

Sexual Assault Forensic Examiners (2010 - 2015)

Leigh Simpson	Sarah Ickes
Candi Fusco * 2010	Sophia Lopez * 2013
Marcie Gawel	Kim DeMorais
Jessica Glazier	Nicole Mott * 2013
Mary Nielson	Maura Nazario
Stacy Cisero	Tatiana Panea
Paz Andan	Barbara Zarrella
Marianna Cassista	Elizabeth Bernard * 2014
Elizabeth Horan	Brittany Brocuglio
Donna Lynch * 2010	Aisha Davis * 2014
Linda Page	Marcie duPlessis * 2014
Delia Foran	Meagan McCormack * 2014
Kathleen Fulton * 2010	Michele Diaz
Lana Jensen * 2010	Ashley Dizon * 2014
Jessica Alemar	Anne Marie Janelle * 2014
Jenny Cannon	Andrea Kelly * 2014
Elizabeth Dobransky	Jenifer Long
Patricia DosSantos-Almeida	Sarah Martino * 2014
Heidi Heim * 2011	Leah Smith * 2014
Michelle Leece	Luanne Treado * 2014
Amberelle McCarthy	Lee Baier * 2015
Carol Michalak * 2011	Andrea Blythe
Sarah Noel	Callie Ryan
Kathryn Rhude	Deborah Mastroianni
Deborah Rubio	Donna Pfeiffer
Tricia Seifker	Holly Dzen
Cheryl Sheades * 2011	Jacquelyn Rawlings
Melissa DeMayo	Kary Krochko
Kathryn Doan	Kim Rix
Connie Gustafson * 2012	Lee Overhiser
Lauren Haines	Lillie Toni
Rachelle Jules-Jabouin * 2012	Lori Ann Cleary
Patricia Rygiel	Lourdes Jackson
Jackie Scott * 2012	Maria Biehler
Kim Williams * 2012	Melissa Melendez
Brenda Bazzano	Michelle Munoz * 2015
Shelli Bellini Brown	Nicole McNeiece * 2015
Jennifer Calitri	Pamela Murac
Andrea DeLaire	Stephanie Rickard
Marla Deleppo * 2013	Tara Donovan
	Vikki Shahat * 2015

Denise Covington, SAFE Program Manager
Kristin Loranger, Clinical Coordinator

* Currently active SAFEs
Italicized names are SAFEs in training

Survivor Feedback

Each patient that presents for a sexual assault exam at a participating SAFE Program healthcare facility is provided with a survey in order to rate the care they received. Over the last five years, nearly 9% of all patients have returned these surveys, the majority of whom had their exams at one of the two Hartford hospitals. Some of the findings include:

- Over half of the respondents rated the care they received at the hospital as "excellent."
- A third of all respondents indicated that they waited less than one hour to meet with an examiner after arriving at the emergency room.
- Over 90% of patients expressed that they strongly agreed with the statement that they "felt supported and received information they needed from the SAFE during the exam."

The survey also includes space for the patients to say in their own words how they felt about the care they received:

"I am just so grateful that the SAFE program exists. Through all of the stress they kept me calm and made sure I understood the test. They did not judge me."

"[The SAFE] was an angel for me that awful day. I felt so unbelievably comforted by her presence and competence. I will always be eternally grateful for her in those awful first hours."

"[The SAFE] was extremely comforting to me. She did a great job making the process easy for me. Thank you, and I got DNA thanks to her!"

"My SAFE and advocate were amazing!"

Gail Burns-Smith (1946 - 2009)



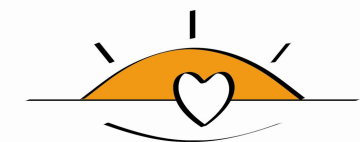
Gail Burns-Smith was the Executive Director of Connecticut Sexual Assault Crisis Services from 1982 to her retirement in 2004. Her public policy advocacy resulted in the passage of numerous laws establishing rights and funding for sexual assault victims and the programs that serve them. Originally trained as a nurse, Gail worked tirelessly to ensure that all victims had access to services that they need and played a significant role in the development of the State of Connecticut Commission on the Standardization of the Collection of Evidence in Sexual Assault Investigations guidelines for an immediate health care response to sexual assault victims. Nationally, Gail co-founded the National Alliance to End Sexual Violence, which was instrumental in securing the passage of the federal Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) and related funding of programs for services to victims of sexual assault. In 2010 the State of Connecticut SAFE Program Advisory Committee voted unanimously to name the program after Gail.

