



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety and Security

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Sexual Assault Evidence Kit Tracking System Task Force

Executive Office of Public Safety and Security

One Ashburton Place, Room 2133

Boston, MA 02108

January 23, 2019

Meeting Minutes

Members Attending: Undersecretary Matt Moran (Chair), Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (EOPSS); Lindy Aldrich (via telephone), Victim Rights Law Center; Michelle Bowdler, Tufts University; Maureen Gallagher, Jane Doe, Inc.; Liam Lowney, Massachusetts Office of Victim Assistance; Erica Neu, Boston Police Department Crime Laboratory; Janice Peters, Massachusetts Hospitals Association; Katia Santiago-Taylor, Boston Area Rape Crisis Center; Joan Sham, Massachusetts Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) Program; Jennifer Sprague, Plymouth County District Attorney's Office; Kristen Sullivan, Massachusetts State Police Crime Laboratory (via telephone)

Others Attending: Doug Levine, EOPSS; Samantha Frongillo, EOPSS; Stephanie McCarthy, Massachusetts Office for Victim Assistance

The meeting convened at 10:00am.

A motion to approve minutes from the January 9, 2019 meeting was made by Liam Lowney and seconded by Katia Santiago-Taylor. The motion passed unanimously.

For the duration of the meeting, the Task Force engaged in a discussion about the draft report based on the recommendations of the Task Force members, entitled "Report on the Recommendations for a Statewide Tracking System by the Sexual Assault Evidence Kit Tracking System Task Force."

Modifications to the draft report included the following:

Under Section III, "Stakeholders" the reference to nurses was modified to read "hospital staff" as individuals at medical facilities who will utilize the tracking system will potentially include staff other than nurses.

It was determined that an additional set of stakeholders, rape crisis advocates, should be included as well.

Under Section IV, “Recommended Features for a Statewide Tracking System” the subsection entitled “Tracking Features”, a specific sentence about information accessible to certain personnel was deemed extraneous and removed.

Under the subsection entitled “Other Considerations”, the Task Force determined that it was important to note that users from the various stakeholder groups would necessarily change over time and that funding for ongoing training was important. Language to that effect was added.

In the same subsection, language was incorporated to note the long-term importance of tracking the toxicology testing that accompany about a quarter of sexual assault evidence kits.

A motion to approve the report as amended was made by Liam Lowney, seconded by Katia Santiago-Taylor, and passed unanimously.

Chairman Moran explained to the members that once the report was finalized it would be provided to the Secretary of Public Safety, Thomas Turco, for review prior to the initiation of the procurement process. The report will serve as the basis for the development of a request for responses (RFR), which EOPSS intends to move forward with in late February or early March.

The Chairman also noted that the finalization of the report concludes the Task Force’s statutory obligation pursuant to section 11 of the criminal justice reform law (i.e., Chapter 69 of the Acts of 2018); however, based upon requests from the members, the Chair agreed to convene a meeting of the Task Force for purposes of an update on the procurement process, once a vendor was selected, and a discussion regarding how the stakeholders could individually contribute to the tracking system’s implementation.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 11:30am.

The next meeting of the Task Force will be scheduled for some time in the Spring of 2019 to update members on the progress of the procurement process for the statewide tracking system as well as implementation plans.