



THE ADVOCATE

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AFC MISSION STATEMENT

AFC supports those with a sex offense and their families by:

- Advocating for change in sex offense laws and policies, and for the adherence to constitutional rights;
- Educating the public, lawmakers, and the judiciary;
- Promoting the successful treatment and reintegration of those with an offense into the community, thus reducing victimization and enhancing the safety of all.

• CONTACT AFC

Mail:

P. O. Box 103392
Denver, CO 80250

Phone:

720-329-9096

Email:

advocates4changeafc@gmail.com

Website:

www.advocates4change.org

LETTERS! LETTERS! LETTERS!

A MESSAGE FROM THE AFC BOARD

We want to let you know that we do appreciate your letters. They play an integral part in helping us advocate for change. It is the struggles and challenges you face each day that help give us the inside story of what is going on at DOC, Parole and Probation. It helps form the foundation of our discussions when we meet with legislators, executives of DOC and others who can help make a difference for you.

We have had many successes over the six years we have been advocating. First we raised enough money for the DOCCA lawsuit. The first filing was turned down and the attorneys are preparing a second filing. Even though it was turned down it is a success in that we have seen an increase in releases. Next, we testified and worked hard at getting the “no known cure” language out of the statute. After two years SOMB finally removed it from their guiding principles but it is still imbedded throughout the document and we continue to work on getting that out.

The newly formed Statutes and Guidelines Revisions Committee is looking at a lot of the language and making some changes. We are at every committee meeting advocating for many changes; ‘no cure’, sex offender labeling, using better, kinder therapy such as RNR etc.

The external review was done largely because of our complaints to the many legislators we talked to. We were able to open up the many problems you are facing to them and they decided that instead of throwing away more money on SOTMP and SOMB they would look into it with the study. It was very eye opening and many of the suggestions the review made are being followed.

We know we are being listened to. At the last report by the SOMB to Judiciary Committee there were many questions asked of SOMB about their record keeping. It showed that our complaints about the lack of data were valid because they could not give a good accounting of why there are so few records. The issue has been tackled by the CCJJ (Colorado Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice) as well. Both boards are under the Department of Public Safety, Department of Justice. Lack of data is just not acceptable to the legislature.

One positive thing that is happening is that more S.O.’s are being paroled and we hope it is a result of the pressure we have put on the various agencies. Your letters give us the fuel to fight the problems you face so if you don’t get a quick answer or one at all, don’t think we are ignoring you, we read them and take these problems to those who can make changes.

We have over 600 members of AFC but a very small number in our Breakfast Action Group (12-15). This is the workhorse of our organization, the ones who get overloaded and become delinquent in answering letters in a timely fashion. We are reading your stories and taking whatever action we can and we will get a response to you. Please remember that we do not do legal work. We are interested in putting some articles in ‘The Advocate’ which answer the questions that many of you have in common.

We are and will continue to get your problems to SOMB, DOC, Legislators.

NEWS NOTES:

- Colorado Criminal Justice Reform Coalition is getting ready to release an updated GO Book.
- If you were under direct appeal when entering DOC, your status may have been a "D". You need to make sure your status has been updated once your appeal is complete. A "D" designation means you are not on the waitlist for SOTMP treatment. A "P" status means that you have refused treatment. A "D" or "P" designator may have an impact on your earned time and per SOMB guidelines is a reason to deny discretionary parole. The "R" designation indicates you are compliant with the SOTMP program (i.e. either on the waitlist or in the program). You need to ask your case manager if you are on the SOTMP program and you can also find out where you are on the waitlist.
- Many states are working on changing their laws to allow people convicted of a felony to vote. Some of the states include Maryland and Kentucky. Colorado is one state that allows people with felonies to vote as soon as they are off paper. Be sure to register to vote so that we can have an impact on making changes to laws that are not favorable to our cause.
- Cheyenne Mountain Re-Entry Center (CMRC) is accepting people who are currently in maintenance with SOTMP. The question was raised at the Citizen's Meeting if this was a means to implement a form of civil commitment. Kellie Wasco assured the group that this was not the case. We intend to carefully monitor the progress of this program and meet with Warden Hartley to understand how and if the program is working.
- AFC prepared their first round of comments for DORA and presented them at a meeting with Bryan Jameson on April 7. A follow-up meeting is planned to discuss some issues in more depth.
- We have heard from many of you that you are having trouble meeting with your case managers. You are now required to submit a kite for a meeting. If you can provide us with the data—how many kites sent—any response—how long it is taking for the response—how long it has been since you met with your case manager, etc. we can contact DOC to see what is happening.

