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Louisiana Sexual Assault Oversight Commission Minutes
March 9, 2022

1:00pm

Louisiana Department of Justice
Office of Attorney General Jeff Landry
1885 N. Third St. – Livingston Building
First Floor – Clermont Conference Room
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

Board Members/Designees:

PRESENT - John Siquefield, Senator Beth Mizell, Erica Sparacino, Tammy Vincent, Bob Wertz, Morgan Lamandre, Olivia Jones, Rafael de Castro, Melissa Mendoza, Penny Davis, Loren Lampert, Michelle Jackson, and Todd Warren. Other members or their designees were absent.

Other Attendees: Jeddie Smith, Lauryn Sudduth, Kim Wall, Erin Levy, Adriana DeSouza, Chad Guidry, Claudia Bruce, Brandon McDonald, Ginesse Barrett, Richard Mohr, Julia O'Donoghue,

• **Call to Order**

- Commission Chairman John Siquefield called the meeting to order at 1:05p.m. Opening remarks by Chairman John Siquefield included information from his conversations with Representative Patricia Moore, ADA Sonya Cardia – Porter, ADA Melissa Morvant, LDAA Executive Director Loren Lampert and Rebecca Vieh, Director Texas Kit Tracking Program.

• **Roll Call**

- Executive Assistant Kim Wall called the roll and confirmed a quorum of members.

• **Approval of the Minutes**

- Minutes of the November 30, 2021 meeting were unanimously adopted.

- **Topics of Discussion**

- Commission members discussed the issues included in House Resolution No. 148. Commissioner Loren Lampert provided information as to the issue of victims access to their forensic medical reports. He expressed the reservations that District Attorneys have to allowing unfettered access to the reports, because of concerns related to the integrity of the victim's testimony and protection of privileged information which might be contained in the reports. He expressed unwillingness of the District Attorneys to compromise and reach a solution to any problems. Commissioner Senator Beth Mizell provided information as to Senate Bill No 147 which she filed and which provides for rights of adult victims to be provided copies of their forensic medical exam reports, free of charge and regardless of whether they had reported or not. She expressed willingness to attempt a compromise

with the District Attorneys in the best interest of the victims and prosecutors. Commissioner Morgan Lamandre made the Commission aware of House Bill No. 313 by Representative Pressly which also provides that all victims of sexual assault should have the right to access and obtain a copy of their forensic medical examination reports at no cost to them. Further discussion on the issues involved was had by Commission Members, noting information received with opinions that release of the reports should be on an individual case basis, that victim's should be offered counseling or the presence of mental health experts at the time they read the reports if they are provided, problems when the forensic examination reports are combined with police or other medical reports containing information not related to the forensic medical exam, questions about access to pictures, bloody clothes and other items of evidence, and concerns of medical institutions with privacy and liability issues and problems as to access to reports on underage persons by parents or guardians who may have been involved in the crimes.

While no vote was taken on the issue, it was the consensus of the Commission that victims should have access to their forensic medical exam reports, but with some exceptions to ensure the integrity of the victim's testimony and the prosecution.

The Commission authorized Chairman John W. Sinquefield to file a final report to the Legislature with reference to House Resolution No. 148, including a synopsis of the above information and Commission activity.

- Kit Tracking
 - Tim Stacy Director, Sales of STACSDNA-TRACK KIT SYSTEM made a power point presentation as to his company's products related sexual assault kit tracking. He explained the processes involved in setting up and maintaining kit tracking. His company currently has contracts in 13 states including Texas. He estimated the first year costs for Louisiana to start up kit tracking through his company to be approximately \$200,000 the first year and \$150,000 per year for servicing and maintenance of the systems. The Commissioners questioned Mr. Stacy as to various issues that could arise with such a program.
- New Orleans Kit Tracking
 - Adrianna DeSouza made a power point presentation with updates on progress of the New Orleans Kit Tracking Project. She pointed out that there had been some delays in parts of the project but that overall good progress toward completion are being made.
 - Lauren Sudduth informed the Commission that designees who anticipate absence from a meeting may have the commissioner appoint an alternate designee for one meeting, provided that such designation is made in writing and presented to the Commission on or before the meeting date.
- Old Business
 - Some members of the Commission pointed out that there seems to be some confusion by some parties as to the dimensions, marking and content of the standard kit which had been voted on and promulgated by the committee as part of the mandates of Act No. 354 of the 2018 Regular Session. Mention was made by a commission member that some agencies and companies were presenting that the Jefferson Parish Adult kit was the standard. Commission Chairman John Sinquefield stated that he would put the matter on the agenda for the next meeting for discussion and clarification.

- **Public Comment**

- Comment from all members of the public who were present was invited and received on all issues before the Commission, before any votes were called for or taken. Since any necessary votes no votes on issues were taken on any issues at this meeting

- **Assign Tasks and Schedule Next Meeting**

- Chairman John Sinquefiled requested Morgan Lamandre to assist him in preparing and filing the final report to the Louisiana Legislature as to the House Resolution No. 148.
- The Commission voted to set the next meeting for July 12, 2022 at 1:00pm in the Claremont Conference Room of the Livingston Building.

- **Adjournment**

- The Commission adjourned until the next meeting.