

**Best Practices and Processes Committee
Task Force on Services for Survivors of Sexual Assault**

Agenda

September 3, 2021 – 11:00 a.m.

VIA WEBEX

The public may sign up to virtually attend through

<https://covaconf.webex.com/covaconf/j.php?RGID=r0d9161f1b8568bc8dafa2e935333ad6c>

NOTE: Task Force Members should join the meeting using the WebEx link they received by email.

1. **Call to Order and Introductions** – *Alexandra Jansson, Senior Policy Analyst, Governmental and Regulatory Affairs, Virginia Department of Health*
2. **Review of Agenda** – *Ms. Jansson*
3. **Public Comment**
4. **Presentations and Discussion**
 - 4.1. **Excerpts from JCHC Forensic Nursing Study**– *Rebekah E. Allen, Senior Policy Analyst, Office of Licensure and Certification, Virginia Department of Health*
 - 4.2. **Evidence Preservation by Transfer Hospitals** – *Task Force Members, Ms. Allen, and Ms. Jansson*
 - 4.3. **Report Out about Reasonable Timeframes for Evidence Pickup** – *Major Caren Sterling, Task Force Members, Ms. Allen, and Ms. Jansson*
5. **Next Steps** – *Ms. Allen and Ms. Jansson*
6. **Other Business** – *Ms. Allen and Ms. Jansson*
7. **Meeting Adjournment**

**Best Practices and Processes Committee
(Task Force on Services for Survivors of Sexual
Assault)**

September 3, 2021 at 11:00 AM
Virtual Meeting
WebEx

**CALL TO ORDER AND
INTRODUCTIONS**

Introductions

Named Members in the Code of Virginia

Name	Constituency
Maria Altonen	Violence Prevention Coordinator, Virginia Department of Health (M. Norman Oliver, State Health Commissioner)
Jennifer Boysko	Senate Rules Committee
Kelly Convirs-Fowler	House of Delegates
Karrie Delaney	House of Delegates
Mark Herring	Attorney General
Caren Sterling	Deputy Director, Bureau of Criminal Investigation, Department of State Police (designee of Gary Settle, Director of Department of State Police)
Gena Boyle Berger	Chief Deputy Commissioner, Department of Social Services (designee of Duke Storen, Commissioner)

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to protect the health and promote the well-being of all people in Virginia.

VA
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Introductions

Appointed by Governor

Name	Constituency
Robin Foster	Representative of a licensed hospital
Lindsey Caley	Licensed pediatrician who is a practitioner of emergency medicine
Patricia Hall	Member of sexual assault survivor advocacy organization
Melissa Harper	Licensed nurse who is a sexual assault nurse examiner
Sara Jennings	Licensed nurse who is a sexual assault nurse examiner
Jeanne Parrish	Member of children's advocacy organization
Bonnie Price	Licensed nurse who is a sexual assault nurse examiner
Dawn Scaff	Representative of a licensed hospital
Scott Sparks	Licensed physician who is a practitioner of emergency medicine
Brooke Thomas	Licensed physician who is a practitioner of emergency medicine
Chatonia Zollicoffer	Member of sexual assault survivor advocacy organization

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VDH
VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT
OF HEALTH
To protect the health and promote the well-being of all people in Virginia.

Agenda

Item	Speaker
Introductions and Roll Call	Alexandra Jansson, MPP, Senior Policy Analyst Governmental and Regulatory Affairs
Review of Agenda	Ms. Jansson
Public Comment	
Excerpts from JCHC Forensic Nursing Study	Rebekah E. Allen, JD, Senior Policy Analyst Office of Licensure and Certification
Evidence Preservation by Transfer Hospitals	Task Force Members, Ms. Allen, and Ms. Jansson
Report Out about Reasonable Timeframes for Evidence Pickup	Major Caren Sterling, Task Force Members, Ms. Allen, and Ms. Jansson
Next Steps	Ms. Allen and Ms. Jansson
Other Business	Ms. Allen and Ms. Jansson
Meeting Adjournment	

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PUBLIC COMMENT

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Public Comment Period

There is a two minute time limit for each person to speak.