We just went to the Judiciary Committee's briefing on the SOMB and noticed how many of the questions put to SOMB by the Judiciary Committee members were about the problems we had identified when we met and talked with them.

YOU are being heard and WE are being heard. Keep the letters coming to us.

*Carolyn Turner,
Chair
Advocates for Change*

Proposed Changes to the SOMB Standards and Guidelines: A Ray of Hope

By Maxine Powers

In the bleak world of those with a sexual offense, there is a ray of hope. In November 2014, the SOMB Standards and Guidelines (S & G) Revision Committee was formed. The committee, which meets monthly, is made up of 14 people representing DOC, parole, judicial, probation, adult treatment providers, adult evaluators, prosecution, defense, victim advocates, DORA, Community Corrections, Polygraph Examiners, the DVOMB — and for the first time ever on an SOMB committee— **Offender Advocates**. The Committee's mission is to propose changes to the Guiding Principles and the S & G. The proposed changes will be presented in the future to the full SOMB for acceptance, further revision, or rejection.

During the meetings, members of the public are allowed to speak. AFC members and other offender advocates have been to each meeting in force. Everyone is welcome to attend. Meeting times can be found on the SOMB website (<https://sites.google.com/a/state.co.us/dcjsomb/>). While things don't always go our way, we feel our voices are being heard and progress is being made.

1. The first task of the committee is to propose changes to the Guiding Principles. These are the principles from which the S & G flow. The committee decided to approach the changes in two phases: First, propose changes to the actual guiding principle. Second, propose changes to the supporting text. Here are some of the highlights of the work, so far: Overall the tone of the Guiding Principles seems to be changing. Community safety and victim safety are still the highest priorities; however, the language is starting to shift away from a very harsh, containment focus to a more balanced, treatment-oriented focus.
2. The words sex offenders are dangerous are being removed. Instead, the emphasis is being placed on impacts on the victim and victim's family.
3. **Offenders are capable of change** is replacing the erroneous no known cure message which is still implied in the current principles.
4. Attention is being given to the importance of therapeutic alliance – the relationship between client and therapist—in setting the stage for positive change in the lives of those with a sex offense.
5. Attention is being given to the importance of a positive relationship between a supervising officer and the supervisee for encouraging positive change.

6. The problem of role confusion and overlap between supervisory officers and therapists is being talked about.
7. Evidence-based practices and individualized, risk-based approaches are being recommended to replace the one-size-fits-all mentality.
8. Advocates fought hard but were not successful in having the label sex-offender removed from the Guiding Principles and replaced with the more humanizing language of person with a sex offense. However, the committee did agree to allow the use of other terms such as client in the body of the Standards and Guidelines.

This work is just beginning. The SOMB estimates taking up to two years to complete the revisions to the entire Standards and Guidelines document. However, revised Guiding Principles for the S & G could be adopted well before the work on the actual Standards and Guidelines is completed.

AFC plans to be there every step of the way, in support of those with a sex offense and their families and friends.

THE JBC HAS MORE QUESTIONS FOR CDOC

In November 2014 the Department of Corrections was compelled to testify before the Joint Budget Committee on a wide range of issues concerning CDOC. The JBC, on reflection, decided it had not received all the information it desired and submitted a followup list of questions for CDOC. Below is an excerpt we felt worth interest to the sex offender community currently in CDOC:

Given the current rates of program completion for the DOC's sex offender treatment and management program, how long will it take to work through the current backlog of sex offenders who have not yet received treatment?

Answer: *The new Phase I Core Curriculum can be completed in 6-8 months.*

The Sex Offender Treatment and Monitoring Program (SOTMP) has taken steps to increase the numbers of offenders participating in Phase I and has revised the treatment program to decrease the amount of time it take for offenders to meet lifetime supervision criteria (LSX) for parole. In March of 2015, the SOTMP will move 80 low risk offenders to the Cheyenne Mountain Re-entry Center (CMRC). These low risk offenders will participate in the maintenance program preparing them for re-entry into the community. Offenders in the maintenance program will remain at CMRC until they parole. The movement of 80 offenders to CMRC will open 80 treatment slots and will allow the SOTMP to start up to an additional 10 Phase I Core groups. This is expected to increase the number of Phase I Core groups to 23.

