

**SEX OFFENDER MANAGEMENT BOARD (SOMB)
MINUTES**

Friday, April 20, 2018

SOMB Members

SOMB Guests

Allison Boyd
Amanda Gall
Angel Weant
Brie Franklin
Carl Blake
Jeff Shay
Jesse Hansen
Jessica Meza
John Odenheimer
Kandy Moore
Korey Elger
Leonard Woodson
Mary Baydarian
Merve Davies
Missy Gursky
Norma Aguilar-Dave
Richard Bednarski
Rick May
Robin Singer
Sharon Holbrook
Tom Leversee

Ahshane Johnson	Pat Harris
Amanda Najera	Rick Ostring
Amira Minazzi	Robert Kay
Anne Schnacke	Roger Kincade
Catherine St. Germain	Sara Mulholland
Colton McNutt	Sera Bennett
Conrad Gonzales	Susan Walker
David Nahum	Tami Floyd
Deb Baty	Timothy Williams
Evelyn Sullivan	Victoria Strong
Jalice Vigil	Wellesley Bush
Jeff Geist	
Jodie Goter	
John Fischer	
Jonathan Doera	
Justyna Madenska	
Laurie Kepros	
Layla Sadighi	
LeRoy Verneti	
Malgorzata Schmitz	
Nicole Leon	

Absent SOMB Members: Jeff Jenks and Marcelo Kopcow

Staff: Chris Lobanov-Rostovsky, Raechel Alderete, Michelle Geng, Marina Borysov, Kelly Hume, and Jill Trowbridge

SOMB Meeting Begins: 9:00

INTRODUCTIONS:

Introductions were made by all in attendance.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

None

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

John Odenheimer indicated the he will be chairing the meeting, and noted that Judge Kopcow was not able to attend the meeting due to a judges training program in which he is involved. John also indicated a "hand count" will be used for voting at this meeting.

Leonard Woodson noted on Wednesday, April 18th that the Department of Corrections (DOC) held the Community Advocate meeting, and indicated that the community advocates have an opportunity to speak with the Executive

Staff from various correctional facilities. He mentioned that on May 16th; the meeting will include the sex-offense specific community advocates.

Brie Franklin announced that Wednesday, April 25th is Colorado Denim Day which shows support for sexual assault survivors. She indicated that more information can be found on the coloradodenimday.org website.

Korey Elger mentioned that April is also Child Abuse Prevention Awareness month.

Marina Borysov announced that the 12th annual SOMB Conference registration is open, and noted that SOMB members can attend at no charge. She indicated that sponsorship opportunities are available. Marina mentioned that approximately 425 attendees are expected at this year's conference.

Raechel Alderete noted that the Norma Anderson Victim Excellence Award and the Gary Buerger Sex Offender Treatment Leadership Award will be awarded at the conference, and asked all to consider nominations for these awards.

Motion to approve the March minutes: Korey Elger; Leonard Woodson 2nd (Question #1)

20 Approve 0 Oppose 0 Abstain Motion Passes

APPROVE AGENDA:

Approved by consensus

SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH and NATIONAL CRIME VICTIMS RIGHTS WEEK – Victim Representation on Community Supervision Teams (Presentation on Behalf of the Victim Advocacy Committee) – Debbie Baty, Blue Bench and Missy Gursky, RSA (Handout Provided)

Allison Boyd introduced Missy Gursky and Debbie Baty, the presenters of this presentation. Allison indicated that there was a grant received to start a pilot program to have a Victim Representative on the Community Supervision Team (CST) and Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT), and noted that Debbie Baty was hired to initiate the project in the 1st Judicial District (Jefferson County).

Debbie Baty noted that this is a new position for the Blue Bench, and expressed her hope to expand this program into the Denver jurisdiction.

Missy Gursky described the inclusion of the Victim Representative into the MDT (Juvenile) or the CST (Adult) teams.

Debbie highlighted the following areas of the program:

- **Differences between Roles** – Debbie noted that she does not give legal advice, but noted that she works with the District Attorney Victim Witness Specialist and the Probation Victim Service Officer, and discussed how she receives referrals to a case.
- **Role of the Victim Representative** – She discussed both the short-term and long-term roles, and indicated that the Victim Representative's main role is to keep the MDT or CST victim-centered.
- **Value of Victim Representation** – Debbie gave an account of how this program helps the victims work through the process.
- **Benefits of Victim Representation** – Missy Gursky discussed the benefits of victim representation through the probation system.
- **Safety Relation** – Debbie noted that the Victim Representative helps with victim safety, offender safety, and ultimately community safety.
- **System Focused** – Debbie mentioned that the Victim Representative also helps the victim through the legal process.

