

VOTE YES TO PASS HB 4123

SUPPORT TRAINING & ACCESS TO MEDICAL FORENSIC CARE FOR SURVIVORS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT



Oregon Alliance to End Violence Against Women



What is the SCC?

The **Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner/Sexual Assault Examiner Certification Commission's** (SCC) primary purpose is to ensure that registered nurses, advanced practice nurses, physicians, and physician assistants providing sexual assault medical forensic examinations in Oregon possess the necessary training and qualifications to **deliver the best standards of medical forensic care to victims of sexual assault**. As established in Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR) 137-084-0500, the SCC is coordinated by the Oregon Attorney General's Sexual Assault Task Force (OR AGSATF).

What is the need?

An **ongoing appropriation of \$400k per biennium** to be directed to the Attorney General's Sexual Assault Task Force **for the purposes of managing the Oregon SCC**, including related outreach, membership oversight, training, technical assistance, competencies and standards, and multidisciplinary work with entities including law enforcement, hospitals, and community based victim services organizations.

SANes/SAEs are specially trained to understand the dynamics of sexual assault, the unique healthcare needs of sexual assault victims, and proper collection of forensic evidence that may be used by law enforcement in sexual assault investigations.

Competent and qualified SANes/SAEs are a critical component of healing and justice for many survivors of sexual assault.

**Oregon's Current
Number of Certified
SANEs:**

105

**Of these, only 13 identify
rural/frontier communities
as their primary site of
practice.**

Studies indicate that regions with well-supported SANE programs see **improvements in the prosecution** of sexual assault cases **and in the care provided** to survivors.*

Lack of Access to SANEs/SAEs in Oregon is at a Critical State

The services that the SCC, and the OR AGSATF as the SCC's coordinating body, provide are of critical benefit to everyone impacted by and working on sexual assault response across Oregon, including law enforcement, prosecutors, healthcare professionals and victim advocates. **The number of certified SANEs/SAEs across the state is critically low, especially in rural areas, often resulting in victims of sexual assault driving hundreds of miles to reach qualified care.** An ongoing source of funding for the SCC will support outreach to recruit new SANEs/SAEs and training that supports them in achieving certification requirements, both of which are crucial to ensuring sexual assault victims receive the care they deserve.

Contact Information for Further Information:

Shannon Rose, Executive Director at the Oregon Attorney General's Sexual Assault Task Force, director@oregonsatf.org / 971-410-7283 x1000

*Hollender M, Almirol E, Meyer M, Bearden H, Stanford KA. Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners Lead to Improved Uptake of Services: A Cross-Sectional Study. West J Emerg Med. 2023 Sep;24(5):974-982. doi: 10.5811/westjem.59514. PMID: 37788040; PMCID: PMC10527845.