



STATE OF LOUISIANA
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
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70804-9005

Louisiana Sexual Assault Oversight Commission Minutes

July 18, 2024

1:00pm

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

Board Members/Designees: PRESENT - John Sinuefield, Dr. Randall Brown, Monica Taylor, Wanjennia Atkins, Heidi Martin, Senator Beth Mizell, Erica Sparacino, Amanda Tonkovich, Greg Waddell, Bob Wertz, and Morgan Lamandre. Other members or their designees were absent.

Other Attendees: Jeddie Smith, Kim Wall, Bobbie O'Bryan, Carie Whittington, Heather Furnas, Bridget Depew, Jarrod Matherne, Maci Lapeyrouse, Natasha Poe, Tammy Smith, Steven Hartmann, Margo Mikeska, Savannah Clay, Claudia Bruce, Natalie Mounier, Monica Quaal, Tray Legros, Tiffany Arnold, Tiffany LaCaze, Marcella Anders, Chad Guidry, Brandon McDonald, Melanie Lerille, Brandy Sheely, Neha Mehta, Autumn White, Kaleigh Bergeron, Julie Hine, Danielle Lax, Andy Mahoney, Joey Jones, Julie O'Donoghue, Jordon Pedalino

- **Call to Order and Roll Call**

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

- **Chairman's Report**

- Chairman John Sinuefield reported that he has been reappointed by Attorney General Liz Murrill

- **Approval of the Minutes**

- Minutes of the March 7, 2024 meeting were unanimously adopted with revisions.

- **Topics of Discussion**

- Legislative Report
 - o Steven Hartmann, LADOJ Legislative Coordinator gave a review of enacted laws from the 2024 Regular Legislative Session.
 - SB 124 / Act 669 by Sen. Mizell – R.S. 40:1216.1 and R.S. 46:1845 - Creates the Sexual Assault Survivor's Bill of Rights
 - SB 447 / Act 354 by Sen. Mizell – R.S. 13:5713(F) and (K) – Pertains to the regional sexual assault response plans that coroners operate within.

- SB 439 / Act 353 by Sen. Mizell – R.S. 40:2405.8(J) – Requires in-person, trauma-informed training for law enforcement officers.
- HB 577 / Act 225 by Rep. McMakin – R.S. 46:2136.2(A) and (B) – Clarifies that the la. Protective Order Registry exists to protect victims and prevent crimes of violence.
- HB 608 / Act 436 by Rep. Wilder – R.S. 9:55 – 65 – Creates the Women’s Safety and Protection Act.
- SB 276 / Act 246 By Sen Pressly – R.S, 14:87.1(1)(a), R.S. 40:969(C), R.S. 14:87.6.1, R.S. 15:1352(A)(71), and R.S. 40:964 (Schedule IV)(F) – Creates the crime of coerced criminal abortion and classifies abortion causing drugs as dangerous controlled substances.
- HB 208 / Act 131 by Rep. Villio – R.S 14:34.9 (L) and (N), R.S. 35.3 (L) and (N) – Increases criminal sentence when domestic abuse battery involves strangulation that results in serious bodily injury.
- SB 306 / Act 586 by Sen. Cathey – R.S. 14:46.2(A)(1)(a), (B)(2), (F)(1), and R.S. 4.3(D) – Establishes life imprisonment for anyone convicted of trafficking a minor.
- HB 453 / Act 698 by Rep. Kerner – Code of Criminal Procedures Articles 571 and 571.1 eliminates the statute of limitations to prosecute the crime of molestation of a juvenile.
- HB 283 / Act 132 by Rep. Schlegel – R.S. 40:1464 – Requires that a commercial driver’s license curriculum include human trafficking training.
- SB 343 / Act 482 by Sen. Barrow – R.S. 17:3399.13.1(A), (C), (E), (F), and (G) – Changes deadlines for higher education chancellors to submit information about sexually-oriented criminal offenses on campus so that annual data can be collected and composed.
- SB 509 / Act 772 by Sen. Duplessis – R.S. 40:2025 – Requires the Louisiana Department of Health to study violence prevention strategies and prepare a report for the legislature.
- HR 249 by Rep. Horton – Resolution – Authorizes the Louisiana Department of Education to study incidents of school employees committing sexual assault against students.
- SR 167 by Sen. Barrow – Resolution – Establishes a task force to study the processes for investigating child sexual abuse in Louisiana

Commission members discussed the enacted laws and debated the pros and cons of each Act. There was a question about how “serious injury” is defined with regard to HB 208 (strangulation). The Chairman indicated it would be put on the next agenda for discussion and requested the LDAA Commissioner, Wanjennia Atkins, to get someone from LDAA to speak on the subject at the

next meeting. Monica Taylor discussed her activities in relation to the requirements of SB 306, HB 283, and SB 343. The Chairman requested Wanjennia Atkins to inform LDAA of Morgan Lamandre's concerns regarding HR 249. Morgan Lamandre reported that she had been asked to appoint someone with regard to SR 167, the task force to study the processes for investigating child sexual abuse in Louisiana.

- **Kit Tracking Update**
 - o Captain Chad Guidry reported that the tracking system is live with 62 kits already in the system.
 - o Working on analytics that the public can see.
 - o Kits are identified only by kit number, no personal information will be available.
- **Legislative Issues**
 - o There was discussion initiated by John Sinuefield about State litigation with the St. Tammany Coroner. Morgan Lamandre was interested in it, and offered any assistance she might give. John asked that a copy of the petition is sent to Morgan. Jeddie Smith sent this to her. That suit concerns the validity of Acct 526 of 2024 regular session.
- **Litigation Involving Protection of Sexual Assault Survivors**
 - o St. Tammany Parish ended SANE Program
 - o Jefferson Parish Coroner Office hired St. Tammany examiners.
- **Discussion of Members on Desert of Sexual Assault Centers (Continuation of Discussion)**
 - o Bob Wertz, from LCLE/CVR talked about funding, utilizing funds from the Victims Assistants funds, how to assist DCFS with grants, what law enforcement can do about mandatory reporting. John asked that this be added to the next meeting's agenda.
- **Future Projects for the Commission**
 - o Definition of Serious Bodily Injury (Strangulation) per HB 208/Act 131
 - o Potential Trafficking Report by Bob and Monica
 - Senator Mizell spoke about a trafficking bust at Sugar Bowl on the way to Super Bowl – arrest that was made after officer just had trafficking training.
 - o SANE Programs
- **Public Comment**
 - Public comment was invited and received with reference to all the matters before the Commission.
 - o Dr. Mehta had concerns of one standard kit for examinations of both adults and children. Dr. Mehta took an approved kit to review and evaluate, and report at the next meeting. The Chairman noted that this would be added to the next agenda.
- **Votes**
 - No votes were taken
- **Assign Tasks & Schedule Next Meeting**
 - Chairman John Sinuefield asked Commission Members to send suggested topics for next meeting.
 - Chairman John Sinuefield requested and received permission of the commission to set the next meeting for November 20, 2024 at 1:00pm in the Thomas Jefferson Rooms 1 – 136C of the Claiborne building, 1201 N. Third St. Baton Rouge, LA 70802.

- **Adjourned**