Quarterly Meeting
Sexual Assault Forensic Examination (SAFE) Commission
of the
West Virginia Governor's Commission on Crime, Delinquency and Correction
5/27/26

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
Jason Chute	Marshall University Forensic Science Center
Larry Hasley	WV SAKI Project
Hallie Morgan	WV Hospital Association
Katie Spriggs	Eastern Panhandle Empowerment Center
Beth Cook	Director of Child Advocacy Center

Members Not Present:

No designee	WV Department of Health
Angelita Nixon	SANE Representative
Dr. Joan Phillips	CAMC Pediatrics Abuse Specialist
Jonathan Adler	WV Association of Counties
Tiffany Edwards	WVU Forensic and Investigative Science Programs
Gabrielle Mucciola	WV Prosecuting Attorneys Association
Dr. Christopher Goode	Emergency Room Physician
No designee	WV CAN

Guests:

Aaron Dean	WV State Police Forensic Laboratory
Shiloh Woodard	WV Child Advocacy Network
Chelsea Sohyda	Marshall University Forensic Science Center
Tracy Shroyer-Carlyle	WV Foundation for Rape Information and Services

DAS/JCS Staff Present:

Krista Ferrell	JCS Assistant Director
April Darnell	DAS HR Assistant Director
Brittany DeCrease	WV SANE Coordinator
Carolann Caudill	JCS Program Manager
Erica Turley	Research Specialist
Monika Sterling	Administrative Services Assistant
Riki Correal	Secretary 1

Welcome and Introductions: Chairperson Nancy Hoffman welcomed SAFE Commission members to the meeting and facilitated introductions. Jason Chute introduced guest Chelsea Sohyda, DNA Analyst at Marshall University, Evidence Custodian, who manages all non-reports kits and activation.

Approval of 2/18/26 Meeting Minutes: In reviewing the 2/18/26 meeting minutes, Larry Hasley provided the correct name of the 'West Virginia State Police Violent Crime Task Force' (not the Sex Crime Task Force). Larry made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Debra Lopez-Bonasso seconded the motion. Motion carried.

SAFE Commission Website Update: Erica Turley and Monika Sterling, who developed the Commission's website, reported that they had an issue updating the file (in Publisher) for the county plans. Erika asked for any suggestions or updates for the website. Debra suggested an introductory paragraph be added to the SAKI page. Larry offered to create that. Reference website for any additional recommendations:
https://das.wv.gov/JCS/grant-programs/specializedgrantprograms/wvsafe/Pages/default.aspx
Nancy also announced that Erica has moved into a new role as JCS Liaison to the Commission.

Workgroup Updates and Recommendations:
SAFE Standards Sub-Committee. Since the last meeting, Fayette, Pocahontas and Hardy counties' plans were approved. Monroe County just needs the prosecutor to sign the hospital MOU. Roane County is the remaining county without an approved plan. Roane had wanted to send victims to either Thomas Memorial or CAMC in Kanawha County, but Nancy has been unsuccessful in getting Thomas Memorial to sign the MOU, and the prosecutor has not responded to approve removing Thomas Memorial from its plan. Because the Commission has the authority to complete plans on behalf of counties, she is recommending that Thomas Memorial be removed from Roane County's plan so that it can be approved. Beth Cook made a motion, seconded by Debra, that the Commission adjust and approve Roane County's plan to include only referrals to CAMC. The motion passed.

Nancy reported that the work group met to compare the county plans for exam referrals with the hospitals' plans for conducting exams, and many don't align. As the workgroup will be reviewing 1/3 of the plans annually, they are beginning with the misaligned counties. Nancy asked for additional participation on that workgroup, and Larry and Brittany DeCrease agreed to be added.

SAFE Training Sub-Committee – Debra described how the goals of this committee have changed as the training components are now in place for the state. A new focus is on ensuring that SANEs/facilities remain compliant with all of the protocols that have been put into place with the legislative rule. She suggested that this sub-committee expand its scope and become the Training and Compliance Committee. This group can then better assist the WV SANE Coordinator (Brittany DeCrease) in making training decisions and identifying any needed adaptations. Debra made a motion for the Training Committee to become the Training and Compliance Committee. Beth Cook seconded the motion. Motion carried.

