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Louisiana Sexual Assault Oversight Commission Minutes
November 30, 2023

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 Sinquefield, Heidi Martin, Tammy Vincent, Michelle Jackson, Olivia Jones, Senator Beth Mizell, Morgan Lamandre, Erica Sparacino, Melissa Mendoza, Terrell Kent, Wanjennia Atkins, Shannon Dirmann, and Dr. Randall Brown. Other members or their designees were absent.

Other Attendees: Jeddie Smith, Olivia Boudreaux, Monica Taylor, Danielle Lax, Jason Eastin, Natasha Poe, Ginesse Barnett, Gardenia Crockett, Margo Mikeska, Kim Thomas, Brooke Hidalgo, Maci Lapeyrouse, Brandy Sheely, Carie Whittington, Bridget Depew, Lt. Joe Patout and Mendy Escudie

• **Call to Order and Roll Call**

- Monica Taylor called the meeting to order, made roll call and confirmed a quorum of members.

• **Approval of the Minutes**

- Minutes of the July 20, 2023 meeting were unanimously adopted.

• **Topics of Discussion**

- Kit Tracking Update
 - Lt. Joe Patout, Louisiana State Police Crime Lab, provided a hard copy of report on kit tracking system.
 - Morgan Lamandre questioned about reporting of kits, how law enforcement knows where/when to send in kits. Shannon Dirmann, responds for Sheriff Association; she says that is addressed in training of sheriffs.
 - Morgan Lamandre also asks about pediatric kits – what does the law require for sending/submitting case? Discussion b/w Eric Sparacino, Morgan Lamandre and Senator Beth Mizell.
 - Senator Mizell suggests a separate commission meeting for this (training of sheriffs about reporting of kits). John Sinquefield agrees and says that representatives of the Sheriffs and Chiefs of Police should be at that meeting.
 - Adult/pediatric kits: Kits can be used for both adults and pediatrics and are nurses are already in practice doing so. Nurse representatives suggested removing the label off the adult and pediatric kits and eliminate those distinctions in the protocol.
 - There was discussion about changing protocol to have just one kit.

- SANEs
 - o Olivia Jones pointed out that all the SANE coordinators for the major metro areas were present for the meeting except for the Lafayette area. All of them are shorthanded.
 - o SANE certifications. There are different certifications for SANEs; SANE A and SANE P
 - o Nurse says that there is an entity that offers training, but may have nothing to do with certification.
 - o There was question whether there is any legislation on regulating SANEs. The SANE suggested that there needs to be regulation or some central coordination over the SANEs,. The SANEs discussed that benefits/money are necessary to retain and attract nurses to the field.
 - o Senator Mizell is concerned that the commission is looking at each item in isolation, and suggested that the commission should look at the entire process from a systematic perspective.
 - o The SANE reps discussed that gaps in SANE services are predominately in the River parishes.
 - o The SANE nurses identified sustainability as a major concern.

- Desert of Sexual Assault Centers
 - o Currently there are four parishes with no services: Catahoula, Winn, LaSalle, and Concordia.
 - o It was discussed that the solution is funding for more centers

- Statewide Sexual Assault Response Plan – Melissa Mendoza
 - o The new plans will be coming out early 2024.
 - o Melissa stated that the legislature needs to change from the regional plans to a single statewide plan due to lack of participation.
 - o Needs to be put on the agenda for the next meeting.

- **Public Comment**
 - Public comment was invited and was received. LSU Medical Coordinator and Jefferson Parish SANE stated that LSU has a program but the nurses can do 300 hours of practicum and never do an exam, which is an issue. She also talks about funding issues, shortages.
- **Votes**
 - No votes were taken
- **Assign Tasks & Schedule Next Meeting**
 - Chairman John Siquefield requested and received permission of the commission to set the next meeting for March 7, 2024 at 1:00pm in the Claremont Conference Room

Adjourned