- **Basic Needs and Services** – Debbie noted that the Victim Representative typically will give the victim referrals to various resources, such as family support programs, legal assistance organizations, financial assistance programs, and so forth.
- **How to Utilize a Victim Representative** – Missy discussed the use of “mock clarification” sessions, and indicated how they help both the offender and the victim. She noted the Victim Representative helps the offender understand the victim perspective, which promotes unification and clarification for the families.
- **Obstacles Encountered** – Debbie gave an account of a case, the obstacles faced, and the results of her involvement. She also noted how slow the process is, and mentioned the difficulties navigating through the judicial system.
- **Barriers to Use a Victim Representative** – Missy noted that the biggest barrier of having a Victim Representative on staff at treatment agencies is the cost, and mentioned that agencies are contracting for victim representatives (costs are passed on to clients). She indicated that Debbie’s current position through the Blue Bench is free, which takes any cost related pressure off the teams. Missy indicated that finding a victim representative that understands the Standards and process (especially in rural areas) is difficult.

Board Discussion:

Allison Boyd asked how Debbie handles the “cold” calls she makes to the victims and victim families to make that connection and build the relationship. Debbie responded how she educates the victims on the process, the terminology, and the supervision of offenders.

Brie Franklin responded to Missy Gursky that this service is not free, and noted that the money comes from Federal funding.

Jessica Meza asked what the fee is per session, or if it is on an hourly or yearly basis. Missy responded that some pay a contract fee for a victim representative, and some have a person on staff to fill that need, but noted that every agency handles this differently.

Tom Leverage discussed the need to design a best practice protocol of what this victim representative does.

Korey Elger asked if the grant funding requires a data collection piece to evaluate outcomes, and if continued funding would be available. Debbie responded that there is data collection being handled through the Blue Bench.

Angel Weant discussed the need to institutionalize this position into the Jefferson County system, and expressed the need to have it institutionalized throughout the state. She noted that Colorado is one of a few states that does reunification and clarification in the country. Debbie noted that in the future, clarification will play a dominant role in the process, and mentioned that offenders who are remorseful, really do care and want to make amends to their victims.

Carl Blake indicated that the Division of Youth Services is not endorsing an on-staff victim representative in that a contracted representative can keep a true victim perspective.

Raechel Alderete thanked Debbie and Missy, and noted that the majority of victims are grateful for this representation, even in “cold” cases that happened years ago. She indicated that the Standards are more victim-centered and stress the need for clarification and reunification.

Allison Boyd noted that it is helpful that Debbie is hired through the non-profit pilot process, and mentioned this is great way to work through all the obstacles before transitioning this into the government process. She thanked Debbie and the Blue Bench for all the work they are doing to assist the victims, and stressed how healing and empowering victim clarification can be.

Audience Discussion:

An audience member asked for clarification of the protection orders and the modification process. Debbie Baty responded that she has been able to work around the process, and is able to reach out to the victim services officer. She noted that Jefferson County modifies the protection orders at the time of sentencing to include this representation if wanted or needed.

Susan Walker expressed encouragement by Debbie's presentation on this subject, and her empathy for both the victim and the offender. She also supported the concept that this position be kept separate from the judicial system, in that it provides a more objective perspective.

BREAK: 10:16 – 10:30**EMPOWERING SKILLS FOR PREVENTION (Presentation) – Victoria Strong, Front Range Center for Assault Prevention (Handout Provided)**

Raechel Alderete introduced Victoria Strong of the Front Range Center for Assault Prevention.

Victoria Strong presented the Child Assault Prevention (CAP) Program, and indicated that this is a local non-profit which is part of the International Assault Prevention Program. She gave a brief history of her background and how she became involved with CAP. Victoria noted her desire to find a way to keep children educated about child abuse and to keep them from having to go to a therapist. She indicated that she works with schools and parents educating them about sexual abuse prevention.

She noted the 3 components of what CAP offers at the schools:

- Training for all adults/staff/teachers/administrative staff
- 2-Hour training for parents/grandparents/adults
- How to talk to children about sexual abuse, bullying, and stranger awareness

Victoria continued discussing the background and what predicated the start of this organization. She went on to explain the curriculum used by CAP, and indicated that there is a lack of public education on child sexual abuse. Victoria noted that it is the adults' job to protect children from perpetrators, and indicated the CAP program educates the child on how to recognize perpetrators with the appropriate response to these situations (to reach out to parents and/or authorities when feeling unsafe).