As offenders parole from CMRC, the SOTMP will continue to send low risk offenders meeting LSX criteria to CMRC. The flow of low risk offenders who have not yet paroled progressing to CMRC will increase the number of offenders in all phases of treatment. This is expected to have a significant impact on the Phase I wait list.

Projections:

- *If the SOTMP offers 23 Phase I groups with 12 participants per group, this will allow 276 offenders to participate in Phase I Core every 8 months.*
- *With 767 offenders on the waitlist within 4 years to parole eligibility as of November 30, 2014, it will take 2 years for these offenders to complete Phase I Core. It is important to note that projected completions cannot predict the number of new offenders added to the waitlist.*
- *It will take 4 years for 1,656 offenders on the waitlist to complete Phase I Core which is 99% of the initial 1,667 offenders on the waitlist. Another 276 offenders including the 11 remaining offenders from the 1667 will complete Phase I Core in 4.6 years.*
- *Therefore, this would result in a significant reduction on the waitlist over the next 5 years, notwithstanding the unidentified number of offenders that could be added to the waitlist through new crime commitments.*

PAROLE BOARD ANNUAL MEETING

Recently, the Colorado Board of Parole held its annual forum in Denver hosted by CO-CURE. This is an opportunity for citizens to actually meet the parole board, hear their lecture and ask them questions. All of the parole board members were there except for the chairman Brandon Shaffer who was on vacation. Also present were several members of the Department of Parole who gave a short presentation and also answered questions from the audience. Below is a short synopsis of what was learned in paragraph form to conserve space.

Parole has significantly reduced restrictions on housing for SO's. They are appreciative of how tough housing is for anyone in Denver not to mention parolees and SOs. There are only 5 treatment providers approved by DOC even though over 30 are approved by the SOMB. They claim not very many have applied. Of the 19 parole officers needed to work in DOC facilities they had only 8 volunteer to uproot and move to the rural areas where DOC facilities exist. Instead they have recruited DOC staff who have the proper education and sought applicants from the streets as well. That means it will be some time before the parole officers assigned to DOC will be up to speed on how to do their jobs and how to better assist offenders.

The parole board has substantially reduced its backlog of "full boards" so that now it only takes 45-60 days to learn the results. A question was asked about why offenders are limited to how much information (letters, etc.) they can submit to the PB. They blamed their computer system which can only hold a limited amount of data, however, they are

working to update their website so that people on the outside can upload directly to the PB instead of going through the offender's case manager. They ended by saying the offender should get copies of everything and bring them with to the parole hearing. The PB members all said they will read whatever the offender puts in front of them although they failed to explain how that was possible in a phone or video hearing. They also talked a lot about the *types* of letters they want to read. The expression was used "we don't want to hear how nice a person the offender once was." They are far more interested in letters which will describe the offender's future such as housing prospects, jobs and support. A loved one or friend telling the PB they will "hold the offender accountable" goes a long long way with them. They also admitted that victims and victim advocates can submit as much as they want about the offender but qualified it by saying they rarely see more than a letter or two from that group.

The PB was also queried at length about what affects their decision: Nature of Offense is the most important. One PB member stated he was astonished at the wide range of sentences given for different offenses. Another stated they have to attend mental health sessions to help them deal with the "appalling" things they read in offender's files. Second is criminal history – has the offender committed any offenses in the past (one said "last 10 years"). Next is has an indeterminate offender received any treatment inside and how much. The Criteria letter holds some weight. When asked if they understood that offenders, no matter how much treatment they received inside, would still get treatment on the street, they seemed unswayed by the news. They did say that 90% of those who meet criteria do get full-boarded and paroled but also admitted that if a PB member refers someone to the full board, that doesn't necessarily mean they will eventually vote on their behalf. Lastly they disclosed that 155 indeterminate offenders were paroled in 2012, 145 (plus one offender with a one-day-to-life sentence) were paroled in 2013 and 163 in 2014.

