

**SEX OFFENDER MANAGEMENT BOARD
MINUTES**

Friday, February 19, 2010

Board Members

Mary Baydarian
Merve Davies
Cheryl Davis
Robert Erler
Missy Gursky
Peggy Heil
Bill Hildenbrand
Kellie Hotter
Marcie Howell
Jeff Jenks
Dianna Lawyer-Brook
Tom Leversee
Rick Levinson
Dave Long
Kandy Moore
Eric Philp
Paul Prendergast
Kari Quevli
Doug Stephens

Absent Board Members

Carl Blake
Jeff Geist
Tom Kennedy
Daniel Makelky
Bill Martinez

Vacant Position

Victim Representative

Staff

Chris Lobanov-Rostovsky
Kristy Alles-Serrant
Debbie Stjernholm
Cathy Rodriguez
Nancy Bullis
Charla Phagan

Visitors

Helen Edwards
Suzanne MacKinnon
Mitch Sherman
Anika Phason
Yvonne Parietti
Greig Veeder
Matthew Goldberg
Charles Szatkowski
Rob Meredith
Carolyn Turner
Mickey Wright
Jennifer Kok
Bo Smelko
Ashley Phelps
Jan Hunsaker
Steve Parker
Rick May
Steve Easterday-McPhadden
Maureen O'Brien
Carla Spence
Allison Boyd
Roberta Ponis
Annie Wallen
Marci Brewer
Dianne Tramutola-Lawson
Jim Pyle
Kelli Narams
Susan Walker
Scott Hefty
David Emerson
Phil Tedeschi
Frank Ascione

Board Meeting Begins:

Introductions –

New Board Members introduced

Robert Erler-Juvenile Magistrate Representative from District 4 in Colorado Springs

Eric Philp- Judicial Representative

Future Agenda Items

No future agenda items given.

Announcements

- Congratulations to Missy Gursky, she is expecting a child in May
- Tom Leverage, Debbie Stjernholm, Carl Blake, and Chris Lobanov-Rostovsky will be presenting at NAPN
- Peggy Heil reminded Board members about the free DOC training focusing on neuro-brain development. If there are therapists in the audience who are interested, speak to Peggy during the break.
- The Victim Representative position on the Board is still vacant. Nominations are due today by 5 pm. If interested, please let Kristy or Chris know by 5 pm and they will allow time for you to get the paperwork in.
- Training Announcements
 - Forensic Evaluations by Stephanie Knapp will be April 20 in Aurora
 - Dominique Simons will do a follow up to the Good Lives Model on June 8 in Broomfield
 - The Call for papers for the SOMB conference deadline has been extended to March 26, 2010 by 5pm.
- The Polygraph committee is gearing up for Juvenile standards. Email Jeff Jenks with questions.
- The Board meeting for July will be during the Conference in Breckenridge. The plan is to hold it in the morning on the first day of the conference.
- Our condolences to Allison Brittsan as her father recently passed away.

Approval of January Minutes

A motion to approve the January minutes was made and seconded. There was a call for any additions and/or corrections to the minutes. Marcie Howell asked that the spelling of her name be corrected on the first page of the minutes. The Minutes were approved with no opposition. There were 4 abstentions.

Update on SOMB CASOM Grant- Debbie Stjernholm:

Handout provided.

There are three parts to this grant.

- The main objective is to identify the gaps and barriers of the existing sex offender management system in Colorado (both adult and juvenile), including SORNA compliance by law enforcement.
 - This will be done through a survey produced by Debbie Stjernholm and Amy Dethlefsen to be distributed to stakeholders statewide.

- The second part of the grant would be to help fill the gaps and barriers identified in the survey.
 - This would be through additional trainings, technical assistance and possibly Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) enhancement or the development of a MDT where needed. Monies will not be distributed directly to programs via this grant.
- The third component of the grant is the development of a community education program about the sex offender management program. This would include training trainers who would then go out in to the communities with this program.

The Grand Advisory Group consists of 13 professional stakeholders representing: DYC, DOC, Probation, Victim Advocate Representatives (2), Law Enforcement, Treatment Providers, Research, DHS, Community Corrections, Schools, Residential treatment facilities and CBI.

Debbie's strategy was to meet with each of the stakeholders individually to learn about how their professions work within the sex offender management system and to get their perspectives on what they see as gaps and barriers.

As a result of one of the first meetings, it was learned that communication between law enforcement and other stakeholders was an issue in the Greeley area. A meeting was planned and all stakeholders in the area were invited to attend with the goal of building collaborative relationships among all parties. It is hoped that this group will continue quarterly meetings in Weld County. The next meeting will be on May 6th. A handout was provided to show the survey questions/results from the Greeley Summit Meeting; which addressed weakness as well as strengths in the local sex offender management system.