We will be calling from the list generated through attendee registration.

After the 2 minute public comment limit is reached, we will let you complete the sentence. We will then mute you and move on to the next attendee.

We will call the name of the person on list and also the name of the person is next on the list.

EXCERPTS FROM JCHC FORENSIC NURSING STUDY

Study Topics

- Existing forensic nursing (FN) programs in Virginia
- Regions with no FN programs or nurses and closest location to receive services
- Current funding sources for existing FN programs
- Creating new programs: cost and potential funding sources
- Cost of evidence collecting and court testifying
- Potential funding sources for testimony costs
- Current FN workforce and ways to increase availability of FN certifications to nurses
- Insurance reimbursement for FN services
- Best practices in other state FN programs, including telehealth

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Statistics

- 96 to 155 trained forensic nurses in Virginia
 - 93,902 Registered Nurses total
- Out of 122 licensed hospitals in Virginia:
 - 16 hospitals provide sexual assault exams
 - 1 only provides pediatric forensic nursing
 - 1 non-hospital based mobile forensic nurse service
 - 11 of the 16 forensic medical exam hospitals have trauma care designations
 - 8 of the 19 Virginia trauma care hospitals do not offer forensic examinations

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Forensic Hospital Programs	Designation	Location
Augusta Regional SANE Program		Fishersville
Bon Secours Richmond Forensic Nursing Services		Richmond
Carilion Health System Clinical Forensic Nurse Examiners	Level I Adult	Roanoke
Carilion Franklin Memorial	Level I Adult	Rocky Mount
Carilion New River Valley Medical Center	Level III Adult	Christiansburg
Centra Forensic Nurse Examiners	Level II	Lynchburg
INOVA Ewing Forensic Assessment and Consultation Teams (FACT)	Level I	Falls Church
Mary Washington Hospital	Level II	Fredericksburg
Riverside Health System Forensic Nurse Examiner Program	Level II	Newport News
Sentara Rockingham Memorial Hospital Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners		Harrisonburg
Sentara CarePlex Hospital		Hampton
Sentara Northern Virginia Medical Center		Woodbridge
UVA - University of Virginia Forensic Nurse Examiners	Level I Adult	Charlottesville
VCU Medical Center/MCVH Hospitals Forensic Nurse Examiners	Level I Adult	Richmond
Winchester Medical Center	Level II Adult	Winchester
CHKD Pediatric Forensic Nurse Examiners	Level I	Norfolk
Chesapeake Forensic Specialists Office - Mobile Svcs for 13 Eastern Shore hospitals		Eastern Shore

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well-being of all people in Virginia.

EVIDENCE PRESERVATION BY TRANSFER HOSPITALS

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Excerpt from Draft Model Adult Transfer Plan

The transfer hospital must maintain a chain of custody in the handling of the adult survivor and any clothing and shall handle it as minimally as possible. The transfer hospital will not attempt to obtain any specimens for evidentiary purposes (e.g., blood, saliva, hair samples, etc.) . If the adult survivor needs to urinate , the transfer hospital should then collect the urine/diaper and maintain chain of custody of the item during transfer. If removal of any clothing is necessary to render emergency services, removal should be attempted without cutting, tearing, or shaking garments. All loose or removed articles of clothing or other possessions of the adult survivor shall be left to dry if possible, placed in separate paper bags, and then placed in one larger paper bag. The bag shall be sealed and labeled with the adult survivor's name, the names of the health care personnel in attendance, the type and description of contents, the date, and the time collected. If the bag is not collected by law enforcement at the transfer hospital prior to transfer, the bag shall be transported with the adult survivor to the treatment hospital.

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Discussion Questions

- Model Documents Committee has recommend inserting language about not wiping the genital area if a patient has to urinate
- What recommendations does this committee have for this portion of the model adult transfer plan?
 - What needs to be more specific?
 - What is incorrect or doesn't represent best practice/process?
 - How do transfer hospitals handle evidence preservation and transfer currently?

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REASONABLE TIMEFRAMES FOR EVIDENCE PICKUP

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NEXT STEPS

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OTHER BUSINESS

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MEETING ADJOURNMENT

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