Shoplifters Need Sex Offender Treatment, C.R.S. 16-11.7-102*

by Terry O'Malley

A crazy scenario too strange to imagine, is now law in Colorado. With obvious prompting from the Colorado sex offender treatment industry to drum up more business, people who are convicted of ANY crime (including shoplifting – C.R.S. 18-4-401, disorderly conduct – C.R.S. 18-9-106, check fraud – C.R.S. 18-5-205, and Possession of Marijuana, C.R.S. 18-18-406) must have a sex offender offense specific evaluation completed, and then complete the treatment recommended, if they have ever, anywhere, been previously convicted of a sex offense. This can happen in Denver, Adams, Arapahoe, Douglas, Jefferson County or any Colorado county.

Let's say that 10 years ago you were convicted in Grand Junction for Indecent Exposure under C.R.S. 18-7-302. You were drunk and took off your pants on a dare and ran down the street naked. Convicted of a "sex offense," you registered as a sex offender for several years, did all the required treatment and evaluations, and were allowed to stop registration and treatment after being pronounced safe. Fast forward to today, when you are pulled over for Driving While Ability Impaired, C.R.S. 42-4-1301, in Westminster (Adams County). Do you think the alcohol treatment classes and possible jail are all you face? You must also complete a sex offense specific evaluation for nearly \$1,000.00, and do treatment for five years if recommended!

Within this ridiculous law, anyone previously convicted anywhere for the most minor sexual offense, must be reevaluated and do treatment if convicted of any criminal offense – even those that do not involve sexual misconduct. By now, everyone should know that sex offender treatment is very difficult and expensive. Plus, there are onerous requirements such as: you can't be around your own children or other kids. Sex offender treaters can dictate whether you can be around your wife, keep your job or drive your car. They dictate when you can go out to the grocery store, the cell phone you can possess, and what you can think about. Want to have sex with your wife? You must first ask your treatment provider and probation officer for permission. This is a sick system – through and through.

*Reprinted from an article at
www.denversexcrimesattorney.com

Anger, Resentment and Hatred

Submitted by Roger Kincade

When I am feeling anger, resentment and hatred it is because someone has failed to accomplish the function I allotted them and that they should have achieved for me. My anger, resentment and hatred of another is a projection onto them of "my issues" I have chosen to ignore and not address. As long as I can justify my judgment and attack of another -- and bringing in others to agree with me is one of my favorite tactics - then I don't have to look within. I must first be ever-vigilant for my thoughts of anger, resentments and hatred, be it oral, written, or behavioral. The signs are apparent once I am willing to look. Attack, judgment, condemnation, jealousy, envy, and even sarcastic humor are usually good warning signs.

Because of the dynamic of denial, I am sometimes not aware of the toxic nature of my anger, resentments and hatred, poisons that infect my mind and reinforce delusions of being unfairly treated, a misperception, again, that I use to justify my attack and judgment of others.

When I acknowledge and examine my feelings of anger, resentment and hate (and other feelings) it can seem to be a journey into fear but it is really a journey of awakening. The fear I experience is not my final destination but is a required step to empower myself to better understand myself and change my distorted thoughts and perceptions. As I develop my inner strength and practice living my life using the qualities of my Spirit presence, the effect another's behavior has on how I feel diminishes. When I feel anger, resentments or hatred toward someone I remember this great teacher's wisdom, love and kindness and his response to a difficult person and I attempt to respond in a similar way.

The teacher is in the company of a fellow traveler who tests him with derogatory, insulting, disparaging and bitter responses to anything the teacher says. Every day, for three days when the teacher spoke, the traveler responded by calling him a fool, and ridiculing the teacher in some arrogant fashion. Finally, at the end of the third day the traveler had to ask "How is it that you are able to be loving and kind when all I have done for the last three days is dishonor and offend you? Each time I am disobliging to you, you respond in a loving manner. How is this possible?"

The teacher responded with a question of his own for the traveler. "If someone offers you a gift, and you do not accept that gift, to whom does the gift belong?" His question provided the traveler with a new insight.

When someone offers me a gift of their insults or other negatives and I refuse to accept them, they obviously still belong to the original giver. And why would I ever choose to be angry, resentful or hateful over something that belongs to someone else?