Victoria noted that CAP does not encourage parents accessing the sex offender registration, but noted that the sex offender registration is a good tool for professionals.

Victoria mentioned that the CAP curriculum teaches the following skills:

- Teach children to recognize the "uh oh" alarm in their tummy;
- Teach children to be confident enough to stand up and speak out;
- Teach them that "free" means they have the right to make choices;
- Teach them safety rules with strangers;
- Educate children that they have rights and that adults have rights – the right to be "safe", "strong", and "free"

Victoria noted that at times after this training, some children disclose that they are being abused, and indicated that she is bound to report these incidents to authorities. She also noted that these trainings are booked about a year in advance, and mentioned that all money comes from funding, grants, fundraising, and donations.

Board Discussion:

Leonard Woodson mentioned the story of Little Red Riding Hood and the need to be aware of strangers, and how to react.

Carl Blake reiterated the need to let the child know that they should keep telling someone until they feel safe.

Audience Discussion:

Susan Walker expressed her appreciation of this presentation, and indicated that this message needs to be addressed to all ages. She asked Victoria how to know who is a safe person. Victoria responded that they teach the children that most of the time parents and grandparents are safe, but that a child needs to understand that sometimes they might have to reach out to others outside of the home.

Justyna Madenska questioned why parents should not have access to the Sex Offender Registry, and how to educate parents on the safety of their child (regarding sex offenders living in their neighborhood). Victoria responded that the focus needs to be educating our children as to what is safe and unsafe, their rights, and empowering the children to self-protect.

BTTI VARIANCE (Decision Item) – Chelsea Beck and Carl Blake, ARC (Handout Provided)

Carl Blake noted that the Application Review Committee's (ARC) position is to make sure that all the initial paperwork is included for this discussion. He indicated that the treatment providers will give the background information for this request.

Chelsea Beck and James Meyer indicated that this client completed all the requirements of the Adult Standards Section 5.7, and noted that the Penile Plethysmograph (PPG) results indicated some arousal issues. James and Chelsea noted that this client was convicted on pornography charges, and did not have any hands-on sexual offending as an adult. There was discussion regarding the specific increases and decreases on a 2nd PPG that was given. James and Chelsea noted that this client will be released from supervision in November, and mentioned that this client would like supervised visitation before that time. They indicated that the mother has approved supervised contact with the 11-year old.

Rick May asked if anyone has checked with the 11-year old to see if she would like contact. Chelsea indicated that based on the information she has received from the older sisters and mother that the 11-year old would like contact.

Allison Boyd asked if this client is allowed supervised visitation, will BTTI provide this service or is there another agency that would do that. The response was that BTTI has the capability to help with reuniting the family in a supervised situation that is safe for all concerned.

Korey Elger asked if the mother has had any type of treatment regarding how to handle this possible visitation. Chelsea responded no due to the fact that the mother is primarily Spanish speaking, which may cause some cultural barriers.

Angel Weant asked if the CST has discussed whether Probation may extend this client's probation. James responded that there has been not discussion to extend the client's probation period.

Carl Blake commented that ARC had requested outside consulting for BTTI around the PPG results. BTTI responded that they did consult with colleagues regarding the PPG results with no clear answers or direction from these consultants. James indicated that BTTI wants to do what is best for the child. Chelsea indicated that the client is not willing to do any more testing at this time, and noted that BTTI is looking at the potential impact of contact after being released from supervision without some previous supervised contact.

Merve Davies mentioned to remember that many people have an attraction to children that do not act on those attractions. He noted that treatment will not change that attraction, but indicated that this client has not had physical child sexual contact. Merve mentioned that additional testing will probably not change the results, and indicated moving forward with this variance for approval.

Judge Holbrook asked if this contact will be supervised visitation or re-integration therapy. Chelsea responded that BTTI is looking at supervised visitation with more family centered activities (game time, meals, etc.).

Norma Aguilar-Dave agreed with Merve Davies to move forward with this variance, and noted that the treatment provider can give the family the skills to keep safety in the family.

Allison Boyd also agreed to move forward with this variance, and recommended that the 11-year old have her own therapeutic sessions to help with the re-integration issues. She read some drafted language that might possibly be included in the Standards that addresses these situations.

Richard Bednarski made a motion to approve this variance. Norma Aguilar-Dave 2nd the motion.

Motion to approve Variance: Richard Bednarski ; Norma Aguilar-Dave 2nd (**Question #2**)

20	Approve	0	Oppose	0	Abstain	Motion Passes
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Chelsea Beck noted that all contact will be up to the child, safety boundaries will be set, and indicated they will contact the mother to confirm with her daughter that she does want contact.

