



Second Public Comment Period - LSA Document #24-114

Proposed Rule 848 IAC 1-2-25

The *Indiana SANE Training Project* (Project) is a program of the Southwest Indiana Area Health Education Center (AHEC) (part of the Indiana AHEC Network) and is hosted at the University of Southern Indiana in the Kinney College of Nursing and Health Professions. The Project was established in late 2018, and it provides a coordinated, comprehensive statewide approach to training and educating healthcare providers serving patients with medical forensic needs.

Because the Project is hosted at a University not affiliated with a health care facility, it is able to objectively assess and administer education and trainings, as well as provide technical assistance, across Indiana to all facilities and nursing professionals based on national standards and evidence-based practice guidelines. The Project's motivation is to positively impact medical forensic care for victims and survivors in all communities in the state. We recognize that there is not a 'one size fits all' approach to the provision of this care and these services, and we collaborate with the Indiana Department of Health's Statewide SANE Coordinator to positively position nurses and facilities to be successful in this challenging field.

The Indiana SANE Training Project is currently well-positioned, and is committed to adapting as necessary, to meet the intent of this legislation and the proposed rule:

- To develop a consistent approach to training and supporting forensic nurses on a statewide level;
- To monitor continuing education requirements to ensure current, effective and evidence-based practice; and
- To provide oversight to ensure education aligns with evidence-based practices and Indiana statutes and regulations.

Approach - Indiana SANE Training Project

The Project has provided information to the Board of Nursing and Professional Licensing Agency previously about our systematic approach to training nurses, supporting medical forensic programs and providing statewide technical assistance, and I am happy to provide that information again if needed. I would like to reiterate that our approach is patient-focused. Our educational offerings, data collection and aggregation and technical assistance are all conducted to support nurses to provide accessible, trauma-informed medical forensic care across all of Indiana. The Project relies

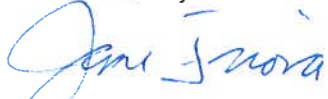
on supportive collaborations of multidisciplinary partners to advocate for the value of forensic nurses, not only because of their immense value to patient outcomes, but also as a means of supporting the criminal justice system and minimizing the lifelong societal impacts of victimization.

The Project works collaboratively with Indiana's Statewide SANE Coordinator; provides technical assistance to health care facilities on policies and procedures, staffing and sustainability related to forensic nursing services; offers peer review support; and mentoring of new nurses. In addition, the Project Coordinator provides assistance to prosecutors and law enforcement across Indiana to support effective prosecution.

The *Indiana SANE Training Project* supports the rule as now written and encourages the Indiana State Board of Nursing to recognize the implications associated with forensic nursing practice. Not only are these clinicians supporting patients in the midst of highly traumatic situations, but there are vast medical, social and legal outcomes associated with this care. Because of this, at least thirty-one (31) other states have enacted statutes, regulations or rules that address forensic nursing practice, education, and/or credentialing. As such, training efforts in Indiana should be highly specialized, include a level of transparency, oversight and accountability, and the clinicians doing this work should have responsibility for continuing education related to the care of patients with medical forensic needs.

The Project has no objections to administering this education and training with Indiana Board of Nursing oversight. In addition, the Project welcomes the opportunity to work with the Board and the Indiana Statewide SANE Coordinator to ensure all trainings offer accurate, evidence-based information and follow best practices to ensure the focus of these efforts remain on supporting survivors in Indiana.

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