You Are NOT Powerless!!

If you are reading this newsletter, odds are you have a loved one incarcerated or on parole or are as we call them "affected ones" meaning YOU are incarcerated or on parole. If that's true, you are probably thinking that you are STUCK with whatever DOC, parole and the treatment providers dish out to you. THAT IS ABSOLUTELY NOT TRUE!!! You have power! DOC, parole and the treatment providers are making changes constantly to their policies and procedures mostly based on pressure they have received from groups like ours. The momentum for our side is building and they are taking notice.

I urge all of you to get involved in some way. Check out the AFC website (information located at the front of the newsletter) to find links to agencies like the Sex Offender Management Board. Look at their calendar of events and START GOING TO THEM! These are all meetings held in public forums so ANYONE can attend. Listen to what they are telling the public (and themselves) and challenge them. Speak up when given the opportunity and help them see they are being monitored and graded. Let them hear "real world" stories about how their policies and procedures are being implemented. Currently there are SOMB committees

involved in an entire rewrite of the Standards and Guidelines (the book that therapists and P.O.'s throw in our faces) as well as on Continuity of Care (between DOC and parole and vice versa) and even on the use of polygraphs. Go to these meetings, tell them who you are and don't let their fancy titles and diplomas scare you. Say what you came to say and, again, let them know the spotlight is on them and what they do.

For those of you on the inside, keep feeding us that information we can take to legislators, board members and more. We don't need your life story or your whole case file or complaints about cold toast. We need feedback, both good and bad, of what's going on inside the facilities and inside treatment. Like I said, we can pass that on: what's working, what's not, etc. We are a small core group and can't always answer your letters as quickly as we would like but it doesn't mean we don't hear you or USE the information you give us. Keep it up.

Please remember all of you: As I said the tide is slowly changing to our side and the momentum is building. We get emails, letters and news stories every day confirming that fact. At the same time also remember that those who keep silent give tacit approval to whoever wants to do anything to you. All the bad things that have happened for S.O.'s these last twenty years could just as easily be blamed on us for being silent and letting our fear of exposure win over our sense of justice. If we want change, we have to make it happen.

CDOC Citizen Advocate Meeting

On March 11, 2015, CDOC had its meeting of citizen's advocates. This is an open meeting which anyone can attend and ask questions directly to the CDOC about issues that concern them. The Executive Director of CDOC is usually in attendance as well as the heads of various departments including Canteen, Correctional Industries, Health Services and many of the wardens from around the state. Below are excerpts from the minutes of that meeting. The minutes in their entirety are on the AFC website.

Kellie Wasko, Deputy Executive Director, acted as host as Executive Director Raemisch was absent participating in a Governor's Cabinet Meeting.

Question was asked about what the Dept. learned from its European trip. (This took place before Mr. Clements murder and include, him, Tony Carochi, Maureen O'Keefe and Kellie Wasko).

- Numerous ideas and concepts related to the use of administrative segregation (now restricted housing).
- In Germany their administrative segregation units are predominantly empty. Part of this is German's social attitude to shame associated with being incarcerated.

- Most countries have a specific time frame as to how long an offender can stay in administrative segregation.
- Germany and the Netherlands have different sentencing structure, relying more on fines than incarceration.
- The Department is working with the Prison Law Project on incorporating some of the re-entry programs being used in Europe.
- In the Netherlands, those offenders getting ready to finish their sentences are actually allowed out on home leave from Friday evening through Monday morning (sort of a reverse weekender in County jail.)

Steve Hager (Director of Prisons)

- The Department is completing moving away from Administrative Segregation (Ad Seg) to Restrictive Housing (RH), which is roughly 3.48% of population. In 2011, there were 1,500 offenders in Ad Seg.. Currently have 148 offenders in RH.
- Revalidating the male classification assessment, starting in April. Should see a significant shift of offenders from Close Custody to medium status.
- An additional 200 offenders currently in State custody moved to private prisons because of an overall increase of 400 offenders in the population.
- Continuing the policy of transporting out of state when needed.
- The offender ID program is currently running at 50% of goal
- Planning for re-entry living units at Lvl III and IV facilities. The re-entry units will have opportunities for work training.

