



LIZ MURRILL
ATTORNEY GENERAL

STATE OF LOUISIANA
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
P.O. BOX 94005
BATON ROUGE, LA
70804-9005

Louisiana Sexual Assault Oversight Commission Minutes October 15, 2025

1:00pm

Louisiana Department of Justice
Office of Attorney General Liz Murrill
1201 N. Third St. – Claiborne Building
Thomas Jefferson Room 136C
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

Board Members/Designees: PRESENT - John Sinquefield, Monica Taylor, Olivia Jones, Erica Sparacino, Kim Young, Michelle Jackson, Morgan Lamandre, Dr. Randall Brown, Danielle Lax, Senator Beth Mizell, Representative Annie Spell, Rafael de Castro, Heidi Martin, and Frank Young

Other Attendees: Jeddie Smith, Kim Wall, Dr. Shamika Kelly, Robyn Lubecki, Jason Eastin, Kreslyn Kelley-Ellis, Neha Mehta, Mary Claire Landry, Tina Stefanski, Tonya Suire, Keith Talamo, Kendra Barnes, Tammy Smith, Bobbie O'Bryan, Heather Furnes, Carrie Whittington, Bridget Depew, Eric Burkes, Natasha Poe, Debbie St. Germain, Regan Hinchcliff, Natalie Walton, Julie Floyd, Lauren Pendas, Joshua Depuis, Hailey Landry, Kristen Jacobs, Hailey Hoffpauir, Julie Foret, Chief Roger Corcoran, Brandy Sheely, Kristen Crain, Captain Chad Guidry, Natalie LaBorde, Olivia Johnston, Julie Ralph, Justine Crowley, Cassandra Billiot, Shirley Young, Zeb Stearns

- **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 Sinquefield introduced and welcomed new member Representative Annie Spell.

- **Approval of the Minutes**

- Minutes of the June 18, 2025 meeting were unanimously adopted.

- **Topics of Discussion**

- Kit Tracking Update

- o Captain Chad Guidry of the Louisiana State Police reported that all is going well with the kit tracking system. He stated that LSP did an audit of the participation in the program and that there have been some difficulties in getting input from municipal police departments due to their numbers and size limitations, and newly elected chiefs of police. They are working with the Chiefs of Police Association to get better input from the various departments. There has been good participation from the Sheriffs.

- STAR Activities

- Commissioner Morgan Lamandre reported about some difficulties with grant applications due to the current shut down of the Federal Government. She was joined by Commissioner Rafael de Castro who stated that some grant applicants were in the position of having grants approved but not receiving notification due to the shut-down. They related that the lack of funding was leading to furloughs or cuts, so that once notice of awards go out after the shutdown is lifted and funding is available, there may be difficulty with lack of personnel. Lamandre added that grant funding needs to be across the board and not just domestic violence or sexual assault.
- SANE Grant/LADOJ Activities
 - Commissioner Morgan Lamandre and LADOJ Assistant Chief Deputy Natalie LaBorde reported on grant activities involving LADOJ and STAR and that grant applications were pending and may also be interrupted by the government shut down. LaBorde further outlined the legislation that allowed involvement of LADOJ in the recruitment, training and supervision of SANEs. Laborde also mentioned exploring the idea of putting various information and links related to sexual assault services on the Attorney General’s website for public reference.
- Update of Progress in Region 4
 - Lafayette Coroner Keith Talamo reported that Region 4 was being covered for sexual assault forensic examinations by his office. He introduced Dr. Zeb Stearns who elaborated on the activities in Region 4 and forensic sexual assault exams in general.
- Legislative Activities
 - Senator Beth Mizell reported that she did not have her legislative package completely put together at this time and that she would be able to report more at the February, 2026 meeting. She was joined by Commission Member Representative Annie Spell in the discussion of possible future legislation benefiting sexual assault survivors.
 - She discussed a concern with problems where evidence was collected but consequent prosecutions were lacking. Chad Guidry related that LSP is looking at modifying its process so as to not delay the obtaining of arrest warrants and arrests.
 - Chairman Sinquefield related that New Orleans Police Department had contacted him requesting to be added to the membership of the commission, which would need to be by legislative action.
 - Further discussion was had on the topic of adding commission members and the mission and purpose of the commission.
 - A proposal was made for the commission to make periodic statement or report, and questions were raised about whether that needed to be a legislative mandate, and asked Senator Mizell and others to look into obtaining a change in legislation for such reporting.
 - Chairman Sinquefield indicated his desire for the commission’s work to have greater reach into the public’s awareness. Monica Taylor suggested that holding the meetings in legislative committee rooms with broadcast is something she would look into for future meetings.
 - There was discussion about two ongoing audits that the Louisiana Legislative Auditor is performing, and that those when released may raise public awareness.
- Need for Reimbursement for Forensic Medical Exams Beyond Sexual Assault
 - Mary Claire Landry and Debra St. Germain of New Orleans Family Justice Center/HOPE community Health Center made a presentation about current CVR policy as it relates to sexual assault forensic exams for adults and children and medical exams for non-fatal strangulation for adult and child survivors of domestic violence, human trafficking and