SAFE Data Collection Sub-Committee – Aaron Dean reported on data collection for David Miller. Since January 2026, 236 kits have been distributed/used, with 193 mailed to facilities in WV and 43 used for training purposes. A total of 187 kits have come into the lab. Eleven kits were from the Fairmont Police Department (through the SAKI project), with some kits about 10 years old. WVPAI has processed reimbursements for 156 kits; 122 for adult cases and 34 pediatric cases. The lab placed an order for new kits last fall, but only has about 75 kits on hand at the lab. Both David and Aaron have reached out to Amy Leslie at the Prosecuting Attorney's Institute regarding

placing a new order. Kit- supplier Sirchie is having a problem with ordering the supplies they use to build the kits, so there's a back order on the kits with no definite timeline on supplies. Some kits that were compiled during the last delay may have to be used.

Dave Miller provided an update on the tracking system. He has the quote for implementing the system upgrade. Dave and Nancy will connect with Jim Samples at the WV Prosecuting Attorney's Institute regarding paying for the upgrade.

WV SANE Coordinator's Report: March 2026 - May 2026 Update. Since the last meeting, there have been 3 adult/adolescent clinical skills trainings and 3 adult/adolescent practicums. Two pediatric trainings are scheduled for later in the year. Attending the February trainings (12 nurses): Camden Clark, Clay County Health Department, CAMC Greenbrier, WVU Reynolds, Mon Health Medical Center, Davis Medical Center, and St. Mary's Medical Center. Attending the March trainings: Wheeling Hospital, Mon Health Medical Center, WVU Reynolds, and Davis Medical Center. The May training focused on Weirton Medical Center and Wheeling Hospital. Cumulative attendance totals for Adult/Adolescent courses from May 2024-May 2026: 255 didactic, 212 clinical skills, and 191 practicum skills.

SANE Applications Received/Approved: To track and identify where SANE nurses are practicing within West Virginia, and to ensure that all nurses complete the same clinical training components, a process was developed for nurses to submit required training documents to the WV SANE Coordinator. To date, 114 nurses have submitted and been approved for their AA-SANE status (up 2 from last report), and 26 have submitted and been approved for their PA-SANE status (up 4 from last report).

Hospital Plans: Of the 47 hospital plans on file, 3 have not submitted complete documentation to receive approval of their plans. These 3 hospitals include Summers County ARH, Sistersville General Hospital, and Beckley ARH. Communication has occurred with all facilities; no response has been received regarding the status of the missing items.

Facilities that have received approval as adult/adolescent exam facilities are: Cabell County Hospital, Davis Medical Center, Mon Health Medical Center, WVU Berkeley Medical Center, WVU Camden Clark Medical Center, WVU Princeton Community Hospital, WVU Ruby Memorial Hospital, WVU United Hospital Center, CAMC Greenbrier Valley Medical Center, Montgomery General Hospital, Raleigh General Hospital, CAMC Memorial, CAMC General, CAMC Women's and Children's, CAMC Teays Valley, Logan Regional Medical Center, St. Mary's Medical Center, WVU Bluefield ER, WVU Jefferson Medical Center, WVU Reynolds Memorial Hospital, WVU Wheeling Hospital, WVU Weirton Medical Center, Pocahontas Memorial Hospital, and WVU Thomas Memorial Hospital.

Facilities that have received approval as pediatric/adolescent exam facilities are: WVU Jefferson Medical Center, WVU Wheeling Hospital, WVU Reynolds Memorial Hospital, WVU United Hospital Center, Cabell County Hospital, Logan Regional Medical Center, CAMC (General, Memorial, Women's and Children's, Teays Valley), WVU Berkeley Medical Center, and WVU Ruby Memorial Hospital.

Hospitals transferring patients for exams are: Boone Memorial, Broaddus Hospital, Davis Medical Center, Fairmont Medical Center, Grafton City Hospital, Logan Regional Medical Center, Minnie Hamilton, Mon Health Marion, Mon Health Medical Center, Mon Health Preston, Mon Health Stonewall Jackson, Montgomery General Hospital, Plateau Medical Center, Rivers Health, Roane General Hospital, St. Mary's Medical Center, Webster Memorial, Welch Community, WVU Bluefield ER, WVU Braxton, WVU Camden Clark, WVU Grant Memorial, WVU Jackson General, WVU Potomac Valley, WVU Princeton Community, WVU Reynolds, WVU St. Joseph's, WVU Summersville Regional, WVU Thomas Memorial Hospital, WVU Weirton, WVU Wheeling Hospital, CAMC Greenbrier, Hampshire Memorial Hospital, War Memorial Hospital, Pocahontas Memorial Hospital, and Raleigh General Hospital.