Case manager training –

Colorado EPIC (Evidence-Based Practices Implementation for Capacity) is developing coaches from Correctional supervisors to help in implementing CTAP (Colorado Transitional Accountability Plan – an automated case management system.)

(EPIC

https://cdpsdocs.state.co.us/ccjj/Resources/Ref/EOC_Vol16_May2012.pdf

Department still has issues with insuring case manager continuity (where case managers stay with offender during their time at a facility and are not changed based upon housing assignment).

Transferred offenders are asking for case managers at previous facilities to write parole recommendations. Practice is not feasible and case managers are to rely on Chronological Records (Chron) for the letters in these cases. The shift at CMRC (Cheyenne Mountain Re-entry Center) to house those with a sexual offense. Question raised about lifers and juveniles. Population will be 1/3 those with a sexual offense, 1/3 lifers and remaining 1/3 traditional 180 day turnaround. No juveniles. Additional programming being put in place for those with a sexual offense. New criteria for acceptance at CMRC is in

process.

Release of a new AR 550-12 (Earned Time) because of error in January revision.

Department has seen a reduction in violence. Believe the change in mail policy was one of the factors. Wardens are making case-by-case exceptions to allowing offenders to write to other family members and some associates also incarcerated.

No revision to AR 150-01 Code of Penal Discipline (COPD) penalties for Level 1 and Level 2 violations.

Question raised about providing additional information for an offender's file or obtaining information from an offender's file. Depending upon type of information, have to look at appropriate AR. Offender has to provide consent and Department has decision on whether the information is appropriate for release.

How is date for parole release set? Parole board sets a 2-3 week window so parole plan can be verified. Actual date of Mandatory release (MRD) is determined by Time Operations based upon statutory language.

Department is still looking how to address providing some support for those who discharge their sentence and cannot take advantage of re-entry services offered through the Parole offices. They expect that the re-entry units can help alleviate some of the issues.

DRDC is supposed to be releasing discharging offenders to the Broadway office for initial assistance.

Kellie Wasko (Deputy Executive Director) – On behalf of Renae Jordan (Clinical and Correctional Services)

Those offenders with a sexual offense sent to CMRC will not have a treatment program since as part of the criteria for transfer is that they have to be in Aftercare status.

106 offenders will be moved to CMRC as part of the Aftercare program. 10 currently there and another 12 scheduled to move by end of March.

SOTMP is making a dent in the backlog of those moving into treatment from the Wait List. 60 transitioning in to new guidelines with 83 finishing Phase I under old guidelines. All future placements in treatment will be under new guidelines.

Determinate offenders will be placed on Wait List when they are within 4 years of their PED (Parole Eligibility Date). Unadjudicated offenders (facility determination – S4 coded), are placed on Wait List similar to other determinate offenders. Why are offenders required to have a support person as part of the treatment requirements? Part of the SOMB guidelines that the Department has to comply with.

Why are those with an out date required to have a poly before leaving? No specific polygraph requirement other than CDoC does a maintenance poly every 12 months versus the 6 months required on the street. The date is supposed to be randomly selected, however if someone has been selected more frequently, they should address it to SOTMP staff.

How is SOTMP addressing offenders that can't pass polygraphs? The SOMB is looking to make a policy change regarding the practice and the Department is making recommendations given their unique treatment situation.

Process for changing L (Low) designation. Offenders can request a review of their classification if it is based upon a Juvenile offense.

Re-addressed issue of those being on Wait List or awaiting inclusion on the Wait List not receiving full Earned Time credit for being program compliant. Some Case Managers were interpreting the codes wrong. Case Managers supposedly to be notified of which codes are appropriate for withholding Earned Time credit. (Offenders should review their Earned Time report for errors in Earned Time award/credit).

When an offender is to be moved to another facility, they need to insure that the property list and/or other documentation that has information on their approved medical appliances (canes, braces, etc.) so that they can follow to the new facility.

Allison Morgan (Deputy Director of Adult Parole (Acting Head))

50 new Parole Officers have been approved under HB14-1355. 19 have been assigned to the faculties with 2 supervisors and 26 additional case managers. As part of the funding from the bill, parole has been expanding the services they offer.

The reentry program under the bill has been let and a primary contractor awarded with first progress report due January 2016.

