



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
SEX OFFENDER POLICY BOARD

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**SEX OFFENDER POLICY BOARD**

May 19, 2022 1:00pm-4:00pm

Zoom Meeting

Members Present:

Keith Devos  
Linda Farmer  
Patricia Flores  
Jimmy Hung  
Brad Meryhew  
Christine Minney  
Michael O'Connell  
Jedd Pelander  
Terrina Peterson  
Mac Pevey  
Lori Ramsdell-Gilkey  
Shawn Sant  
Richard Torrance  
Jamie Weimer

Members Absent:

Maryann Moreno

Staff:

Whitney Hunt, OFM  
Vasiliki Georgoulas-Sherry,  
OFM

Members Represented by

Proxy:

Sharon Swanson for Linda  
Farmer

Guests: Brandon Williams, DOH; Alex Mayo, WA Voices; Jennifer Williams, DOC; Shoshana Kehoe-Ehlers, OPD; Sonja Hardenbrook, SnoCo PDA; Emily Hancock, SnoCo PDA; Brandon Duncan, DOC; Joanne Smieja, WA Voices; Heidi Brodt, CAGE; Bruce Glant, CAGE; Megan Allen, KCSARC; Corey McNally, DOC; Marla Polin, Attorney; Elena M. Lopez, BHA; Amanda Smitley, SCC; Candice Yi, SCC; Holly Coryell, SCC; Kelly Jean Walk, citizen; Lydia Schoen, citizen; Cathy Johnston, citizen;

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** The recording for this meeting is available upon request.

**Meeting Notes**

**Welcome & Call to Order**

- **Whitney** reminded meeting participants to mute their microphones when not speaking and asked them to use the chat function through Zoom whenever they would like. **Whitney** also reminded everyone that the meeting is being recorded and that recording is available upon request and there will be an opportunity for public comment at the end of the meeting during the "For the Good of the Order" section.

- **Brad** called the meeting to order and introduced himself and asked that board members introduce themselves.
- **Brad** encouraged all attendees to introduce themselves in the Zoom chat.
- **Whitney** shared with the board that **Thea Mounts** has left her position with OFM. **Whitney** then introduced **Thea's** replacement, **Vasiliki Georgoulas-Sherry**.

## Meeting Objectives

### Approval of Minutes

**Brad Meryhew** asked the Board to approve the meeting minutes from April 28, 2022.

**MOTION #22-5: MOTION TO APPROVE THE APRIL 28, 2022, MEETING MINUTES.**

- **MOVED: Brad Meryhew**
- **SECONDED: Mac Pevey**
- **ABSTAINED: N/A**
- **PASSED: Unanimously**

### Treatment Panel and Discussion

- **Whitney** shared the panel's PowerPoint presentation with the group and then turned the discussion over to the presenters, **Dr. O'Connell**, and **Corey McNally**.
- **Dr. O'Connell** first informed the group that this presentation came out of a roundtable discussion that took place at last month's board meeting. The presentation focuses on "Understanding Sex Offender Risk in the Community".
- **Dr. O'Connell** explained how an individual experiences a "motivating force" that pushes them to "problem behaviors". Before the problem behavior is committed, an individual first has to go break through "internal controls", and "external controls". One of the objectives of treatment is to help clients engage and cooperate with external controls and weave in the helpful internal controls into their day-to-day lives and make them their own.
  - The Motivating Force
    1. Sexual Issues,
      - Sex Drive: All things being equal, a higher sex drive increases the likelihood of things happening "out of bounds"
      - Sexual Deviancy: Sexual behaviors which, if acted upon, are harmful to oneself or others.
      - Sexual Compulsivity: A "Have to" quality which is often a result of trying to distract oneself from other unpleasantness.
    2. Emotional Issues.
      - Emotional Closeness
      - Negative Emotions: Some people have more negative emotions than others and lack the ability or knowledge to shift focus or control these emotions.

### 3. Thrill Factor.

- Novelty/Thrill Seeking: Someone with psychopathic tendencies may have more tendencies to act out of bounds when experiencing something new.
  - Having someone review these motivating forces and identify which one they may or may not struggle with is a great way to recognize a treatment plan that will garner positive change.
- **Corey** began by referencing a study published by Martinson (1974). In 1979, after the professional community identified errors with the study's methods and results, Martinson recanted his findings. Later, the professional community put together a list of "What Works", which are as follows:
  - Assess Risk and Needs (using validated assessments and methods)
  - Enhance Intrinsic Motivation
  - Target Interventions and Resources
    - 1. Risk
    - 2. Need
    - 3. Responsibility
  - Skill train with Directed Practice
  - Increase Positive Reinforcement
  - Engage ongoing support in natural communities
  - Measure Relevant Process/Practices
  - Provide Measurement Feedback
- **Corey** explained that these are the proper steps a program needs to take to have a positive impact on recidivism.
- Speaking about treatment effectiveness, **Corey** stated simply that treatment works. It significantly reduces the likelihood of reoffending. However, just because an individual goes through treatment, it does not guarantee that individual will not reoffend as that individual still has the ability to choose to act.
- In regard to Responsivity, treatment is based firmly in CBT, with influences from ACT, DBT, and MI.
- **Brad** asked **Corey** to speak about individuals who deny their offense.
  - **Corey** stated that there is a denier's program/group at DOC
- **Corey** then spoke to the common question of, "how do we know it [treatment] worked?" They look for analogist behaviors and replace them with positive behaviors.

### **BREAK**

At 2:50 p.m. **Brad** resumed the meeting and welcomed the group back.

### **Treatment Panel and Discussion cont.**

- **Corey** resumed the discussion from where he left off.

