

Sexual Assault Forensic Evidence (SAFE) Board

State of Oklahoma

MEETING MINUTES

prepared by Laura Russell

Regular Meeting

Thursday, June 4, 2026, 1:00 p.m.

Office of the Oklahoma Attorney General

313 NE 21st, Oklahoma City, OK 73105

I. Call to Order and Roll Call:

A. Roll Call

1. **Voting Members Present:** Linda Terrell, Amanda Lilley, Bill Weaver, Billy Parker, Danielle Tudor, Darin Ehrenrich, Brooke Christian, Kasey Magness, Mikela Rhodes; Mistie Burris, and Sonya Spray.
2. **Non-Voting Members Present:** Attorney General Gentner Drummond, Jenny Virden, Alexis Ruiz for Sen. Carri Hicks, Rep. Julie McIntosh, Rep. Melissa Provenzano
3. **Members Absent:** Kyle Keller and Ryan Stephenson
4. **Board Administrative Assistance:** Susan Laib, Laura Russell, Maria Maule, Scott May, Maria Maule, Bradley Clark (arrived late), Greg Wunningham, Jaiden Balthrop – Russell, Nicholas Massey, Chayse Caram
5. **Guests Present:** Carolyn Thompson (OAG), Tressie Chapman (OAG), Gary Tudor, Julie Kindle (OSBI), Dr. Melinda Chen (OU), Melissa Van-Duyne (OAG), Catharine Worthen (TPD), Byron Smith (TPD), Barbara Wells (OSBI), Tyler Talley (Quorum Call), Michael Helton (TPD), Avery Lay (OAG Intern)

B. Establishment of Quorum: Laura A. Russell confirmed quorum established.

1. **Required:** 7 Voting Members
2. **Met:** 11 Voting Members

C. Assurance of Compliance with Open Meeting Act:

1. Laura Russell confirmed OMA compliance. The date, time, and location of the meeting was posted with the Secretary of State on June 3, 2026, at 11:00 a.m.
2. The notice of the date, time, place, and agenda for the meeting was

posted at the principal office of the Attorney General, located at 313 NE 21st Street, Oklahoma City, OK and the agency's website on June 3, 2026. at 11:00 a.m.

D. Introduction Invitation: Linda Terrell invited guests to introduce themselves.

E. Remarks from the Attorney General: Attorney General Gentner Drummond addressed the board. Even though he relinquished his chairmanship on the board to Danielle Tudor, he assured the members and the elected officials that this board was still very important to the Attorney General's office. The responsibility of the board has been reassigned under Bradley Clark General Counsel. Maria Maule is here from General Counsel. He wants the board to be effectively run and effective in their outreach and he is doubly committed to what needs to be done to advance those goals.

II. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding the Minutes of the April 2, 2026, Regular Board Meeting – Linda Terrell

A. Bill Weaver moved and Darin Ehrenrich seconded to approve the April 2, 2026, meeting minutes. The vote passed unanimously.

III. Presentation and Discussion – Sexual Assault Kit Initiative by End Violence Against Women International (EVAWI) – Misti Burris

A. Misti Burris gave a status update regarding the national SAKI grantees.

1. Currently 44 states and D.C. receive funding for the SAKI project. Since 2015, of the 205,000 untested kits, 105,000 have been sent for testing.
2. 250,000 kits inventoried with this project.
3. Over 350,000,000 spent on this initiative.
4. Oklahoma has received \$12,000,000 in SAKI funding
5. She reviewed several national success stories regarding the funding, and Oklahoma is mentioned.

IV. Virtual Presentation and Discussion by JHF-Supporting Survivors – Joyful Heart Foundation – Burcu Sagiroglu, Policy and Advocacy Manager

A. Joyful Heart Foundation was founded by Mariska Hargitay in 2004 to help survivors or sexual assault heal. The goals are to heal the healers, end the sexual assault kit backlog, and technology/image-based abuse.

