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Louisiana Sexual Assault Oversight Commission Minutes

January 17, 2019

2:30pm – 4:00pm

**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, Amanda Tonkovich, Leigh Anne Wall, Rafael De Castro, Bob Wertz, Sundee Winder, Morgan Lamarde, Leslie Chambers, Heidi Martin, Pat Wojtkiewixz, Tammy Vincent, Dr. Joanie Bracato, Chief Jerrod King

ABSENT: Teva Parolli-Barns, Greg Waddell, Olivia Jones

Other Attendees:

Monica Taylor, David Jeddie Smith, Lauryn Sudduth, Elizabeth Marlowe,

• **Call to Order**

- Commission Chairman John Sinquefield called the meeting to order at 2:36p.m.

• **Opening Remarks**

- Attorney General Jeff Landry
- Commission Chairman John Sinquefield

• **Presentation: Commissions relationship with the Louisiana Crime Victims Reparation Board**

- Amanda Tonkovich presented to the Commission on the overlapping goals of the Commission and the Louisiana Crime Victims Reparation Board. Topics included standardizing forensic medical exams, sources for funding for sexual assault kits, and the need for a standard billing schedule.

• **Topics of Discussion**

- Billing from first stop hospitals
 - o Members discussed the need for a standard procedure to be put in place relative to patient billing when the patient is treated at an initial hospital but then transferred to a second hospital for the forensic medical exam.
- Collections
 - o Members addressed the issue of unpaid patient bills from first stop hospitals going to collections. Ideas for potential solutions included but are not limited to implementing a standardization agreement between the referring hospital and the receiving hospital, creating a

fee schedule that covers both the initial evaluation and the FME, and raising the cap placed on the amount that could be reimbursed by the Crime Victims Reparation Board.

- Financial Disclosure for Commission Members and Designees
 - o Legal Counsel for the Commission, AAG Lauryn Sudduth, reached out to the Louisiana Board of Ethics for a determination on this matter. The ethics opinion is on the agenda for the February 15, 2019 meeting. AAG Sudduth will be attending and will report back to the Commission with the Ethics Board's determination.
- Level of processing at laboratories
 - o Members discussed the way laboratories handle the kits. Members representing the laboratories noted that the labs welcome being given as much information surrounding the kits in order to better test the kits.
- Out of date SAK
 - o A potential SAKI grant was discussed in order to test back logged SAKs. Members representing the laboratories stated they would be willing to test the kits. Suggestions were made to stagger out the SAK submission to the laboratories when funding is secured in order to not overwhelm any one laboratory.
- **Preliminary Draft Language**
 - Sexual Assault Kits
 - o Members discussed the progress being made on the standard language of the SAKs. The pediatric kit has been designed by Dr. Neha Mehta from Children's Hospital.
 - o Members nominated Olivia Jones and Joanie Brocato to compile a draft the recommendation for the language and composition of the adult SAKs.
 - LDH policies
 - o Members nominated Sundee Winder to draft the recommendations for the statewide protocols for forensic medical examinations of victims and Louisiana Department of Health Policy.
- **Public presentations**
 - Elizabeth Marlowe from East Jefferson General Hospital showed to the Commission the SAKs that her hospital recently ordered. The Commission discussed the pricing, the paperwork contained in the kit, and the chain of custody log on the outside of the kit.
 - Dr. Mehta from Children's Hospital showed the Commission the pediatric kit she designed and uses at Children's Hospital. Every step is laid out clearly with explicit instructions for each part of the exam.
- **Future business**
 - Discussion on who is the appropriate person to perform the forensic medical exams.
 - Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 16, 2019 at the Louisiana Department of Justice.
- **Adjournment**
 - Motion to adjourn was made and seconded. Chairman John Sinquefield adjourned the meeting at approximately 4:15p.m.