



THE ADVOCATE

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Special points of interest:

AFC will be assertive in our advocacy work.

AFC supports the class action lawsuit against the DOC.

The challenges our loved ones face are monumental as is the task of **AFC** in defending and protecting them.

AFC will hold those charged with the treatment of our loved ones accountable to the letter of the law.

Get Involved: Come to the meetings; join a committee, if you can not be at the meetings, there are many other opportunities for you to help.

OUR VISION

Inherent in AFC's mission is the belief that each person, whether one who has committed an offense or is a victim of an offense, is not solely defined by the label "offender" or "victim" and, as such, is worthy of just and humane treatment.

AFC MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Advocates For Change is to support 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; and
- promoting the reintegration of those with an offense into the community.

HOW CAN YOU HELP? - GET INVOLVED!

Many of you have asked how you and/or your families and friends can help. The best way to help is to get involved. There is MUCH work to be done and we really need people in all areas. You can attend our meetings. **AFC's general meetings** are held the **third Tuesday of each month at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 1600 Grant Street, Denver from 7:00 pm until 9:00 pm.** These are open forum meetings where we actively engage our membership in the issues facing our loved ones. What is shared there-remains there. What is learned there is taken with us. AFC is a volunteer group. **AFC does not offer legal advice or legal services.**

Become a Member: You will find applications for membership at the end of this letter.

Join a committee. Several committees will be formed to forward our work such as legislative, education, research, membership and communication (newsletter and website).

Please get involved!

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"Politics is all about relationships."

Maureen Cain

Legislative News

Are you a registered voter? If you are, you must Vote!

If you are not, this is how you can register online:

<https://www.sos.state.co.us/voter/secregvoterintro>

Do you know your legislators? Here is how you can find them online:

[http://192.70.175.79/state/map.asp?](http://192.70.175.79/state/map.asp)

Go to the right column, click on Find/Change Location, type in your information.

Legal News

URGENT DOCCA ALERT:

AFC had someone approach us who wishes to remain anonymous. This person indicated that if we can raise \$9,000 by October 15, 2010 they would match those funds.

The total amount needed to file the lawsuit is \$40,000. We have raised \$22,000 to date and only need another \$18,000. Our group, with the help of all of you, raised the first \$14,000 – we can do it again. Please talk to your family and friends and ask them to help us raise the remaining \$9,000. Once we reach the \$18,000, John Pineau and his team can get the lawsuit filed. Should you have any questions, please contact Annie Wallen at 303-333-7023.

WE NEED YOUR STORIES

We will be working on a lot of issues for next year and would like your stories. All stories are welcome. Do you have a history of issues with polygraphs, parole, treatment, etc.? Please use only the facts – dates, times, places and names if you are comfortable using the names. Your name will be kept confidential. We will use this information to build our fight for next year. Please help out if you can. Send your story to: AFC, 10343 Federal Blvd., PMB #444, Westminster, CO 80260. Thank you.

SOMB UPDATE

SOMB 4th Annual Conference Report

Theme: New Directions and Innovative Practices

The general theme echoed by most workshop presenters and both keynote speakers was one of collaboration involving those charged with a sex offense: that all stakeholders work together to obtain information, review research and focus on strategies that public safety advocates can use while engaging the whole community and sharing limited resources.

Speaker and psychotherapist expert, Jill Levenson, provided recent studies from several states which showed little significance that registration and notification lowered sex crimes. Failure to register doesn't significantly increase the risk of sexual recidivism. That recidivists did not seem to live closer than non-recidivists to schools or child care centers. And with 700,000 offenders registered in the US, enforcement by law is diluted, it's impossible to track all.

Another trend voiced by presenters was "one size doesn't fit all." Different sex crimes call for varied treatment. One presenter, Katherine Gotch, differentiated the "run of the mill" sex offender to those with "specialty" crimes.

Colorado's own SOMB member, Defense Attorney Rick Levinson, and Colorado Springs treatment provider Lee Oesterlee, jointly presented a seminar on how offenders and their attorneys work collaboratively to reach agreements, particularly in plea bargains. There are no guidelines in the Standards addressing such situations.

By Jan Hunsaker

After observation at my first SOMB Board meeting and holding down the AFC table at the conference, my impression of the event over all is that there was another direction most of the participants would like to go. There was a general feeling of cooperation. It appeared that most were trying to find vital answers to some of the most important questions and particularly as it related to treatment. I met many wonderful people from all around the country and hope that this feeling of cooperation and the search for answers and fair treatment prevails. This AFC member is going forward with optimism – guarded optimism – but optimism none-the-less.

By G. Rosencrans

Q and A's

Maureen Cain, representing the Colorado Criminal Defense Bar, responding at the June 22nd AFC General meeting:

Q: What can AFC do to be more effective at affecting change?