LUNCH: 12:01- 12:50

John Odenheimer, the SOMB members, and staff recognized Merve Davies and his accomplishments on the SOMB. John, on behalf of the SOMB, presented Merve with a thank you gift for his years of service, and wished him all the best in his retirement.

SEX TRAFFICKING WHITE PAPER (Action Item) – Rick May and Michelle Geng

Michelle Geng presented background information regarding the creation of this position paper. She indicated that concerns were raised that the current psycho-sexual evaluations were not effectively addressing the needs and risks of sex trafficking offenders at sentencing. Michelle reviewed the various components of this paper, to include the implications for the sex offense-specific evaluations, personality assessments, assessment of psychopathic traits, risk assessments, and the implications for sex offense-specific treatment.

Rick May indicated that this paper encourages evaluators and treatment providers to think “outside the box” to meet the risks and needs of these individuals, which will keep the community safer.

Chris Lobanov-Rostovsky indicated that this will be a resource for treatment providers and evaluators, will be an appendix to the Standards, and noted that it could possibly be a part of the Standards in the future.

Rick May noted that this paper encourages treatment providers and evaluator to reach out to attorneys and district attorneys for more information, and indicated that attorneys and district attorneys should also reach out to treatment providers and evaluators when additional information is needed.

Tom Leverage reviewed the suggested changes to this paper based on the Best Practices Committee recommendations.

- Page 2 – Implications for the Sex Offense-Specific Evaluation: Change beginning of 2nd sentence to “*When possible, the evaluator should obtain additional collateral information.....*”; NOTE: The Male Sex Trafficking Committee suggested keeping the original language and was not in favor of this change.
- Page 2 – Evaluators should seek to obtain... – Change to: “*Additional helpful collateral information when available may include;*”
- Page 2 – Last paragraph – Change “tools” to “*research based instruments;*”
- Page 3 – Personality Assessments – Remove language in parenthesis; Remove the last 2 bullets (Rorschach Test and Thematic Appreciation Test;

- Page 3 – The paragraph under the Risk Assessment bullets – Change: may require additional training ... to *"May require specific credentialing and instrument-specific training"*.

Board Discussion:

Chris Lobanov-Rostovsky suggested considering the Best Practices recommendations, obtaining any stakeholder feedback, and next month taking any motions to amend or make a decision at that time.

Carl Blake noted that if both the Best Practices and the Male Sex Trafficking Committees agree to these changes, the white paper should go to the stakeholders for input. Chris Lobanov-Rostovsky mentioned the need to get an affirmative endorsement that includes all changes proposed in one draft for stakeholder review within the next couple of weeks.

THE INVISIBLE VICTIM (Presentation on Behalf of Victim Advocacy Committee) – Catherine St. Germain

Kandy Moore introduced Catherine St. Germain and gave background information as to her daughter's sexual assault case and her facebook video.

Catherine St. Germain discussed how she started advocacy work which connects moms with other moms, victims with other victims, and how to navigate life after a sexual assault. She showed the video she made that went viral.

Catherine went on to discuss the details of her daughter's abuse and the details of the aftermath. She indicated that her daughter came forward within 24 hours of the abuse, which enabled DNA collection and the ultimate conviction of her perpetrator. Catherine described the anxiety and panic attacks her daughter and herself face every day as a result of this assault.

Catherine discussed the Biker's Against Child Abuse (BACA) group that continue to give her and her daughter great support.

Catherine explained the trauma that invisible victims (secondary) have and the little-to-no treatment that is available for these invisible victims. She noted that the secondary victims need more support and treatment to deal with the trauma they have as a result of the sexual assault. Catherine mentioned that many of the coping tools learned in treatment do not help with the post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) she lives with every day.

Catherine discussed all that she and her children faced and lost during the days, weeks, years after the sexual assault. Catherine circulated a drawing her mother made in 1977 of the house she lived in as a small child. She noted that it is her "home", but due to the bankruptcy she is faced with, she will most likely lose this house.

Board Discussion:

Allison Boyd thanked Catherine for this powerful presentation. She asked Catherine if she has been in communication with any victim representative. Catherine responded that she has, and indicated that her victims advocate continues to be in touch. She indicated that the perpetrator (her ex-husband) only got 90 days in jail and 8 years on probation, but mentioned that she is encouraged that Probation is making him accountable for his actions.

Angel Weant thanked Catherine and her family for coming and sharing their experiences. She noted that she never realized that victims might possibly want the offender to leave the state.

SOMB Meeting Adjourned: 2:12 pm