling Complaints: This discussion was tabled for the next sub-committee meeting.

Election of Officers: Tracy moved that Nancy be elected as Chair and Dave as Vice-Chair. Larry seconded the motion, which passed.

SAKI Project Update: Larry Hasely reported that, as of the end of September 2025, 140 SAKI cases have been closed: 75 were CODIS hit cases, 58 were cleared by an arrest, plea, or conviction. Two counties have now closed out all of their SAKI cases. Several serial rapists are being identified. One was recently identified in Cabell County and the project is assisting law enforcement officers there in the case. In October, an Ohio County man pleaded guilty in a serial rapist case and was sentenced to 13-30 years.

Other Business: Terry Fenger announced that Sharon Pressman, the long-time director of CONTACT Huntington, is retiring and recognized her long and dedicated career in this field.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be on February 18, 2026, at 9:00 am.