A: Make sure when you get involved that it is about the process.

Alphabet Soup:

AFC – Advocates for Change, action group addressing issues related to those who have been charged with or convicted of a sex offense
BAG – Breakfast Action Group
CCJJ – Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice
CCJRC – Colorado Criminal Justice Reform Coalition
DOCCA – Department of Corrections Class Action Lawsuit
CURE – Citizens United for the Rehabilitation of Errants
LSA – Lifetime Supervision Act
MRD – Mandatory Release Date
PED – Parole Eligibility Date
SLA – Shared Living Arrangements
SOMB – Sex Offender Management Board
SORFC – SO Ready For Change
SOTMP – Sex Offender Treatment and Monitoring Program

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

August

- 8-3-10 AFC's **BAG (breakfast action group)** 7-9am I-HOP Restaurant, 1595 So Colorado Blvd, Denver ([Every Tuesday](#))
- 8-5-10 **Senator Evie Hudak's Legislative Coffee** 7:30-9:00am, 7739 Wadsworth Blvd (Panera Bread) Arvada ([First Thursday of every month](#))
- 8-13-10 Fri **CCJJ (Governor's Commission)** 12:30-4:30pm NETI Building, 12345 Alameda Pkwy, Lkwood
- 8-13-10 Fri **CCJRC 5th Annual Freedom Conference** 10am-5pm Blair Caldwell African-American Research Library, 2401 Welton St, Denver (more info: pam@ccjrc.org or Erin 303-367-4747)
- 8-14-10 **Senator Linda Newell- Littleton Town Hall Meeting**, 9am, Blueberry Café at Woodlawn Center at Windemere & Littleton Blvd ([every second Sat](#))
- 8-16-10 Mon **SOMB Best Practice (sub) Committee** – No Known Cure Position Paper 2:00-4:00pm 700 Kipling St, Lakewood first floor conference room
- 8-17-10 Tue **AFC General Meeting** 7-9pm Panel Discussion on Parole (four panel participants: Tim Hand, Jeff Giest and 2 parole officers (from Sex Offense Specific Parole Unit) St Pauls Lutheran Church 1600 Grant St (use side door on 16th)
- 8-19-10 Thur **Townhall Meeting w Su Ryden, Morgan Carroll & Karen Middleton** 7-8:30pm, Community College Aurora, 16000 E Centretech Pkwy ([every 3rd Thursday](#))
- 8-20-10 Fri **SOMB Monthly Meeting** 9–4 pm Location PPA event Center, 2105 Decatur, Denver (303-239-4199 Charla)
- 8-21-10 Sat **Senator Evie Hudak's Town Hall Meeting** 10:30-12N Update on Health Care in Colorado Standley Lake Library 8485 Kipling St, Arvada
- 8-23-10 **SOMB Housing (sub)Committee** 1:30-3:30pm 710 Kipling St, Lakewood, 3rd floor conference room (303-239-4526 Nancy) housing for those with sex offense
- 8-25-10 **SOMB Application Review Committee** 9am-12N 700 Kipling St, Lakewood, 1st floor conference room (303-239-4199 Charla) regarding registration
- Coffee with **Morgan Carroll and Su Ryden** from 7:15-8:30 am ([first Monday of every month unless a holiday](#)) at Mimi's Cafe, 205 S. Abilene St., Aurora
- ### September
- 9-10-10 Fri **CCJJ (Governor's Commission)** 12:30-4:30pm NETI building 12345 W Alameda Pkwy, L'wood
- 9-21-10 Tue **AFC General Meeting** (see August calendar for info) Speakers: John Davis – RSA & Merve Davies from Davies & Associates (both are sex offender treatment programs)
- 9-23/24-10 Thur/Fri **Restorative Justice Symposium w keynote speaker Howard Zehr**, Beth-El Mennonite Church 4625 Ranch Dr, Colorado Springs (robin@cascadingconnections.com)

Just FYI:

If you signed up for the newsletter and gave us an email address, you will **ONLY** receive your newsletter by email. However, please feel free to print it out and mail it to a friend or family member if you like.

DIANE TRAMATOLA-LAWSON
COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS

Ms. Tramatola-Lawson, serving on the Board of Denver Community Corrections, was the guest speaker at the July 20th AFC General Meeting.

She said that what the case managers and the person's boss puts on paper weighs heavily on the decision from the board. In Denver family and friends are not allowed to testify on behalf of the inmate whereas in other counties they are. She is working on getting that changed. She said that the inmates can write a letter to community corrections within 9 months of the time they are up for community corrections/parole and tell them what they have done to advance and why they deserve a chance in community corrections and the board will review it when their case comes up. She said to keep it one page or less though. When they talk about "diversion" they are referring to probation and when they talk about "transition" they are talking about parole.