- **Corey** stated that community treatment is only for those that participated in a prison program and lasts for about 100 hours as compared to 300 hours in a prison program.
- **Brad** thanked **Dr. O’Connell** and **Corey** for their presentations and stated it was time to move on to Q&A.
  - **Whitney** opened up questions to the board before addressing questions in the chat.
- **Jedd** asked **Dr. O’Connell** what the average length of treatment was for someone participating in SOSSA.
  - **Dr. O’Connell** answered saying that originally SOSSA required 2 years of treatment and now it’s been expanded up to 5 years. Most courts recommend 5 years of treatment. In his experience, most courts will accept the recommendation of the treatment provider to end treatment if the offender has followed the necessary steps laid out by their treatment plan.
- **Brad** asked if there was such a thing as too much treatment.
  - **Dr. O’Connell** stated yes, there is. There is a body of research and evidence showing that there is a point where too much treatment becomes counterproductive.
- **Whitney** read a question from **Bruce** that was posted in the Zoom Chat which stated: “Does the Static 99 risk score change when someone is in prison? Say they were 19-21 years old when they committed the crime, and while incarcerated they become 25-27 years old. The score has one-point young age, and also one-point they haven’t lived with someone, so they start with 2 point originally. Does that get re-scored as they age in prison?”
  - **Corey** answered that it’s based on they age that they get released.
- **Whitney** read a question from **Heidi** that was posted in the Zoom Chat which stated: “Where do the sting cases go treatment wise since they did not have a victim? Deny Group?”
  - **Corey** stated that the Static 99R is scored based on what the offender thinks they’re doing.
- **Whitney** read a question from **Brandon** that was posted in the Zoom Chat which stated: “In DOC SOTAP, do community treatment providers develop treatment plans or other types of reports in-between Stable assessments?”
  - **Corey** stated that when an individual begins treatment while incarcerated they receive a Stable assessment and a treatment plan. At the end of their time served, they get a summary which is passed on to the community provider and helps inform the next treatment plan.
- **Whitney** read a question from **Joanne** that was posted in the Zoom Chat which stated: “How does DOC deal with people whose risk can’t be determined by Static 99R, i.e., women and people convicted of possession of illegal depictions?”
  - **Corey** stated that in policy there is an override that the director can implement in these types of cases.

- **Christine** asked if there's a benefit to treatment being used as a tool for a shorter sentence or if there's some way they're motivated to change their legal standing.
  - **Corey** responded in short, yes, there is. The choice to participate in treatment or not can affect how a case or legal standing is handled.
- **Jedd** asked who pays for the individuals community treatment when granted a SOSSA?
  - **Dr. O'Connell** stated it is 100% the responsibility of the defendant. There are no public funds available for that.

### **Subcommittee Updates**

- Before hearing updates from the subcommittees, **Whitney** reviewed the assignment for the House Public Safety Committee.

### **Lifetime Supervision**

- The first subcommittee update the board heard from is the Lifetime Supervision Subcommittee. **Whitney** reviewed the assignment for this specific committee and then asked **Jamie** to provide updates.
- **Jamie** stated that so far they have met twice, and have brainstormed addressing questions that will be helpful for their assignment such as, collateral cost, what other states are doing, etc. So far there is a consensus among the subcommittee members as to what the main issues are.
- The subcommittee has created a SOPB Literature Review form. **Whitney** displayed this form for the board to look at and added that the other subcommittees also want to use this form.
- The subcommittee's next meeting is June 6<sup>th</sup>.

### **SSOSA & Sentencing Alternatives**

- **Megan** provided updates.
- The group has only met once so far and began discussing the low recidivism rate of those participating in SOSSA.
- The subcommittee began discussing access to treatment and who receives these services. The group is considering questions such as: does there need to be a separate sentencing guideline for lower-level offenders in regard to equity?
- The group is also discovering where there is consensus and where there is not. They are discussing creating a survey to help identify where there is agreement and where more conversation is needed.
- The subcommittee's next meeting is May 26<sup>th</sup>.

### **Failure to Register (FTR) & Washouts**

- **Jamie** stated she will be sharing the updates for this subcommittee as **Terrina** was absent at their last meeting.

- **Jamie** shared that to date, the group has met twice and the committee discussed what stakeholders were missing from the table. There is a need for prosecutors, judges, and DOC to participate in this subcommittee.
- The group began discussing questions that will be helpful in addressing their assignment such as collective costs of FTRs, standard supervision of FTRs, etc.
- The subcommittee participated in a presentation from Keri-Anne Jetzer, OFM, outlining the work that is being done in regard to FTRs.
- The group spoke about scheduling more presentations that will be help add to the conversation.
- The subcommittee’s next meeting is June 7<sup>th</sup>.

**SB 5163 Legislative Assignment**

- **Brad** reminded the board that the Legislature has also provided a check-in as we monitor compliance with SB 5163.
- **Emily** stated the subcommittee held their first meeting on May 11.
- They had a good turnout at the first meeting with participants from a diverse field of professions.
- The plan is to look for any bugs in SB 5163 that need to be fixed or streamlined. Additionally, the subcommittee is working to establish trust among themselves in order to effectively work together.
- The discussed the community protection program, how social workers from different departments can effectively work together across the aisle, and the 500 ft. rule.
- The subcommittee’s next meeting is May 25<sup>th</sup>.

**Next Steps**

- **Whitney** displayed a list of upcoming subcommittee meetings.
- The next full board meeting is scheduled for June 16, 2022 at 1:00 p.m.

**For the Good of the Order**

- Nothing to add.

**Meeting Adjourned at 3:55 p.m.**

**APPROVED AND ADOPTED BY THE SEX OFFENDER POLICY BOARD**

\_\_\_\_\_/s/\_\_\_\_\_  
Chair Brad Meryhew

\_\_\_\_6/16/22\_\_\_\_  
Date