



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
SEX OFFENDER POLICY BOARD

P.O. Box 43124 • Olympia, Washington 98504-3124 • [www.ofm.wa.gov/sgc/sopb](http://www.ofm.wa.gov/sgc/sopb) • (360) 995-3847

**SEX OFFENDER POLICY BOARD**

September 19, 2024, 1:00pm-3:00pm

Zoom Meeting

Members Present:

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

Members Absent:

Gunner Fulmer  
Hon. Nelson Lee  
Donald Redfield

Members Represented by Proxy:

Tabitha Yockey for Keith Devos

Staff:

Whitney Hunt, OFM  
Lauren Knoth-Peterson, PSPRC

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

**Welcome & Call to Order**

**Meeting Objectives**

**Approval of Meeting Minutes**

**MOTION #24-19 MOTION TO APPROVE THE AUGUST 15, 2024, MEETING MINUTES**

- **MOVED:** Sonja Hardenbrook
- **SECONDED:** Brad Meryhew
- **ABSTAINED:** None
- **RESULT:** Passed

**Research Update: Dr. Lauren Knoth-Peterson**

- **Dr. Knoth-Peterson (KP)** shared a research update and handout of the Annotated Summary of Thorton et al., 2021 and gave an overview of the information provided. Please see the [video recording](#) for the full presentation and discussion.

- These handouts provide information regarding recidivism patterns, desistance based on (among other things) risk-level and time free in the community, and further details about some tables shared at last month’s meeting.
- These handouts were shared out to the board via email.
  - Regarding the time periods listed in the handout, **Shawn** asked if they include years in confinement and an individual’s release into the community.
  - **Dr. KP** stated these numbers pertain to risk level at release and exclude time in confinement.
- **Megan Allen** asked if there was a breakdown of types of offenders and what the recidivism rate was.
  - **Dr. KP** stated the Thorton et al., 2021 article aggregates information from studies conducted. The outcome is most commonly conviction of a sex offense but does not specifically state what the sex offense was.
- **Terrina** asked about parole vs. probation. In the state-by-state breakdown, the language from Colorado appears to be related to probation, not parole.
  - **Dr. KP** clarified it’s a product of different states invoking lifetime supervision in different ways.
- **Dr. O’Connell** added that SOSSA cases cannot petition the courts to get off of lifetime supervision.
- **Sonja** asked if we know, from the state-by-state comparison, the population that they’re dealing with.
  - **Brad** stated that information is not clear.
- **Jimmy** added that whatever proposal the board puts forward, we don’t want it to add additional burden to victims.

### **SB 2178 Discussion**

- **Jamie** transitioned to the agenda topic of discussing SB 2178 and asked organization to bring forth any specific concerns they have.
- **Shawn** stated that, across the membership of WAPA, one of the concerns of SB 2178 pertains to Level 1s and 2s as far as what would be required for periods of release from confinement.
  - **Alex Mayo** added that last year some of the concerns from WAPA and WASPC was not having a step-down process for risk levels.
- **Trisha** stated that OCVA has concerns about a lack of victim input and wants to be sure the board makes time for input from all stakeholders.
- **Alex** stated he appreciates the dialogue that is happening and recommends the board consider use language like “intensity of supervision,” versus “level of supervision,” as the word “level” is used in too many places and causes confusion.

### **Break**

### **SB 2178 Discussion Cont.**

- **Jamie** welcomed everyone back after the break and instructed participants that the topic of consideration is about the most important components for stakeholders for inclusion in the pathway policy.
- Some components brought forward were:
  - Victim input expressly noted in the policy and included in the consideration.
  - From DOC—Required paperwork or inclusion in the process; Clear concise language that is equitable, fair, and universal so that all CCOs would know what is included in the “packet” for each petitioner.
  - Express statement that the pathway does not disrupt or nullify any no contact orders (NCOs) (including SAPOs and DVPOs).
- **Jamie** asked **Jill** when the ISRB is doing notifications about an upcoming hearing, do they only notify individuals that have requested notification, or does the ISRB go above and beyond and notify the victim in the case?
  - **Jill** stated the ISRB tries to notify every victim, and if the victim is a minor they notify the victim’s parent or legal guardian.
- **Megan** stated that more funding is needed for victim and community advocates who are working with the ISRB.
- **Sonja** suggested potentially including an opt-out function for future communication from the ISRB for victims who do not want to participate in the process. This opt-out is intended to provide a trauma-informed response to victims who do not want to be involved in the pathway process.
- **Alex** stated the need for a pathway off of supervision should be available to everyone regardless of the individual’s socioeconomic status.
- The board agreed that there needs to be more conversation about:
  - Length of time in the community.
  - Whether the process is going to be ISRB v. court process (decision making authority).
  - Who is providing input during the hearing process.
    - Victim.
    - Law enforcement.
    - Treatment.
    - Prosecutor’s input.
    - Input provided by the defendant (E.g., letters of support from defendant and family).
    - DOC/supervision.
  - Whether this process should be the same process for all risk levels.

### Next Steps

- The next full board meeting is scheduled for October 17, 2024, at 1:00 PM.
- Assignment deadline is December 1, 2024.

- An additional meeting was scheduled for November 7, 2024. There will be two meetings in November to complete the assignment.
  - **Whitney** will send out reminders and materials.

**For the Good of the Order**

- **Brad** approved the meeting transition to public comment. Public comments were received. For more information, please see the meeting recording [here](#).

**Adjournment**

**Meeting Adjourned at 4:00 PM**

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_/10/17/24\_\_\_\_\_  
Date