

Sexual Assault Medical Forensic Services Implementation Task Force

Meeting Minutes

Friday, May 31, 2024

1:00 p.m.

Opening Remarks

- ☐ Cordelia Coppleson, Task Force Co-Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:04pm.
- ☐ The meeting was held electronically and a verbatim audio and video recording of this meeting was made.
- ☐ Please email sane@ilag.gov to request a link to the recording.

New Board Membership

No new board membership was discussed.

Approval of November 16, 2023 Meeting Minutes

- ☐ Dr. Goyal made a motion to approve the minutes.
- ☐ Jason Wynkoop seconded the motion.
- ☐ No corrections were made to the draft minutes.
- ☐ The minutes were approved by a Roll Call vote, which can be found at the end of the document.

Old Business

None.

New Business

None.

Final Draft of Implementation Task Force Report to the Illinois General Assembly

Karen Senger, Task Force Co-Chair, expressed her gratitude to the Implementation Task Force for the work completed. Ms. Senger explained that this group was formed in the Fall of 2018. It is now the Spring of 2024, and the Implementation Task Force made many improvements to the overall SASETA process and organization and sharing between all relevant agencies. Ms Senger stated that the

Implementation Task Force met the goals it was required per the Act. Co-Chair Senger noted that a final vote of the Implementation Task Force's Report to the Illinois General Assembly is now necessary. Ms. Senger elaborated the need for ongoing work as processes evolve. For example, the Illinois Attorney General's office has an ongoing pediatric task force group that is still ongoing for an area that still needs to be addressed on issues related to pediatrics. Ms. Senger encouraged the Implementation Task Force to continue fostering working relationships with fellow members of the group to problem-solve issues between law enforcement and emergency health care providers. Ms. Senger also assured the group that the Illinois Department of Public Health will continue to post data on its website and relationship to those hospitals where their stat statuses and the data collection for the number of patients that were treated. Finally, Ms. Senger lauded the Implementation Task Force for what it accomplished in the last 5 years, noting "some major educational improvements" were made, and that major changes with hospitals were made thanks to the Implementation Task Force's assistance in developing their plans.

- ☐ Erin Tendick made a motion to approve the final draft of the Implementation Task Force Report, with a minor edit to page 11 striking the last sentence: "Work on this project is ongoing."
- ☐ Ann Adlington seconded the motion.
- ☐ Dr. Goyal asked for a brief summarization of the Implementation Task Force's recommendations.
- ☐ Sarah Beuning read the recommendations listed on pages 23 and 24 the Implementation Task Force Report out loud.
- ☐ The final draft of the Implementation Task Force Report, with the minor edits previously noted, was approved by a Roll Call vote, which can be found at the end of the document.

Task Force Members Concerns:

Dr. Pitzele asked for additional information from the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services regarding claims for sexual assault in patient care. Karen Senger responded with apprehension about whether this was information that the Illinois Department of Public Health could ask for to compare the number of HFS claims with IDPH's data. Dr. Goyal offered to share "broad numbers" with the entire Implementation Task Force. Dr. Goyal shared with the group. In 2023, medical assault treatment services unique patients totaled 3699. There were 13,813 claims from those patients. In 2024, medical assault treatment services unique patients totaled 2561 for January 1st through May 10th of this year. There were 9,638 claims from those patients. The average days between the date of service and the invoice received at 27.9 and 25.2 days respectively. The average day between the receipt of the invoice and the payments made was 12.4 and 11.5 days respectively. The percentage of patients under age 13 in those 2 categories were 35.6 and 35.1 percents. Dr. Goyal continued to relay additional data regarding sexual assault emergency treatment program services. Dr. Goyal explained in 2023 there were 692 unique patients. Claims totaled 1726, and average days between date of service and invoice were 44.2 days. Moreover, average days between dates of service and payment date was 119.4 days, and the actual days between invoice date and payment date was 75.2. In 2024, there were 458 unique patients with 1232 claims. The days between date of service and invoice were 44.4 and the

days between invoice date and payment date was 74. Broken down by county, Dr. Goyal added that Cook County had the most cases in 2023 with 1401 patients and the services that were billed for 5,489. In 2024, Cook County has logged 1,015 unique patients and 4425 claims. Karen Senger offered to share Dr. Goyal's data with the Implementation Task Force after the meeting.