Percentage of TVP (Technical Violations of parole) under current Fiscal year (July 2014 – June 2015) is 44%.

Parole looking at alternative responses, including "in-school suspension" where the offender has to report to the Parole Office and remain there from 9-5 each day. Used primarily for those not making an effort to find work.

Parole department continues to work with Workforce Colorado to identify and develop employers who will hire parolees and those who complete their sentences. Pilot program with specific case managers at Workforce. Parole has 4 staff working to develop demand at employers as part of a Workforce improvement project.

Transitioning those who have had longer sentences is different from most offenders. Parole looking to work on behavioral issues related to getting back in to society.

Brandon Shaffer – Parole Board Chairman

On discretionary Parole the Board schedules a release at least 30 days out to allow for review of Parole plan by Parole Division.

Those with a sexual offense have a 60 day window and those with an Interstate parole plan are looking at a 120 day window.

Criteria letter from SOTMP is part of the decision factor for consideration of an offender with a sexual offense and must be voted on by full board. Majority vote decides.

All indeterminate sexual offenders are mandatory Board review.

Comment made that Parole Board members continue not to understand the SOTMP process as a Parole Board member acted if a determinate offender not being back in treatment is due to the offender's choice and not decision of SOTMP.

Sexually Violent Predator assessments have been done for all offenders prior to enactment of bill that requires the CDoC to have the Court make the decision. 335 reviews done of those prior to the bill with 63 designated as SVP.

(Question had been raised but not answered regarding the legal aspect of SVP Assessments done prior to 2014 due to Court of Appeals (COA) rulings from 2013 on legality of assessment. SVP Assessment was changed in 2014 to COA decision)

The next Citizen's Advocate Meeting will be held on July 8, 2015 from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the Denver Women's Correctional Facility 3600 Havana Street in Denver. A Consent to Search form (identical to the one used to visit an offender) must be submitted for entry **unless** you have visited an offender in a correctional facility in the past year. To be certain: submit one anyway. The information on how to submit/attend is on the CDOC website.

AFC urges EVERYONE to attend. If you have a specific question about a specific offender or a specific issue surrounding an offender (case management, medical, etc.), CDOC requests you submit those questions in writing 30 days (June 8th) prior to the meeting so they have time to look into the issue and provide a comprehensive answer. *Editor's note:* This is a reasonable request. If you were to simply ask a question at the meeting about a specific offender without giving them time to look into the matter, there is a 100% chance the only answer you will receive is "We don't know but we'll look into it."

Special Thanks to Mike Dell of Southern Colorado CURE for providing the minutes of the meetings.

Late Breaking News

At press time the editor learned that CDOC has just hired for its reentry program a "Job Placement Specialist." Unlike many with this title, this individual will actually be assisting offenders find jobs instead of just helping write resumes, etc. The editor has learned that this individual has extensive contacts in the business community as well as access to state and federal job openings. He will be working with reentry specialists in the prisons to ascertain an offender's job skills and will "hopefully" have a list of jobs waiting for the offender when he is released. The program is obviously in its infancy but it does at least demonstrate that Director Raemisch is serious about his commitment to helping offenders with reentry.

Editorial Policy

The Advocate is published by Advocates for Change. We provide information on our efforts to affect change in legislation, treatment, and re-integration into the community, primarily for those who have been convicted of a sex offense. Nothing offered by AFC is intended to be legal advice, and any information provided should never be a substitute for obtaining counsel and/or conducting your own research.

Submissions from inmates/offenders, parolees, and members, are encouraged. Please limit articles to 300 words. The editor reserves the right to publish all, part or none of the contributions submitted. Send contributions for publication and/or comments on the newsletter to: Advocates for Change, Newsletter Editor, PO Box 103392, Denver, CO 80250.

PLEASE JOIN US

Membership Fee is \$20 for family membership, \$5 per year for returning citizens, and 8 stamps for those on the inside. Any additional donations are gratefully accepted.

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- Newsletter preference: regular news letter
 plain newsletter in plain envelope
 email
 do not sent a newsletter

Please feel free to share an application with a friend or a family member. Call 720-329-9096, if you have any questions or comments.

**Send membership applications to: AFC Membership
P. O. Box 103392
Denver, CO 80250**



**Advocates for Change
P. O. Box 103392
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