



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
SEX OFFENDER POLICY BOARD

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SEX OFFENDER POLICY BOARD  
Juvenile Sex Offender Treatment Subcommittee  
September 1, 2021 3:30pm-5:00pm  
Zoom Meeting

Attendees: Jedd Pelander, DCYF; Whitney Hellyer, Harborview Abuse and Trauma Center; Lorraine Lynch, KCSARC; Paula Reed, Children’s Advocacy Centers of Washington; Karen Feller, treatment provider; Katie Hurley, King County Public Defense; Tim Kahn, treatment provider; Emily Hiskes, SCPDA; Sonja Hardenbrook, SCPDA; Richard Torrance, Office of Crime Victims Advocacy; Megan Schoor, OFM; Whitney Hunt, OFM

**Meeting Notes**

**Welcome & Call to Order**

- **Megan** 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.
- **Megan** reminded people that the meeting was being recorded and the recording is available upon request.
- **Megan** invited **Whitney Hunt** to introduce herself to the subcommittee.
- **Jedd** invited people to introduce themselves.

**MOTION #21-2-5: MOTION TO APPROVE THE August 18, 2021 TREATMENT SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES.**

- **MOVED:** Jedd Pelander
- **SECONDED:** Whitney Hellyer
- **ABSTAINED:** Sonja Hardenbrook, Emily Hiskes, Rick Torrance
- **PASSED:** Unanimously

**Objective #1 – SAY Funding and Recommendations Discussion**

- **Paula Reed** suggested discussing the American Bar Association article regarding a resolution urging legislative bodies to pass laws that raise the minimum age for prosecution of children in juvenile court to age 14.

- The SAY program is limited to certain providers and **Paula** wondered if there's room for discussion about supporting or expanding to other SOTP's.
- **Jedd** asked **Whitney Hellyer** how Harborview qualifies treating youth with problematic sexual behavior. How does it differ from SAY?
- **Whitney** stated their services are mainly focused on treating PTSD. Referrals come in through Harborview's children's medical clinic.
- **Lorraine Lynch** added that, at KCSARC, they use the initial assessment to discern if the behaviors they're seeing are in response to an experience of sexual abuse. They're trying to focus on a treatment target for behavior response.
  - KCSARC receives a lot of calls from CPS workers that think a child has been abused but there's been no disclosure, there is nothing known, and they need services for that child. The RCW for SAY states that the child has to have been abused or, they have to be aggressive which limits access to these resources.
- **Paula** stated that, outside of King County, there is not a lot of resources available which forces a child to receive care from a provider that isn't necessarily prepared or trained to handle these cases.
- **Jedd** agreed that there needs to be adjustments in the RCW language that allows for exhibiting sexual behavior, not just a qualifying abuse.
- **Tim** shared an experience about a recent call from a client that he treated many years ago who cannot find work because they are still on the central child abuse registry from being on the SAY program. These services should not be barriers to child having a successful career or future.
- **Lorraine** asked if the term "abuse" was used in the RCW language so that DCYF could respond?
- **Jedd** stated he thought it was used because DCYF only has jurisdiction if there's been a finding of abuse or neglect.
- **Tim** added that the child can also be referred by a prosecutor.
- **Paula** added that, if there has to be abuse demonstrated, and based on Jane's previous presentation, there is opportunity to integrate youth with problematic behaviors that don't fit into the existing category.
- **Karen Feller** stated that, as a user of the SAY system, the window to qualify or use the system is very narrow. Her recommendation would be to change the language to make it wider and more accessible to more children.
  - We should also recommend working with the courts on adding a prevention fund for helping families with affordability and accessibility.
- **Tim** agreed that we need to address the discrepancies in the court systems and use King County or Snohomish County as an example or model for best practices.
- **Karen** stated there should be a recommendation for providing treatment to eligible juveniles prior to sentencing.

- **Megan Schoor** facilitated a review of the 22 ideas and draft language available on the SharePoint site that the subcommittee has proposed so far. What items on this list does the subcommittee want to include in their recommendation?
  - Item #1 should be focused on how problematic sexual behaviors in children and adolescents are different than adults. There is a low risk of re-offense into adulthood.
  - Item #9 has a consensus that the SAY funding stream needs to be renamed.
  - Item #15: Need to expand the SAY program to make it more accessible and more affordable county to county. Investigate any existing or potential barriers.
  - Item #22: There should not be legal consequences for a juvenile that embraces treatment.
  - Item #16 New funding that is not SAY. Set aside funds beyond SSODA for additional treatment services.
  - Item #14: DOH to reduce extra costs for licensing SOTP's. Remove requirement for licensure to be an affiliate. Set supervising limit of 4 for affiliates regardless of Part-time or Full-time.

### Next Steps

- **Megan Schoor** recommended sending out a survey to the subcommittee to get consensus on which items will be included in the final recommendation.
  - **Jedd** and others agreed.
- **Jedd** to follow-up with **Katie** regarding the JR Block Grant funding for non-SSODA youths. **Jedd** is also going to follow-up with CPS intake to see what their process is for when they have a referral and educational resources they provide to families.
- **Larraine** asked to have more information about Health Care Authority and the Managed Care organizations if they would be a resource for clients that are not going to be in the juvenile justice system that have Provider One and Medicaid.

### For the Good of the Order

- **Jedd** offered his thanks to the subcommittee on the work done so far and expressed his excitement for **Whitney Hunt** joining the team.

**Meeting Adjourned at 5:00 p.m.**

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

\_\_\_\_\_/s/\_\_\_\_\_  
Co-Chair Jedd Pelander                      9/15/21\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_/s/\_\_\_\_\_  
Co-Chair Rick Torrance                      9/15/21\_\_\_\_\_  
Date