

Sex Offender Management Board Standards Implementation Statement

Re: Juveniles Who Commit Sexual Offenses

Approved by the Sex Offender Management Board July 16th, 2004

The *Standards and Guidelines for Juveniles Who Commit Sexual Offenses* were published in July 2002. For the past two years a “do what you can within existing resources” philosophy has been the cornerstone of the implementation approach.

While recognizing that significant fiscal challenges remain an issue, the Sex Offender Management Board (SOMB) encourages movement toward full implementation on a statewide basis.

The Sex Offender Management Board will continue to support progressive implementation until June 30th, 2006. **Full implementation of the Juvenile Standards is expected to begin no later than July 1st, 2006.**

Many communities report being in compliance with the Juvenile Standards for the past two years. Additionally, several agencies report having practiced supervision and management techniques similar to the Juvenile Standards prior to their inception in 2002.

Some communities and individual agencies are struggling with implementation of the Juvenile Standards. The SOMB encourages entities within every community to seek assistance through:

- Participation in needs assessment;
- Broader dialogues with multidisciplinary team agencies;
- Cross-district collaboration efforts; and,
- A continued active relationship with the SOMB on the committees available for field representation.

The Juvenile Standards were developed through committees made up of field representatives, including input from rural areas of the state. The methodologies and outcomes are based on current research. The Board is committed to maintaining standards that represent best practices and will continue to review and revise the contents of the Juvenile Standards as new research proves the need for change. Further, appendices will be added when necessary to clarify or provide needed guidance specific to practical application of the Standards.

The SOMB supports the efforts of the professionals in the field and remains open to discussion of the Juvenile Standards.

Priorities for July 1, 2004 through June 30th, 2005

The Sex Offender Management Board has identified priorities for movement toward full implementation of the Juvenile Standards. As always, community/victim safety is the primary goal to be accomplished through effective supervision and management of juveniles who commit sexual offenses.

To facilitate and foster continued movement toward full implementation of the Juvenile Standards, the following activities should be prioritized:

1. Multidisciplinary teams (MDT) consisting of the mandatory MDT members and school personnel should be formed for each juvenile.
2. All juveniles should have identified and trained informed supervisors.
3. All members of multidisciplinary teams should have informed supervision training.
4. Informed supervision training should be available through multiple avenues including the Division of Criminal Justice, agencies who have attended train-the-trainer events, and open-market private providers.
5. No cost or low cost training on other pertinent topics should be available on a regular basis.
6. Presentence investigations, including an offense specific evaluation by a listed provider, should be completed for all juveniles who commit sexual offenses.
7. Risk reduction and community safety are best achieved through implementation of the Juvenile Standards, continuity of care/services should be maintained as a juvenile moves through the juvenile justice system.
8. Polygraph examinations should be referred through the multidisciplinary team. Section Seven and Polygraph Appendix C-1 of the Juvenile Standards should be followed.

Planned Events and Resources that Support These Priorities

The SOMB, within the Division of Criminal Justice has been awarded a **Bureau of Justice Assistance grant** that is designed to directly assist agencies with needs assessment, development and implementation of multidisciplinary teams and related functions in the participant's local jurisdiction.

The **Training Committee** continues to meet monthly to plan training events that meet the stated needs of the field. The committee represents adult and juvenile interests and not only participates directly in the development and delivery of training, but also acts as a clearinghouse via the SOMB website to disseminate resource and event information. The website is located at <http://dcj.state.co.us/odvsom>.

The **Application Review Committee** will continue to meet regularly to review applications for listing approved providers and programs. Listing is an ongoing process that is managed by the staff to the Board. The list of approved providers is available on the website and is updated monthly.

Listed providers are expected to comply with the Juvenile Standards. Currently there is no complaint process in place due to the delay of full implementation. Letters of concern should be sent to the SOMB and information regarding egregious behavior will be forwarded, when appropriate, to the provider's licensing board. Letters of concern will be considered when a provider or program makes re-application for listing.

The **Reference Guide for School Personnel** was published in December 2003 and is the base-line resource for training on Informed Supervision and other daily management techniques applied within the school setting. Information on this guide and training is available on the website. The guide has been printed and can be mailed upon request.

The SOMB plans to initiate a **Developmental Disabilities committee** in the last quarter of calendar year 2004 to write standards on this special needs population.

Summary

During the first two years of implementation the SOMB and the Division of Criminal Justice have responded to the fiscal concerns of agencies and providers by supporting a "do what you can within existing resources" philosophy.

Some stakeholders provided services prior to 2002 that reflected best practices set forth in the Juvenile Standards. In the past two years, many agencies and private providers have moved forward within the confines of budgetary concerns to produce and maintain quality service that equates to effective evaluation, treatment and supervision of juveniles who commit sexual offenses.

The SOMB is charged with developing standards that protect victims and potential victims as well as providing community safety. The SOMB is committed to working with all of the stakeholders in the field to ensure successful implementation of these Standards.

Further movement forward is necessary and the SOMB has set June 30th, 2006 as the final date of the current progressive implementation plan. July 1st, 2006 will therefore be the beginning date of expected full implementation of the Juvenile Standards.