It is a goal to have the State survey done by March. Revisions are being made, as it was difficult to really tabulate the results from the previous survey because the questions were open-ended. At this point, themes are being gathered from the first survey and will be turned into multiple-choice questions. The identification of gaps & barriers will still be an open-ended question on the survey.

The Board can help by getting stakeholders' information to Debbie as well as letting her use you as a reference.

The new survey will be presented next week at the GAG meeting. Feedback about the survey would be invaluable.

Presentation from Colorado Cure- Dianne Tramutola-Lawson and Dianna Lawyer-Brook:

Handouts provided.

Dianna Lawyer-Brook and Dianne Tramutola-Lawson shared their stories of how they became involved in the Sex Offender Management world and involvement in Colorado CURE.

The CURE organization was founded to reduce crime through criminal justice reform. It has also become a support for prisoners, family members and concerned citizens. Dianne Tramutola-Lawson founded the Colorado chapter in 1990.

Issues that Colorado CURE is currently working on:

- Support for a bill being introduced to the Colorado legislature, which would allow a felon on parole to vote. At this time a prisoner cannot vote while on parole; nor can a prisoner vote while incarcerated. There are only two states that allow prisoners to vote: Maine and Vermont.
- Currently it is very expensive for an inmate to make phone calls while incarcerated. The calls must be collect or pay the connection fee charged by the prison. It was noted that some states actually make a profit from their connection fees.
- Working on defeating any legislation that endorses or expands the death penalty.
- Indeterminate sentences are not endorsed by cure
- The Colorado CURE is advocating that anger management classes/resources should be available to all prisoners.

Lunch

Animal Abuse- Dr. Frank Ascione, Phil Tedeschi and Jim Pyle

Handouts provided.

Phil Tedeschi has been working at Denver University and a pivotal part of his work is with the Institute for Human/Animal Connection. They are studying the positive affects of the human/animal bond in child development through life in hospice care. All different kinds of animals have been used especially dogs and horses. Many people consider their animals a part of their family. The flipside of the human/animal bond- animal maltreatment has also become a focus. What happens or what is the impact of animal maltreatment; especially when it is directed at animals that are part of our families? Research shows that it parallels other interpersonal violence within the family.

The presenters reviewed studies and discussed how they relate to sex offender management. The help of the Board was requested to help determine how their work can be integrated into sex offender standards and the management of sex offenders, as well as assistance in contacting agencies that may encounter these situations.

Phil stated that they are ready and have the resources to respond to requests for trainings that will help identify animal and human victims of abuse.

Juvenile Advisory Board Agenda: Sexting-

Handout provided.

Today the Board is being asked to review this document and decide whether to approve it and post it on the SOMB website.

- The format was intentionally casual and conversational.
 - First 2 paragraphs were too conversational to be coming from the SOMB, and do not show the real seriousness of the problem.
 - Paul gave his notes and comments to Kristy Alles-Serrant.
- Kristy asked Kandy Moore if the document was on target for victim representatives and their clientele. Kandy felt it was beneficial. Sexting has become a big problem in middle school. It is really important for them to know this is not legal.
- In the 3rd line, talking about the “original” law- it was asked if there is a new law. There is not a new law; this statement was talking about the intent of the original law.
- When this is being prosecuted there has to be a mental aspect of crime; that it was intended to be a crime. Biggest issue is when the photo goes beyond the original two parties, and is sent to the whole school.
- It was requested that this document should be a living document, so that changes can be made as the Board finds out what is effective and what is not.

Motion was made to adopt this document with grammatical and word-smithing changes. The motion was seconded.

Discussion:

- Do we have purview to put this on the website? We need to be consistent.
- Dianna Lawyer-Brook agreed to help get this document distributed to the School Board through the Communication Chief. Her question is: should we do this one document at a time, or put together a list of documents/links for the Department of Education?
- As this problem grows there will be a funding issue. We may want to deal with funding issues ahead of time. This is seen now, as diversion programs are falling by the way side due to a lack of funding. It might be a good to have this discussion at the state probation committee in order to get a consistent effort.
- Would it be helpful that if this document stated the SOMB “position paper” versus “white paper for educational use”. This is where we need to have discussion as to what goes on the website.

A vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously with no opposition or abstentions.

