

SEX OFFENDER MANAGEMENT JUVENILE STANDARDS IMPLEMENTATION ASSESSMENT PROJECT NEWSLETTER

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Division of Criminal Justice, Sex Offender Management Unit

Newsletter Kick-off!!

The Juvenile Standards Implementation Assessment Project newsletter has been created to enhance communication between the Division of Criminal Justice staff and Project participants and provide information about the status of the Project to stakeholders statewide. If you have suggestions for topics for future editions, please contact Jim Pyle at 303-239-4458 or jim.pyle@cdps.state.co.us.

Juvenile Standards Assessment Project Background

The state Sex Offender Management Board (SOMB) published the "Standards and Guidelines for the Evaluation, Assessment, Treatment and Supervision of Juveniles who have Committed Sexual Offenses" (Juvenile Standards) in July 2002. At that time the SOMB requested that agencies and treatment providers do the best they could in implementing the Juvenile Standards with available resources. The SOMB has targeted July 1, 2006 as the date by which the Standards should be fully implemented statewide. Earlier this year a number of agencies and individuals were asked to submit Letters of Interest in participating in the voluntary Assessment Project. Eleven judicial districts from across the state responded to the request and have agreed to participate in the assessment project. The Project is funded by a federal grant from the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) and is staffed by the Sex Offender Management unit in the Division of Criminal Justice. The Advisory Group for the Assessment Project includes representatives from: the Sex Offender Management Board, the Division of Criminal Justice, State Judicial Office Division of Probation Services, 8th Judicial Probation Department and other community agencies. Core members of the Advisory Group have worked with Kurt Bumby, a consultant with the Center for Effective Public Policy, to develop the assessment tool and guide the project.

Eleven Judicial Districts participate in the Assessment Project

Participants from the 1st, 4th, 5th, 6th, 9th, 11th, 14th, 17th, 18th, 20th, and 21st judicial districts in Colorado attended the kickoff training on September 19th, 2005 in Frisco. The different judicial districts represent both urban and rural areas from across the state. Some judicial districts teams have been working together locally for several years on issues related to juveniles who sexually offend while others are in the process of developing their collaborative teams with assistance from the BJA Site Coordinators. The workshop provided background information on the standards, a training piece on collaborative teams, and an overview of the assessment tool. The judicial districts also did a brief analysis of their successes, challenges, and needs and planned their "next steps". Since then Site Coordinators Jim Pyle and Emily Tracy have been working with teams to follow up on their next steps, increase stakeholder participation and plan for their case review process. The teams will each complete an assessment of how their district has implemented the Juvenile Standards. The Assessment Project will provide detailed information to the SOMB regarding which Standards have been most successfully implemented, which ones have significant barriers to implementation, and what the districts need in order to fully implement the Juvenile Standards. Information obtained from the Project results can be useful to assist the Sex Offender Management Board in guiding the statewide implementation of the Juvenile Standards. The Assessment Project is expected to benefit local judicial districts by helping them to identify their strengths, needs and challenges and to develop strategies to achieve full implementation. The Sex Offender Management unit is grateful to the judicial districts and agencies that have volunteered to participate and thanks them for their dedication, time and energy in this valuable project.