B. Burcu provided statistics regarding sexual assault and untested kits as well as some survivor stories.

C. The JHF has six (6) pillars

1. Statewide inventory and annual report
2. Mandatory testing of backlog
3. Mandatory testing of new kits

4. Statewide tracking system
5. Victims' rights to know
6. Funding for reform
7. 20 states are doing all the pillars and Oklahoma is one

D. Discussion regarding HB 4141 and the 30-day time limit in processing sexual assault kits within 30 days of receiving them prompted asking the JHF to come share what other states are doing and how this can help Oklahoma.

1. Mistie Burris reported that the 30 days is not feasible; currently the goal is 60 days but in CY 2025 the turnaround rate was 300 days and for CY 2026 the rate is currently 185 days. They hope to have the rate down to 120 days by the end of the year.
2. By state statute, other law enforcement agencies can send their untested kits to OSBI to test which puts more pressure on their lab.
3. More victims are coming forward and more police reports done is increasing the number of kits to be tested.
4. The turnaround time for TPD is based on a three (3) tier process. The top tier has a 99-day time frame, tier 2 has around a 406 turnaround time and tier 3 is 1,192 days.
5. Byron Smith of the TPD Lab stated that 23 states and D.C. have a 100-day turnaround time. Michigan's law has a 90-day turnaround with the stipulation that adequate funding and resources are available.
6. Some states have just one lab and others have a state lab and municipal labs.
7. The external pressures on the labs to meet the 30-day turnaround impacts the morale of the staff. A better target is 6 months or 120 days.
8. The labs still need adequately trained analysts which can take up to three years before an analyst is fully trained.
9. Space at labs for additional analysts is a problem at the OKCPD lab.
10. The talent pool is there, just not the funding for salaries.
11. Perhaps setting a reasonable goal and then as it is met then lowering the goal would be the way to go.
12. While the time frame is a problem, another issue is there are no repercussions for law enforcement not turning over kits.
13. Need legislation mandating a timeframe for law enforcement to pick up the kits from the hospital once the kit is done. The best practice for chain of custody is to have the nurse hand off the completed kit to law enforcement.
14. Another need is centralized storage of non-reported kits. OSBI has agreed to store any kits that law enforcement needs have stored.
 - a. This can be done with a tweak to SB 1584 which already has a subsection on where untested kits are to be stored.
15. The board will continue working with JHF on reasonable recommendations for future funding and information from other states processes that would be beneficial.
16. The committee will also work with Representative McIntosh on having the legislature have an interim study done. They don't want legislation that will set labs up for failure.

V. Update and Discussion on Sexual Assault Initiatives and SAKI Grants:

A. Tulsa SAKI Program – Darin Ehrenrick

1. 4410 number of backlog inventory
2. 2942 kits tested
3. 50 kits outsourced
4. 1468 kits left to test
5. 548 CODIS eligible results
6. 548 results uploaded to CODIS
7. 298 CODIS hits
8. 10 serial rapists

B. Oklahoma City SAKI Program – Bill Weaver

1. 1,561 total kits at start – all y screened
2. 692 positive for male DNA
3. 142 total kits sent for full analysis
4. 109 number of full profiles entered into CODIS
5. 63 number of individual cases with CODIS hits
6. There have been eight (8) charges filed and one (1) conviction.

C. OSBI SAKI Team – Mistie Burris/Jenny Virden

1. 3297 backlog inventory-
2. 369 kits on backlog that have not been analyzed
3. 2928 kits that have been analyzed
4. 1236 positive/negative results with no male DNA
5. 976 DNA profiles obtained through testing
6. 976 DNA profiles entered into CODIS
7. 477 CODIS hits obtained for profiles entered
8. 118 serial rapist hits
9. Charges have been filed on one (1) case.
10. OSBI recently hosted their annual Sexual Assault Awareness Symposium in OKC with around 200 attendees. They are considering possibly having the training next year in Stillwater.
11. OSBI recently held an advanced sexual assault training in Osage County with around 60 law enforcement officers from across the state and out-of-state. More of these trainings will be offered.
12. OSBI held a training in Bartlesville for school resource officers. They have had requests to provide a lot more of these trainings.
13. The more training is done, the more sexual assault cases are reported and that means more sexual assault kits are coming in which adds additional pressure on the labs.