Facilities that have submitted plans but have missing items or required edits are: Beckley ARH, Sistersville General Hospital, and Summers County ARH.

Kit Data Review – Quality

To promptly address quality issues, the WV SANE Coordinator is now reviewing monthly reports for errors in kit quality, then communicating those to the SANE Champion or Coordinator at the hospital level for distribution. Data was shared with the Commission.

Update: Legislative Audit by WV Legislature's Performance Evaluation and Research Division:

The audit, initially projected to be completed and presented at legislative interim sessions in April or May, now will not occur until the fall.

Update: Protocol for storing and repackaging non-report kits:

Jason Chute presented an overview of the West Virginia Non-Report Sexual Assault Kits from 2009 – March 2026. Non-report kits received were 818; activated non-report kits 10% (85 kits). The first non-report kit was received in 2009. Non-report kit activation period statistics: shortest activation: 1 day; average activation time: 6 months; and the longest activation: 6 years.

Jason presented a detailed repackaging protocol for the non-report kits for the Commission to consider. The protocol has been piloted with a few kits at the lab. After discussion, it was agreed that the Commission members will be asked to review the protocol and return any comments to Jason (jchute@marshall.edu) and Nancy (wvfris@frontier.com) by July 12, 2026. A final version will then be emailed to members for electronic approval in July.

Because the protocol does not address the actual destruction of kits after the 20-year period, Nancy will add that to the next meeting agenda, as well as the need for a protocol to address if a victim wants to retrieve a piece of clothing/item from their non-report kit.

Approval Process for Sites:

In the legislative rule, the SAFE Commission was given the authority to authorize exam sites. (*Section 149-11-3. 3.9 If a request is made, the commission may approve additional locations where medical forensic services may be performed.)* In the legislative rule, hospitals are explicitly given the authority to do evidence collection, but no other entities are named. The Commission

needs to have a process in place for other entities (such as Child Advocacy Centers) to apply to perform medical forensic exams.

Nancy asked that the Training and Compliance Committee provide a recommended approval process for non-hospital exam sites at the August SAFE Commission meeting.

Commission Membership/Attendance

With several Commission member transitions imminent, the issue of meeting attendance and maintaining a quorum was discussed. While this has not been a significant issue in the past, attendance overall has been declining and it is a challenge because membership is statutorily named, with 9 required members and 6 appointed members. Members are always encouraged to give their proxy to another member if they know they cannot attend. The WV Association of Counties has not had a representative at the meeting for three years. The WV Department of Health has had representation at only two meetings in the past two years. The SANE representative, who is not a practicing SANE but who was diligent in working with the Commission in earlier years, has not attended a Commission meeting for two years.

Krista Ferrell offered to explore options for the required members to designate representatives. Nancy will reach out to Angy Nixon who is serving as the SANE representative, and who has said that she feels that we now have SANEs who should be in that role for the Commission. The group discussed the value in having the WV SANE Coordinator serve on the Commission and coordinate the Training and Compliance Committee. Beth Cook made a motion to appoint Brittany DeCrease as the SANE representative when the position becomes available. The motion was seconded by Katie Spriggs and passed by the group.

SAFE Commission - Role in Handling Complaints

The Commission has not yet established a process for handling complaints, most of which to date seem to be related to compliance issues (example – a hospital not submitting kits in a timely manner). Nancy asked the Training and Compliance Committee to identify what areas of complaints would fall under it and report back to the Commission in August.

Sexual Assault Kit Initiative (SAKI) Project – Larry Hasley:

Larry reported that 2664 kits have been processed to date, with clearing/reported closure of 258 cases (10%). Ninety-two of those closures were from the list of 450 CODIS hits, and 91 of those were closed by arrest/plea/warrant/conviction. The 2018 SAKI grant award is now closed and the project is working under the FY24 federal award. The project is following up on the kit inventory certification letters sent out by the SAFE Commission to 330 law enforcement agencies in 2019-2020. Initially, the State Police Lab and the SAFE Commission received responses from 268 of the 330 letters. Of the 62 agencies that previously did not respond, 8 state police detachments and 11 agencies have now submitted responses, and 10 law enforcement agencies no longer exist (but the question still remains if any kits exist).

Larry announced that state police Lt. Col. Aaron Maddy has been hired as the project's new investigator, beginning 5/16/26.

Annual Report. Nancy reminded the workgroup chairpersons that the SAFE Commission's annual report to the legislature will be due in August (report period September through August) and asked that their workgroup reports be submitted to her in early August.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be on August 18, 2026 at 9:00 a.m.