

Sexual Assault Forensic Evidence (SAFE) Board

State of Oklahoma

MEETING MINUTES

prepared by Laura Russell

Special Meeting

Thursday, February 26 2026, 1:00 p.m.
Office of the Oklahoma Attorney General
313 NE 21st, Oklahoma City, OK 73105

I. Call to Order: Meeting called to order by Linda Terrell at 1:03 p.m..

A. Roll Call

1. **Voting Members Present:** Linda Terrell, Bill Weaver, Billy Parker, Danielle Tudor, Darin Ehrenrich, Mikela Rhodes, Mistie Burris (arrived at 1:14 p.m.), and Jenny Virden
2. **Non-Voting Members Present:** Senator Carri Hicks, Representative Melissa Provenzano, and Representative Cynthia Roe
3. **Members Absent:** Kyle Keller, Amanda Lilley, Todd Bussell, Kasey Magness, Ryan Stephenson, Sonya Spray
4. **Board Administrative Assistance:** Susan Laib, Laura Russell, Scott May
5. **Guests Present:** Macey Whitehouse Rice (OAG) Carolyn Thompson (OAG), Cheryl Dixon (OAG), Bradley Clark (OAG), Melissa Van Duyne (OAG), Anthony Hernandez- Rivera (OAG), Gary Tudor, Julie Kindle (OSBI), and two OU student interns for Carri Hicks.

B. Establishment of Quorum: Susi confirmed quorum established.

1. **Required:** 7 Voting Members
2. **Met:** 17Voting Members

C. Assurance of Compliance with Open Meeting Act:

1. Laura Russell confirmed OMA compliance. The date, time, and location of the meeting was timely posted with the Secretary of State on Tuesday, February 17th, 2026, and notice of this meeting was given at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting.
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 on Wednesday, February 25th,

2026, at 8:30 a.m. and on the agency's website on Wednesday, February 25th, 2026, at 8:39 a.m.

D. Introduction Invitation: Linda Terrell had everyone introduce themselves.

II. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Minutes of January 8, and January 15, 2026 Board Meetings

A. Bill Weaver moved and Mikela Rhodes seconded to approve the January 8, 2026, meeting minutes. The vote passed with Linda Terrell abstaining and all others approving.

B. Bill Weaver moved and Mikela Rhodes seconded to approve the January 15, 2026, meeting minutes. The vote passed with Linda Terrell abstaining.

III. Opening Comments – Linda Terrell

A. Linda told the board members that she appreciated them joining this special meeting. In the future, having the annual report approved by the end of the year would eliminate a special meeting in January to approve the report before the February deadline. The goal is to have the board meet in February when session is in. Kyle and Linda recognize how busy everyone is and they want to be respectful of that. This meeting was called for a legislative update on bills the board are interested in.

IV. Discussion and Possible Action on Legislative Updates – Carolyn Thompson and Macey Whitehouse Rice

A. Bills of interest to the board.

1. SB 1584 – Sen. Burns, & Rep. Melissa Provenzano (S. Approps) This bill requires law enforcement and crime laboratories to process sexual assault evidence kits within 30 days of receiving the kit. The board discussed issues with this bill. The 30-day timeline will put a huge financial burden on the labs who are already processing as many kits as they can with the staff and equipment they have. OSBI's fiscal impact would be \$6.5 million. The labs are already working at capacity, and this 30-day deadline is an unrealistic expectation. Having a moving goal line like some other states was one suggestion proposed for making the bill doable. Melissa Provenzano raised these concerns as House author and doesn't see it moving forward the way it is written. There is a national push toward these deadlines and Senator Burns has been in conversation with the Joyful Heart Foundation who have written a letter of support for this bill. Danielle Tudor has also had conversations with the Joyful Heart Foundation and Senator Burns about the problems with the bill. Another consideration is a timeline for the hospital/medical facility to have law enforcement come pick up the kit. For now, the board's concerns should

be given to Carolyn Thompson and Macey Whitehouse Rice to reiterate the board's concerns in discussions with senators and representatives.

2. HB 4122 – Rep. Ford (H. Floor) This is the Peeping Tom vehicle in the house.
3. SB 1214 – Sen. Bergstrom (S. Education). It directs the Board of Education to develop curriculum on age-appropriate sex trafficking education for all students in grades 6-12. In areas that don't currently offer comprehensive sex education this bill would be very confusing to parents and students.
4. SB 1264 – Sen. Gillespie & Rep. Miller (S. Approps) The bill directs higher education institutions to provide tuition-free education to victims of human trafficking or sex trafficking.
5. SB 1335 – Sen. Hicks (S. Public Safety) The bill requires campus police officers to complete sexual assault training courses.
6. SB 1608 – Sen. Frix (S. Floor) This bill revises public access and searchable information requirements for the Sex Offender Registry and the Mary Rippy Violent Crime Offenders Registry.

B. Request Bills

1. SB 1460 – Sen. Gollihare & Rep Ford (S. Floor) OAG bill requested by the board. The bill strengthens penalties for repeat “peeping tom” recording offenses and classifies them as registrable sex offenses. – Macey Whitehouse Rice is running point.
2. HB 4141 - Rep. Manger The bill appropriates \$250,000 to the District Attorneys Council for the purposes of a statewide SANE nursing program. It was introduced as an appropriations bill to fund the salary and resources for a statewide SANE Coordinator through the District Attorneys Council. They realized later that in state statute the position had a sunset on it, October, 2025, so they are removing the sunset altogether. Apparently the House is not advancing any appropriations bills that include appropriation dollars outside the budget process so they are removing the appropriations section in order to advance the bill. The funds can be possibly be added to the budget later. Carolyn Thompson is running point.

V. Discussion and Possible Action to Approve or Reject a Letter of Support to the Oklahoma Legislature, as Presented – Carolyn Thompson

- A. Discussion was held on the letter of support drafted by Carolyn Thompson in support of HB 3674 by Rep. Provenzano & Sen. McIntosh which requires reporting of sexual assault in schools to relevant law enforcement and

mandates certain training for all school resource officers, HB 2959 by Rep. Bashore which sets timing and priority requirements for school personnel to report suspected child abuse or neglect, requiring first priority to be given to reporting to law enforcement directly, and SB 1733 by Sen. Thompson and Rep. Lawson which requires school employees to report certain student sexual assault disclosures to law enforcement and limits school investigations. Having the report recommendations in time for session would be very helpful for Macey Whitehouse Rice and Carolyn Thompson. The letter will be signed by the board chair and vice-chair rather than every board member due to time constraints. Carolyn Thompson will email the signed letter.

- B.** Mistie moved and Darin Ehrenrich moved to approve the letter of support with the addition of adding House Floor Leader Rep. Josh West and Senate Floor Leader Sen. Julie Daniels to the email list. The motion passed unanimously.

VI. Adjournment

- A.** Bill Weaver moved and Mikela Rhodes seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

*Next SAFE Board Meeting: April 2nd at 1:00 p.m.
Oklahoma Office of the Attorney General
313 N.E. 21st Street, Oklahoma City, OK 73105*