VI. Update and Discussion on Statewide SANE Program – Kasey Magness

- A.** Getting the grant statewide stats we had would be very beneficial. Has not received this from TPD yet. The grant is wrapping up and so the stats would be helpful.

VII. Update, Discussion, and Possible Action on SAFE Board *Statistics and Processes Subcommittee Report* – Mistie Burris

- A.** The committee had one (1) meeting on 4/23/2026.
1. Mistie Burris sent out the list of stats to collect for CY24 and requested

- subcommittee members' feedback.
- 2. The following changes will be made to the current list of data requests:
 - a. The lab stats will be modified to remove the request for average days open.
 - b. Lab data will only be requested for CY25 as historical data was requested and provided last year.
- 3. Additional data that the subcommittee would like to gather from the agencies that provided data for CY24:
 - a. How many times strangulation occurs during a sexual assault?
 - b. Is the suspect a repeat offender?
 - i. AOC doesn't keep this information on statutes where the second offense increases the penalty. They do keep information on sex child trafficking.
 - c. Is any agency tracking VPOs for a sexual offense?
- 4. Additional data requests for CY25:
 - a. Sexual Assault Advocacy Programs in the state (certified and tribal) for calendar years 2022-2025. Greg Winningham has the information for certified programs in Oklahoma and will request this information:
 - i. How many advocates were active in your program as of the end of calendar year?
 - ii. How many sexual assault survivors did your program provide services for in the calendar year?
 - b. Information on sexual assaults in DOC custody.
 - i. Number of sexual assaults reported
 - ii. Number of cases substantiated
 - iii. Number of unsubstantiated cases
- 5. Collecting data from military installations throughout Oklahoma was discussed. However, at this time it would be difficult to gather this information. It was decided that they should have a disclaimer on the annual report indicating that sexual assault data from military installations in Oklahoma was not included in this report.
- 6. All of the data requests have been sent out and are due in July.
- 7. Nicholas Massey, OAG, was introduced as the person that will be doing the data analysis for the next SAFE Board annual report.

VIII. Update, Discussion, and Possible Action on SAFE Board *Case Review Subcommittee Report* – Jenny Virden

- A. The next case review will be presented at the August 6th meeting. Bill Weaver has sent a case for consideration.

IX. Update, Discussion, and Possible Action on SAFE Board *Recommendations and Evaluations Subcommittee Report* – Danielle Tudor

- A. Future Legislative Objectives
 - 1. SANE Coordinator Funding: Securing permanent funding for the statewide SANE nurse coordinator position. Carolyn Thompson will take the lead on this.

2. OSBI Kit Storage: Mandating that all non-report sexual assault kits be transferred to the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation (OSBI) for centralized storage. This initiative aims to support rural agencies by eliminating indefinite local storage requirements and streamlining the tracking process for future victim-initiated testing. If passed, this would be about 200 per year for each year going forward. OSBI would also need to develop policies and procedures.
3. Rape Kit Testing Timelines: Establishing a legislatively mandated timeline for current rape kit testing. This item is expected to be a primary focus of the legislative agenda; they will work with Senator McIntosh on written recommendations for an interim study. The deadline is the 26th. The subcommittee will reach out to the board members for their expertise and assistance.
4. Law Enforcement Pick up Timelines: Establishing a legislatively mandated timeline for law enforcement to pick up kits from the hospital once they are notified it is there. The subcommittee would also like legislation mandating a time limit for a hospital to notify law enforcement once SANE kit is done. Both of these timelines would likely to be different depending on rural and urban locations. Best practice is to have the nurse hand the kit off directly to law enforcement to secure evidence and maintain the chain of custody according to DOJ and CJIS guidelines.
5. Might be best to tweak SB 1584; Senator Burns is working on amendments to that statute and there is already a subsection on kit storage.