Defense Bar Committee Information Sheet- Defered to March 19, 2010

Committee Updates-

Application Review Committee (ARC)- The committee is caught up with applications and is currently working on one juvenile and two adult complaints.

Adult Standards Revision- The committee has finished their work on the Child Contact Assessments -CCA (which is the new name for the Parental Risk Assessment) and is back to the overall standards. The committee has yet to start the handbook that accompanies the CCA.

Juvenile Standards Revisions- The committee is very close to being done with section 5.0 (Multi-Disciplinary Team). There needs to be a few more discussions regarding probation roles & responsibilities as well as MDT roles & responsibilities.

Best Practices- The committee has wrapped up the brain development/trauma to the brain project to educate the committee. As they reviewed the different researchers, the implications for the Standard revisions and trainings in the field were taken into consideration. A presentation to the Board about the findings of this project was requested. The two-year review of the Savio program is also under way. There is also a sub-committee working on a position paper about the No Known Cure philosophy as it applies to juveniles.

Victim Advocacy- The committee has updated language for the Juvenile standards in regards to the Victim Representative role and responsibilities in order to make it consistent with other areas of the Standards. The current project is a presentation for the Board during the April meeting. A review of the committee's goals & objectives in order to keep them current is also under way. The committee plans on submitting proposals for a couple of workshops for the SOMB conference.

Housing Committee- This committee is working on white paper to be educational as well as an advocacy document on sex offender housing issues and challenges. The Shared Living Arrangement (SLA) sub-committee is looking at producing a similar document about SLAs. Their goal is to be able to impact legislation and policies for sex offender housing. The sub-committee is also collecting demographic information and data about SLAs. It was suggested that Board members can help by paying attention to their own communities and alerting Cathy Rodriguez so that the SOMB can react before publicity hits and makes it difficult to change.

Risk Discrimination- The committee is working with 7 or 8 treatment providers who have agreed to look at their case-loads to see which clients are low risk according to their assessment. Then they will compare them to the protocols the committee has come up with to see if the protocols are valid and have merit. At the next meeting committee members will compare data.

Defense Bar- The information document has been the focus of this committee. If anyone has comments or suggested copy changes, please send to Maureen Cain ASAP. She will then resend the document to everyone for feedback.

DV/SO Crossover- The listing on the Calendar of Events has incorrect information- the meeting is actually from 12:30 to 2 pm. RSVPs should be given to Cheryl Davis as she needs to make reservations at Mimi's Café. Based on the research of Dominique Simons and Merve Davies, the committee is looking to help with Standard revisions in subsection 5.0. The committee is also looking to put together more trainings.

Community Notification Technical Assistance Team- At the last meeting, the team talked about the criteria and protocol, which was updated last August. Cathy Rodriguez is getting an article ready for submission in the CBI newsletter to address the fact that some notifications are not being done according to statute.

Pending Legislation - Chris Lobanov-Rostovsky is compiling a summary on the current legislation that will have any sort of impact on the sex offender management system. If you have something you think the SOMB should follow let him know.

The drafter is still working on the SOMB Sunset Bill. The bill has to be completed by the first of March. At this point Chris does not anticipate any changes or surprises that the Board is not already aware of.

DOC Letter of Support for Grant-

Peggy Heil is putting together an application for the Bureau of Justice Re-entry Grant on behalf of DOC.

The programs that would be funded by this grant are as follows:

- Organize a circle of support conference
- The addition of a victim's therapist at DOC to contact the victims of the offenders that will be getting out of prison.
- A higher per diem for Community Corrections placement of sex offenders
- Shared Living Arrangements to help lower the number of homeless offenders (64% in the Denver Metro area).
- Treatment for offenders who have been released from prison
- Research about the Child Contact Assessment
- Outcome study with results of the services offered by this grant

The grant is for a period of one year with the ability to apply for an extension of an additional two years.

A letter of support drafted by the SOMB staff was distributed for the Board to approve.

A motion was made for the Board to support the DOC application for the grant including the letter of support drafted by the SOMB staff. The motion was seconded.

Discussion:

How to sustain after grant?

DCJ has a 10 bed pilot which would be expanded to 30 (an additional 20).

If the grant is received for the three years, DOC would hope the economy would improve during that time. From the research gathered, DOC hopes to make the argument that it is cheaper to transition the offenders out than to keep them in prison.

Building a big research component into the grant is a requirement.

How to pick those involved? Those in the DOC treatment program because it can be shown that they are meeting the SOMB requirements for release.

Motion was approved with no opposition and one abstention (Peggy Heil)

Meeting Adjourned**Break****New Board Member Orientation**

The training was offered to the new Board members.