



STATE OF WASHINGTON
SEX OFFENDER POLICY BOARD

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SEX OFFENDER POLICY BOARD

May 20, 2021 1:00pm-4:00pm

Zoom Meeting

Members Present:

Dave Flynn
Susan Marks
Brad Meryhew
Maryann Moreno
Michael O'Connell
Jedd Pelander
Terrina Peterson
Shawn Sant
Jimmy Hung
Richard Torrance
Jamie Weimer

Members Absent:

Robert Gelder
Linda Farmer

Members Represented by

Proxy:

Mac Pevey (Donta Harper)
Jeff Patnode (Elyse Balmert)

Staff:

Leah Landon

Guests: Sharon Swanson, AWC; Corey McNally, DOC; Katie Hurley, King County Department of Public Defense; Lorraine Lynch, King County Sexual Assault Resource Center; George Yeannakis, Office of Public Defense; Kelsey-anne Fung, Senate Committee Services; Paula Reed, Children's Advocacy Centers of Washington; Julie Tran, Senate Committee Services

Meeting Notes

Welcome & Call to Order

Leah reminded meeting participants to mute their microphones when not speaking and asked them to use the chat function through Zoom whenever they would like. She also reminded everyone that the meeting is being recorded and that recording is available upon request.

Brad Meryhew invited board members to introduce themselves. He then asked **Leah** to introduce the guests in attendance.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Brad Meryhew asked the Board to approve the meeting minutes from April 15, 2021.

MOTION #21-3: MOTION TO APPROVE THE APRIL 15, 2021 MEETING MINUTES.

MOVED: Brad Meryhew

SECONDED: Shawn Sant

ABSTAINED: None

PASSED: Unanimously

Objective 1 - Presentation on Children's Advocacy Centers of Washington

- **Paula Reed** presented to the SOPB on the role of CAC of Washington. Paula is the Executive Director of CAC of Washington.
- **Paula** took questions from meeting participants at the end of her presentation.
- **The full presentation can be viewed here:**
https://sgc.wa.gov/sites/default/files/public/SOPB/meetings/2021/CACWA_presentation.pdf

Objective 2 – Presentation on Victim Services in Washington

- **Whitney Hellyer, Tim Kahn, and Lorraine Lynch** presented on victim-centered responses to youth who engage in problematic sexual behavior.
 - The presenters recommended a system that is coordinated and is multi-disciplinary that is immediately accessible to families. This should be guided by clinical wisdom. They also encouraged early intervention. A fast path to evaluation and treatment should be prioritized and available as a resource to victims and families. The group also recommended legal sanctions when appropriate and recommended that primary prevention programs be prioritized.
 - The presenters took questions after their presentation, and the group talked about some of the barriers that could be addressed to make reunification possible, or to make resources and services more accessible.
- **The full presentation can be viewed here:**
https://sgc.wa.gov/sites/default/files/public/SOPB/meetings/2021/VictimServicesPresentation_20210520.pdf

Subcommittee Updates

Brad asked **Leah** to introduce the subcommittee chairs.

- **Juvenile Treatment Subcommittee:**
 - **Chairs:** Jedd Pelander and Rick Torrance
 - **Jedd** provided an overview of what the subcommittee has been working on. The treatment subcommittee had met two times, and the first meeting had brief introductions an overview of DCYF's institutional treatment modality. The second meeting had a presentation on the DCYF Sexually Aggressive Youth (SAY) Program, and an overview of community-based treatment for juveniles, billing and insurance issues.
 - **Leah** added that the presentation on DCYF's SAY Program is available on the website for anyone to review.
 - **Next meeting:** June 16 @ 4pm
- **Juvenile Registration and Notification**

- **Chair:** Jedd Pelander
- **Jedd** let the group know that the subcommittee has only met once, and the first meeting had introductions and an overview of what people wanted to look at. Jedd mentioned that the next meeting would be the following week and the group would hear from WASPC regarding the current registration requirements. In addition, the group may hear from OSPI on school notifications.
- **Next meeting:** May 27 at 3pm
- **Legal and Legislative Best Practices Subcommittee:**
 - **Chair:** Terrina Peterson
 - **Terrina** updated the group on the subcommittee's first two meetings. The first meeting included a review of preliminary research and discussion around presentations the group would like to see. At the second meeting the group had a presentation from the King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office (KCPAO) on current laws and practices for juvenile declines and juveniles being charged in adult court (Item 2c).
 - **Leah** added that the presentation from KCPAO is now available on the website.
 - **Next meeting:** June 16 at 2pm

Brad Meryhew asked the chairs of the subcommittees to provide additional information and summaries on the presentations received so people who aren't at the meetings still have the majority of the information.

Michael O'Connell added that during the presentation from the KCPAO he was struck by how much power prosecutors have, and how they are actually acting in an almost judicial fashion in the way in which they make charging decisions. He added that this leaves judges with very little discretion. This really emphasized how important the role of the prosecutor is.

- **Brad** said they don't make these decisions ad hoc or without input from their colleagues and he is always impressed when he asks why they made a decision and they tell him why.

E2SSB 5163 Updates

- **Leah** reminded the group that E2SSB 5163 takes effect on July 25, 2021 and her goal is to have a list of people interested in participating in the work group on sex offender treatment providers ready before then so the group can hit the ground running. **Leah** asked those SOPB members interested in participating to email her as soon as possible.
 - The goal is to have a work group that is separate from the SOPB to ensure people who do not need to be part of the process are not overwhelmed with additional work.
 - **Leah** reminded the group that though the report is due December 1, 2021 it has to be complete by November 1, 2021 so it can be reviewed by OFM's Communications team.
 - **Leah** added that since the bill does not take effect until July 25, work cannot start on it until then which is why at this time, she is only seeking names of SOPB members interested in participating in the work groups.

- **Brad** asked if practitioners who were part of the initial report can be involved in the process.
 - **Leah** said she would assume so but added that her preference is for one person versus multiple from the same group. And asked for one person from each group since there is a quick turnaround.
 - **Leah** also clarified that since she is grant-funded and 5163 funding does not start until July, she cannot start work on it until the 5163 funding is received.

For the Good of the Order and Next Steps:

- **Jamie Weimer** mentioned that in the past when the policy board has come together for a project it has been from a perspective of trying to find the best possible solution and a place of compromise. She said she is getting a black or white feeling from some of the comments in various meetings and wanted to remind everyone that the purpose of the SOPB is to come together to find the best possible set of recommendations.
 - **Leah** said this was helpful and while people come to the table with what they think is going to be best, the goal should be to sit down and consider all options as well as the research and evidence we have.
 - **Brad** said he thinks what people are doing is staking out a position they feel strongly about, and it isn't that they aren't willing to move to the center. This feeling will be more important if we are still here in September. To the extent we all keep making our arguments, it doesn't mean that we will all be "my way or the highway" at the end of the process. **Brad** said he expects a similar process of compromise and hearing each other.

Next SOPB Meeting:

- June 17 from 1-4pm via Zoom.
- Presentations on:
 - WordWatch from Mary Laskowski
 - Prevention Services from Vanessa Corwin

APPROVED AND ADOPTED BY THE SEX OFFENDER POLICY BOARD

_____/s/_____
Chair Brad Meryhew

_____/06/17/2021_____
Date

The full meeting recording can be found and viewed here:

https://zoom.us/rec/share/n6dxu6OkWf5q0trRmWck7OWIVuS8eE6C63KSyr2n_Jvbujv-dDg_U3oWd0xLVIxc.k2hZh4mOh_heKUP6?startTime=1621540242000