



STATE OF WASHINGTON
SEX OFFENDER POLICY BOARD

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SEX OFFENDER POLICY BOARD

July 18, 2024, 1:00pm-3:00pm

Zoom Meeting

Members Present:

Brad Meryhew
Jamie Weimer
Gunner Fulmer
Jill Getty
Sonja Hardenbrook
Jimmy Hung
Michael O'Connell
Angie Pacheco
Jedd Pelander
Terrina Peterson
Mac Pevey
Shawn Sant
Trisha Smith

Members Absent:

Hon. Nelson Lee
Donald Redfield

Staff:

Whitney Hunt, OFM

Members Represented by

Proxy:

Tabitha Yockey for Keith
Devos

Guests: Megan Allen, KSARC; Riddhi Mukhopadhyay, SVLC; Alex Mayo, WA VOICES; Joanne Smieja, WA Voices; members from WA Voices; anonymous members from the public

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

Meeting Notes

Welcome & Call to Order

- **Brad** welcomed everyone to the meeting and spoke briefly about the board's project, and some of the history pertaining to it.
- **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 the recording is available upon request, shared and reviewed the duties of the SOPB.

Meeting Objectives

Approval of Meeting Minutes

- An amendment to the June 20, 2024, meeting minutes was made to add clarifying comments made by **Dr. Michael O’Connell**.

MOTION #24-17 MOTION TO APPROVE THE AMENDED JUNE 20, 2024, MEETING MINUTES

- **MOVED: Brad Meryhew**
- **SECONDED: Jedd Pelander**
- **ABSTAINED: None**
- **RESULT: Passed**

Research Update: Dr. Lauren Knoth Peterson

- **Dr. Lauren Knoth-Peterson** provided an update on the preliminary findings of the review of state policies for Lifetime Supervision.
 - All 49 states (WA excluded), and Washington D.C. have been examined.
 - 26 states have lifetime supervision policies.
 - 20 states have a pathway off lifetime supervision.
 - States that have general parole policies that may also include some lifetime incarceration sentences for sex offenses were not included.
 - A draft of the research report is being made ready for review by the SOPB and will be sent out soon.
- **Terrina Peterson** asked if the research from states that have general parole policies can be included in the report.
 - **Dr. Lauren** confirmed yes, it can be provided as a summary.

Presentations Re: HB2178 Assignment and Lifetime Supervision

Victims’ Community Presentations

- **Brad** introduced **Megan Allen (KSARC)**, **Riddhi Mukhopadhyay (SVLC)**, and **Trisha Smith**, who spoke about their respective agencies, and gave presentations regarding Lifetime Supervision and Victim Impact followed by their recommendations to the board.
*Note: Please see the meeting recording for the full presentation and the corresponding presentation slides handout.
- **Brad** asked if the presenters could speak about the victims who don’t feel heard and don’t want lifetime supervision.
 - **Megan** stated they work with individuals that are victims, their family members or neighbors. Some of them are a part of a reunification process with the hope to heal and move forward; Others do not wish for this step to be taken as their abuser has not changed or is seen to be making changes.

- **Brad** asked **Riddhi** to speak to the trauma that is experienced from individuals constantly being pulled back into the system. How should the board consider the potential trauma in their recommendations?
 - **Riddhi** stated that having a trauma informed lense is something they always want in the process. However, what they don't want is the language of trauma to be weaponized leaving the victim out of the process.
- **Trisha Smith** shared a presentation from OCVA, its programs, and about the considerations for a pathway off of lifetime supervision and victim impact. *Note: Please see the meeting recording for the full presentation and the corresponding presentation slides handout.

Break

Lived Experience Community Presentations

- The board reconvened after a break and **Brad** welcomed and introduced **Alex Mayo**, WA VOICES, who gave a presentation speaking to the proposal to get individuals off of lifetime supervision and facilitated testimonies from individuals with lived experiences. *Note: Please see the meeting recording for the full presentation and testimonies.
- **Brad** welcomed **Bruce Glant**, **Dan Wright**, and **Heidi Brodt** of CAGE who gave a presentation advocating for those impacted by proactive sex sting operations. *Note: Please see the meeting recording for the full presentation and the corresponding presentation slides handout.

Next Steps

- The next full board meeting is scheduled for August 15, 2024, at 1:00 PM.

Public Comment

- **Brad** approved the meeting transition to public comment.
 - **Whitney** reminded meeting participants that comments are to be directed to the board and not to any specific individual.
- Public comments were received.

For the Good of the Order

Adjournment

Meeting Adjourned at 4:02 PM

APPROVED AND ADOPTED BY THE SEX OFFENDER POLICY BOARD

/s/
Chair, Brad Meryhew

8/15/24
Date