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Louisiana Sexual Assault Oversight Commission Minutes

February 9, 2021

9:00am

Louisiana Department of Justice

Office of Attorney General Jeff Landry

Meeting Location: Thomas Jefferson Rooms, Claiborne Building

1201 N. Third St.

Baton Rouge, LA 70802

Board Members/Designees:

PRESENT- John Siquefield, Pat Wojtkiewicz, Tammy Vincent, Myles Robichaux, Bob Wertz, Shannon Dirmann, Dr. Randall Brown, Greg Waddell, Melissa Mendoza, Senator Beth Mizell, Heidi Martin, Todd Warren, and Penny Davis. Other members or their designees were absent.

Other Attendees:

Monica Taylor, Lauryn Sudduth, Kim Wall, Erica Sparacino, Kevin Marcel, Melissa Mendoza, Kelly Smith, Morgan Lamandre, Patrick Kennelly, Robert Long, Phillip Hampton, Tara Gauthier, Mary Ann Dankert, Jackie Teixidor, Treva Parolli-Barns, and Adrianna DeSouza

• **Call to Order**

- Commission Chairman John Siquefield called the meeting to order at 9:05am. Opening remarks by Chairman John Siquefield

• **Approval of the Minutes**

- Minutes for the October 1, 2020 meeting were unanimously adopted.
- Minutes for the December 15, 2020 meeting were unanimously adopted.

• **Topics of Discussion.**

- Written Report – Act 354
 - o Commission Legal Counsel Lauryn Sudduth presented the proposed written report to the Legislature which was unanimous adopted by the Commission. The Commission authorized the report to be forwarded to the Legislature.
- Legislation
 - o Commission Legal Counsel Lauryn Sudduth presented proposed amendments to ACT 354 of the 2018 Regular Session, which included changing the meetings schedule to every four months instead of every three months, and repealing Section 556.B, which mandated that the Office of the Attorney General adopt rules to implement sexual assault collection kit standardization and protocols for forensic medical examinations. It was pointed out that it had been previously determined by legal counsel that the Office of Attorney General does not have the constitutional authority to adopt and enforce such rules. Further the Commission

voted to seek amendment of Act 354, to add the Executive Director of the Sexual Trauma Awareness and Response (STAR) Agency as a member of the Commission

- HSR1 Activity
 - o Monica Taylor and Morgan Lamandre reported that there had been no HSR1 activity since the last meeting.
- New Orleans Kit Tracking
 - o The Commission requested Adriana DeSouza of the NOPD to keep the Commission informed and report on any activities of the New Orleans Kit Tracking Project.
- Other
 - o The Commission requested that legal counsel re-examine the legality of Zoom meetings by the Commission.
 - o A Commission member requested that the topic of medical records requests be put on the agenda for discussion at the next meeting.
- **Public Comment**
 - Public comment was invited and was received on all issues before the Commission prior to votes being taken.
- **Assign Tasks and Schedule Next Meeting**
 - The Commission voted to schedule the next meeting for May 12, 2021, and authorized the dates of May 11, 2021 and May 13, 2021 as alternate dates dependent on the availability of the Thomas Jefferson Rooms.
- **Adjournment**
 - The Commission adjourned until the next meeting.