Public Comment

Layne S. expressed appreciation for the Implementation Task Force's recommendation for increased collaboration between hospitals. He shared that he works for a health system that is receiving requests from facilities for transfer agreements because the hospital closer to the facility is charging more to go into a contractual transfer agreement. Layne suggested the State needs to think about how transfer agreements play out practically for smaller facilities that are not a part of a larger health care system. Layne represented to the group that sexual assault survivors are having to travel farther distances for necessary care rather than seeking care from a closer facility that charges more. Co-Chair Senger thanked Layne for his comment and stated that the Implementation Task Force would take his comment into consideration.

Jaclyn Rodriguez raised questions about how the public could make comments on the final report, and why the draft report was not available to public members of the Implementation Task Force's subcommittees. Cordelia Coppleson responded that all subcommittees submitted their recommendations, so if Ms. Rodriguez was on a subcommittee, she was part of a committee that submitted its recommendations as part of this report. Co-Chair Coppleson added the Implementation Task Force's Report will be publicly available when it is submitted to the Illinois General Assembly. Co-Chair Senger added that Implementation Task Force members would be the ones who would need to do a formal vote and a formal approval of any subcommittee recommendations. Ms. Senger expressed appreciation for other members who are not task force members for their public participation and involvement, but that they would not have a vote on voting on the final document.

Jaclyn Rodriguez also inquired about the Illinois Attorney General's Office pediatric task force group and asked for more information about it. Co-Chair Senger responded that there are several Implementation Task Force members that are in that group. Ms. Senger represented that she was invited to participate as a member of IDPH and clarified that the pediatric group is not part of the Implementation Task Force's responsibility.

Dr. Goyal suggested that delivery of the Implementation Task Force's Report to the Illinois General Assembly be delayed for 10 days, and that the public be given a chance to submit written comments that could be included as an appendix to the Report without comment. Dr. Goyal added that he would defer to the Implementation Task Force's Co-Chairs on how to decide on his suggestion. Co-Chair Coppleson responded that the Report was already voted on and appendixes could not be added at this time.

Ms. Rodriguez asked Dr. Goyal a follow-up question to the data he shared earlier in the meeting. She asked if he was able to evaluate the total budget for the voucher program, specifically how much was being spent on a year-to-year basis to support a voucher program. Dr. Goyal replied that her question went beyond his expertise and knowledge, and that he had already responded to Dr. Pitzele's inquiry. Because Ms. Rodriguez's question was not a part of Dr. Pitzele's inquiry, Dr. Goyal did not produce that data.

Candace Sanjurjo asked if anything is being done to screen for sexual assault disclosures among the large influx of migrants coming into Chicago upon their arrival. She relayed her experiences as a SANE nurse in Chicago and stated that her hospital has encountered a few disclosed assaults enroute to Chicago from their homeland, Venezuela, or other nations. She has been able to use Spanish-translated ISP documents for her patients, but asked if there was anything else that the State could do for these survivors. Karen Senger responded to Ms. Sanjurjo's question stating that she was not aware of any sexual assault screening that is being done nationally from an immigrant standpoint when they arrive in Chicago. Sarah Buening added that ICASA is available to provide services and assistance – both crisis intervention and free confidential counseling – to survivors of sexual violence, sexual abuse of any kind, regardless of immigration status and that many ICASA centers have bilingual staff.

Adjournment

- ☐ Erin Tendick made a motion to adjourn the meeting.
- ☐ Brenda Danosky seconded the motion.
- ☐ State Rep. Robyn Gabel extended her personal thanks to the Implementation Task Force for its work. Rep. Gabel assured the Implementation Task Force that the Illinois General Assembly will bring the Task Force's recommendations forward.
- ☐ The motion was approved by a Roll Call vote, which can be found at the end of the document.
- ☐ The meeting was adjourned at 1:44 p.m.

This is the last meeting of the SASETA Implementation Task Force.

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