

Forensic Nursing Advisory Council Meeting

Meeting Minutes

September 11, 2026 – 10:30am-12:00pm

Meeting: Virtual

[illegible]

--	--	--	--

Topic/Subject	Discussion	Recommendation
I. Call to Order and Introductions	Maria Altonen called the meeting to order at 10:33 am. Altonen conducted a roll call of members present. Quorum was met. Eleven attendees were present, including four Task Force members, four state agency representatives, and three guest speakers. No members of the public were present for public comment.	
II. Review of the Agenda and Approval of Minutes	Altonen reviewed the agenda with the Task Force members. Emma Call reviewed the policy on electronic meetings. A motion to approve the policy was made by Bonnie Price and the motion was seconded by Melissa Harper. Emma Call also reviewed the meeting minutes from the last council meeting that was held in July. A motion to approve was again made by Bonnie Price and was seconded by Melissa Harper. Altonen asked members if they would prefer monthly, bimonthly, or quarterly meetings. Price suggested every other month, and all other members agreed. Price expressed desire to increase the number of the Task Force members in order to make quorum more attainable to achieve in person. Altonen suggested members investigate and submit legislation separately from any council work.	
III. Guest Speakers	3 guest speakers were present at the meeting: Brittany DeCrease, West Virginia SANE Project Coordinator, Polly Campbell, Director of the Advanced Nursing Education Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner Program, University of New England, Maine, and Mei Pomegranate, Oregon Attorney General's Sexual Assault Task Force (Oregon SATF) SANE Coordinator.	

	Each speaker detailed the certification and competency process for forensic nurses engaging in forensic sexual assault care in their respective states. Members asked questions regarding finances, recruitment, and program impact following each presentation. Call offered to compile each state strategy described in a follow up email for members to review.	
IV. Update on Hospital Forensic Examiner Data Reporting	Lauren Yerkes, Prevention & Health Promotion Epidemiology Program Manager at the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) gave an update on the hospital forensic examiner data reporting. Yerkes outlined the development of a data collection tool for all Virginia forensic nursing programs that has the goal of meeting state reporting requirements but also combines reporting requirements to VDH and Coordinator at the Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) into one place, on survey. Call agreed to share the slides presented by Yerkes with members.	
V. Updates from DCJS	Gleibys Gonzales, the Sexual Assault Forensic Nurses Coordinator at DCJS gave an update from DCJS and their involvement with the forensic examiner data reporting tool mentioned in the previous section by Lauren Yerkes.	
VI. Review Guidelines	In the interest of time, members chose to delay the review of Virginia guidelines and do so at the next meeting.	
VII. Public Comment	No members of the public were present to make comments.	
VII. Next Steps	The council agreed to meet again in October or November, as schedules allow. Next meeting will be in person. Call will be in touch with details for the next meeting.	
VIII. Adjourn	The meeting was adjourned by Altonen at 12:09pm.	