



STATE OF WASHINGTON

SEX OFFENDER POLICY BOARD

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SEX OFFENDER POLICY BOARD

Registration and Notification Subcommittee

July 22, 2021 3:00 – 4:00 pm

Zoom Meeting

Attendees: Jedd Pelander, DCYF; Katie Hurley, King County Department of Public Defense; David Flynn, DSHS Special Commitment Center; Detective Chad Matthews, Snohomish County Sheriff's Office; Jamie Weimer, WASPC; Terrina Peterson, WASPC; Alex Mayo, WA Voices; GayLynn Jackson, Pierce County Sheriff's Office; Joanne Smieja, WA Voices; Jennifer Williams, DOC; Dr. Elena Lopez, DSHS; Gina Romero, Airway Heights Correction Center; Jimmy Hung, WAPA; George Yeannakis, WA OPD; Thea Mounts, OFM; Megan Allen, KCSARC; Brad Meryhew, WACDL

Meeting Notes

Welcome & Call to Order

- **Thea** and **Jedd** welcomed everyone to the meeting. Meeting participants were asked mute their microphones when not speaking and asked to use the chat function and "Raise your hand" function through Zoom whenever they would like.
- **Thea** reminded people that the meeting was being recorded and the recording is available upon request.
- **Jedd** invited people to introduce themselves

MOTION #21-3-2: MOTION TO APPROVE THE JUNE 15, 2021 REGISTRATION SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES.

- **MOVED: Brad Meryhew**
- **SECONDED: Joanne Smieja**
- **ABSTAINED: David Flynn**
- **PASSED: Unanimously**

Objective 1 - Brainstorming Session for Policy Recommendations

- What immediate recommendations does the subcommittee want to propose?
 - **Brad** proposed five Questions for the subcommittee to consider:
 1. What age should juveniles be required to register?

- Recommendation proposed by **Brad**: Age fifteen and up based on certain offenses.
 - **George** mentioned that a prior bill references registration for juveniles age 16 or older.
2. What offenses should trigger registration? Should it be risk-based?
 - Should a hearing take place to determine whether a juvenile should register?
 - Example: Serious violent offenses that are sexually motivated e.g., rape 1, murder 1, burglary 1 with sexual motivation, etc.
 3. How long should juveniles be registered? What procedures should be in place to extend or reduce that length of time?
 - Recommendation proposed by **Brad**: Two years with no disqualifying offenses. Expiration at three years, if qualified. The state would need to provide evidence that the juvenile should stay registered.
 4. What offenses should disqualify individuals from registering?
 - All misdemeanor crimes against persons? Which offenses? Needs discussion.
 - Disqualifying offenses are defined in [RCW 9A.44.128](#):
 - Any offense that is a felony; a sex offense as defined in this section; a crime against children or persons as defined in RCW [43.43.830](#)(7) and [9.94A.411](#)(2)(a); an offense with a domestic violence designation as provided in RCW [10.99.020](#); permitting the commercial sexual abuse of a minor as defined in RCW [9.68A.103](#); or any violation of chapter [9A.88](#) RCW.
 5. Is community notification needed?
 - Refer to SORNA. Needs further discussion, especially around age.
 - E.g., Flyers, direct contact, registration website, etc.
 - **Proposal**: Registration to be considered by a judge only after treatment program is completed by the juvenile. E.g., Oregon and Colorado.
 - One possible problem with this proposal is that the decision may not go in favor of the juvenile's wellbeing based on jurisdiction.
 - What questions do you still have about the juvenile sex offender registration and notification process?
 - Are there any risk assessments that accurately identify adolescents at risk of sexual recidivism?
 - Washington's current tool for juvenile risk assessment is not validated. There are some clinician-driven risk assessment tools that show predictability for juvenile recidivism, but Washington law requires us to assess who necessarily needs to know about offender and their risk. No

knowledge of any evidence-based tools that predict re-offense in the community or in the home.

- Further discussion is needed on the true purpose and need of registration.
 - How is registration affecting juveniles that must register?
 - Does registration protect the public and/or promote community safety?
 - How do Washington’s public disclosure laws impact the recommendations regarding registration of juvenile offenders?

Next Steps

- The August 26, 2021 subcommittee meeting will be two hours to allow more time for discussion about policy recommendations.
- Brad will send his points to committee for notes, review, and further discussion.

Meeting Adjourned at 4 pm

**APPROVED AND ADOPTED BY THE JUVENILE REGISTRATION
SUBCOMMITTEE**

_____/s/_____
Chair Jedd Pelander

__8/26/2021_____
Date