sexual assault victim who are strangled are not currently defined in law as a forensic exam. The premise of her presentation was that SANEs should be certified to conduct medical examinations of the above categories of survivors in addition to sexual assault forensic examinations and receive the same automatic payments as is available for sexual assault FMEs via the CVR Board's reparations. She answered questions and engaged in an extended discussion of the issue with Commission Members including as to forensic exams and funding issues through CVR. She presented the statistics showing that a large number of sexual assault and domestic violence survivors are the victim of strangulation. She seeks a uniform definition of forensic exam and an automatic payment mechanism through CVR such as not exists for sexual assault FMEs.

- Presentation: "The Ski Mask Rapist"

- o Louisiana Bureau of Investigation Special Agent Mike Thompson made a presentation about the "Ski Mask Rapist", Jon B. Simonis, who terrorized South Louisiana and other jurisdictions in twelve states between 1979 and 1981 he confessed to at least 81 rapes and was sentenced to 21 life terms with an additional 2,690 years in prison in Louisiana. Simonis worked as a lab technician in Lake Charles, Louisiana, and usually stalked his victims, break in their homes, bind and blind fold couples before raping the women. Chairman Siquefield reported that one of Simonis's rapes occurred in his subdivision down the street from his house. Simonis is still alive and resides in the Louisiana State Penitentiary at Angola.

- Future Projects for the Commission

- o There was a discussion of future projects by Commission Members. Chairman Siquefield stated that an ongoing project will be the recruitment, training, certification and financing of SANEs. Commissioner Lamandre informed that the desert of SANEs in certain parishes had been rectified. Other discussions involved the possibility of a mandatory or voluntary yearly report to the legislature of the activities of the Commission. It was pointed out that the only mandatory directives found in Commission Legislation had been accomplished by the adoption of standards for sexual assault examination kits and protocols for sexual assault forensic examinations and such had been reported to the legislature. The possibility for resolutions supporting legislation favorable to the survivors of sexual assault was also discussed. Two agencies, the New Orleans City Police Crime Lab and the Lafayette Coroner's office enquired about being added as members of the Commission. Some Commission Members expressed that the Commission should not be enlarged further and that there were already Commission Members that represented coroners and crime labs.

- **Public Comment**

- o Public comment was solicited and received on all issues before the Commission.

- **Votes**

- o No votes other than for approval of minutes and adjournment were taken.

- **Assign Tasks & Schedule Next Meeting**

- o Chairman Siquefield requested and was granted permission from the Commission to have some flexibility in setting the next meeting date depending on the availability of the Claiborne Building Meeting Rooms or the availability of a Legislative Committee room. Commissioner Monica Taylor indicated that she might be able to facilitate the availability of a legislative room and requested potential dates from Chairman Siquefield.

- **Adjourned**

- Motion to adjourn was made and seconded and the meeting was adjourned.