5th Anniversary

of the

Gail Burns-Smith
Sexual Assault Forensic Examiner Program
Judicial Branch, Office of Victim Services

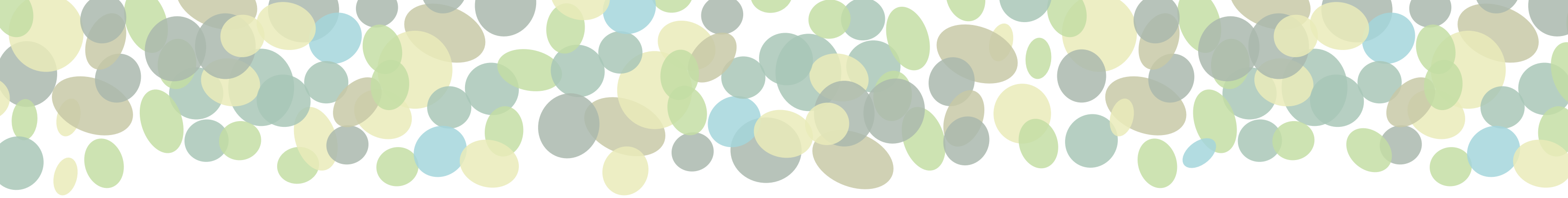
Tuesday, January 26, 2016



OFFICE OF VICTIM SERVICES
Focusing on a brighter future

CONNECTICUT ALLIANCE
TO END SEXUAL VIOLENCE 
Support. Advocate. Prevent.

formerly CONNSACS



Schedule of Events

Welcome and Remarks2:00 p.m.

- **Laura Cordes**, Executive Director
Connecticut Alliance to End Sexual Violence
- **The Honorable Judge Patrick L. Carroll III**
Chief Court Administrator, *Connecticut Superior Court*
- **Linda J. Cimino**, Director
Connecticut Office of Victim Services
- **Terry Gerratana**, State Senator
Co-Chair of Public Health Committee
- **Maureen Platt**, State's Attorney
Waterbury Judicial District
- **Dr. Guy Vallaro**, Director
Connecticut Forensic Science Laboratory

Acknowledgment of SAFEs.....2:45 p.m.

- **Linda J. Cimino**, Director
Connecticut Office of Victim Services
- **Denise Covington**, Program Manager
GBS Sexual Assault Forensic Examiners Program

Refreshments.....3:00 p.m.

What is the SAFE Program?

In 2009, lawmakers authorized the Office of Victim Services (OVS), within the Connecticut Judicial Branch, to establish a program to train and make available Sexual Assault Forensic Examiners (SAFEs) to adult and adolescent victims of sexual assaults at participating healthcare facilities. (PA 09-3)

Available through an on-call system, the SAFEs respond in tandem with sexual assault victim advocates to provide timely, compassionate, patient-centered sexual assault forensic examination services to sexual assault victims 13 years or older who present to a participating healthcare facility within 120 hours of the assault.

SAFEs work closely with sexual assault victim advocates, hospital staff, law enforcement, and state's attorneys to provide victims of sexual assault with comprehensive services and support.

Over the last five years, more than 900 patients have been seen by a SAFE in Connecticut.

The SAFE Program originally launched on a part-time basis in December 2010 before transitioning to a 24-hour on-call system for six acute care hospitals. Today the program has expanded to nine healthcare facilities and preparations are underway for an expansion in southwestern Connecticut.

What is a SAFE?

A Sexual Assault Forensic Examiner (SAFE) is a healthcare provider who has been specially trained to provide comprehensive care for the sexual assault patient, who demonstrates competency in conducting a forensic exam, and who has the ability to be an expert or fact witness in court. In Connecticut, SAFEs receive ongoing oversight and quality assurance monitoring within the SAFE Program.

SAFE Program Statistics

(December 2010 to December 2015)

Response by Healthcare Facility

- Hartford Hospital: 337
- Middlesex Hospital: 89
- St. Francis Hospital: 181
- The Hospital of Central CT: 137
- Windham Hospital: 103
- Manchester Memorial Hospital: 88
- UCONN, Storrs: 2 *
- CT Children's Medical Center: 6 **
- Midstate Medical Center: 3 **

Total SAFE Program Patients: 946

* New facility in August 2015

** New facility in November 2015

Race/Ethnicity

- White: 53%
- Black: 22%
- Hispanic: 20%
- Other: 4%
- Asian: 1%

Gender

- Female: 95.24%
- Male: 4.54%
- Transgender: 0.22%

Offender Statistics

- 21% of the offenders were strangers to the victim
- 79% of the offenders were known to the victim

Reporting

- 68% of survivors reported to police at the time of evidence collection
- 32% of survivors were undecided at the time of evidence collection