X. Legislative Update – Carolyn Thompson, OAG Government Affairs (This agenda item was done after item IV due to time constraints for Carolyn Thompson)

A. Request Bills from the board

1. SB 1460 – Sen. Todd Gollihare and Rep. Ross Ford/HB 4104 –Increases the penalty for peeping tom offenses. Makes a second or subsequent offense for watching a person in a clandestine manner a felony with punishment up to five years in prison. Makes a second or subsequent offense for photographing or videoing in a clandestine manner in a public place, or a first offense involving three or more victims, a felony with punishment up to five years in prison.
2. HB 4141 – Robert Manger and Christi Gillespie - Removes the sunset provision from the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner Statewide Coordinator at the DAC.

B. Other Bills of Interest

1. SB 1730 – Sen. Kristen Thompson and Rep. Robert Manger –The bill requires law enforcement to report any offense that could lead to sex offender registration upon conviction to the OSBI within one month of the report’s reception, regardless of the current status of the case.

2. HB 2959 – Rep. Steve Bashore & Sen. Kristen Thompson - Requires school administrators to report any allegations of employee/student abuse or neglect to local law enforcement within 24 hours and prior to any internal interviews or investigation. Requires every school employee to annually sign an attestation acknowledging the responsibility to report suspected child abuse or neglect.
3. SB 1733 – Sen. Kristen Thompson and Rep. Mark Lawson – Requires school districts to immediately report digital exchanges involving sexual activity between teachers and students to law enforcement. Requires reporting of any sexual abuse or assault of a student to law enforcement, not including school resource officers, within 24 hours and prior to any internal interviews or investigation.
4. HB 3040 – Sen. Warren Hamilton and Rep. Josh West – Extends the “zone of safety” to include skating rinks, youth recreation centers, public swimming pools, arcades, amusement parks, and water parks.
5. HB 4227 – Sen. Chris Kannady and Sen. Darrell Weaver – Bans secret settlements hiding child sexual abuse and removes statute of limitations for prosecuting child sexual crimes.
6. SB 1262 – Sen. Christi Gillespie and Rep. Stan May – Directs higher education institutions to provide tuition-free education to victims of human trafficking or sex trafficking.
7. HB 3674 – Rep. Melissa Provenzano and Sen. Julie McIntosh – Requires reporting of sexual assault in schools to relevant law enforcement and mandates certain training for all school resource officers.

XI. Update and Discussion SAFE Board 2-Year Appointments – Susan Laib

- A. Susan Laib discussed that the board appointments are for a two-year term and that six (6) members’ terms expire 10/31/2026. These are a SANE representative, a representative from the Oklahoma Association of Chiefs of Police, a representative from the Oklahoma Sheriff’s Association, a public defender, a sexual assault advocate, and a sexual assault survivor. Emails have been sent to these members asking if they want to continue serving as board members. A response is needed by the 15th.

XII. New Business

- A. Bill Weaver announced that after 45 years in law enforcement he will be retiring 7/3/2026; this is his last meeting. The committee thanked him for his service.
- B. Missie Burris let everyone know that a tour of OSBI’s lab was done before this meeting and there are two (2) more scheduled for next week.

- C. Jenny Verden mentioned that one (1) of only two (2) SANEs in the western area of the state quit. There is a serious shortage of SANEs.

XIII. Adjournment

- A. Bill Weaver moved and Mikela Rhodes seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 3:01 p.m.

***Next SAFE Board Meeting: June 4, 2026, at 1:00 p.m.
Oklahoma Office of the Attorney General
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