Maureen Cain addresses Advocates For Change

At the June 22nd AFC General Meeting, Maureen Cain, formerly a private and public defender and currently the lobbyist for the Colorado Criminal Defense Bar, addressed attendees.

Regarding upcoming legislation, Ms. Cain reported that the Governor's Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice (CCJJ) will likely be considering forwarding bills registration and sentencing for those with a sex offense. The CCJJ is the vehicle for getting support for bills dealing with the sex offense issues from law enforcement, prosecutors and defense attorneys.

Other issues that might be looked at are the Lifetime Supervision Act, use of polygraphs and the "no known cure" belief.

Ms. Cain suggested that AFC work with Circles of Support, a program that provides support for those offenders who are being released but have no support on the outside. She suggested that AFC form relationships with other organizations such as churches and service groups in order to provide the numbers necessary for the support of those with a sex offense.

She encouraged AFC members to formulate the message - the message should be about building something that works better than the current system; that we should decide what we want to happen and then find the middle ground. Investing in legislative efforts is important.

**Labeling v. People - First Language
by SS**

AFC believes that each person is multi-faceted and cannot be defined solely by just one aspect or experience in life. Similarly, a person cannot be defined solely by any labeling that may be applied, regardless of any official or professional origin.

Thus, AFC discourages the use of labels and encapsulating professional and official terminology when referring to a person and his or her issue(s).

Instead, AFC promotes and encourages the use of what has been referred to as "people-first" language in which a person being referred to is acknowledged by their personhood first, and any issue or other aspect of that person second. For example, instead of referring to someone as a "sex offender," AFC encourages the use of "person with a sex offense." Similarly, AFC encourages the use of "sex offense laws" instead of "sex offender" laws.

EDITORIAL POLICY

The Advocate newsletter is published by Advocates for Change, providing information on efforts of this group to affect change in legislation, treatment, and re-integration into the community, primarily for those who have been convicted of a sex offense.

Submissions from inmates/offenders and parolees are encouraged. Articles should be no longer than 300 words. Content should be about a single issue, be original, and accurate, citing sources if appropriate. Personal stories and fresh ideas about your experiences in the current system are welcome. Please, also feel free to contribute a short poem or anything else that would add to our newsletter, as long as it is original. Contributors will not be identified. **Unless submitted by a practicing lawyer we can not publish legal advise.**

The editor reserves the right to publish all, part or none of the contributions submitted. Send contributions to Advocates for Change, PO Box 441656, Aurora, CO 80044. Please also send any articles for publication and comments on the newsletter to: AFC Newsletter, 10343 Federal Blvd., PMB #444, Westminster, CO 80260.

Editor: BJ Russell

Publisher: GL Rosencrans

AFC does not endorse and disclaims any opinions expressed by the contributors to the "Insiders/Outsiders" section of this newsletter.

INSIDERS AND OUTSIDERS OPINIONS

Opinions from those who have been convicted of an offense and their families

I would like to share my experience and the difficulty I had locating an apartment willing to accept a sex offender. My search began long before my husband was to be released from CDOC, knowing that it would not be an easy task. It took at least six months of relentless phone calls and determination before I stumbled upon an ad on Craig's List. When I told the property manager about our circumstances and her response was "I don't have a problem with that." I broke down and sobbed. My prayer had been answered. After all the calls and humiliation, I had finally found a place to call home. This meant, though, that compromises were going to have to be made. It wasn't an upscale apartment complex with all the amenities that my previous apartment had, but I found no corporate owned properties that would accept a felon, let alone a sex offender. That being said, I have a place that is home for us. My husband feels that I have "set him up for success" knowing he has a home to parole to and all of his possessions waiting for him. But this experience has left me wondering what happens to all of the sex offenders who are released who have no support. There are places willing to lease to a sex offender but they are few and far between. - a loving wife.

This special note is to our loved ones in Department of Corrections or elsewhere in the system, such as on parole, probation, in community corrections, etc. Our group, Advocates for Change, would like to invite **your** family to join our membership. Only through a bigger effort, with more members, can we accomplish our goals. Membership requirement for a family is filling out and returning an application with a \$20.00 fee.

The next time you talk to your family by phone or visit, please tell them we would really appreciate and need their input and help in our group. Have them contact us at this address and/or phone numbers:

P O Box 441656
Aurora, CO 80044
303-333-7023 – Annie
303-421-0767 – Jan

written by: Jan Hunsaker, AFC Membership Chairman

Advocates For Change Board of Directors

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ADVOCATES FOR CHANGE

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Aurora, CO 80044
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E-mail address: annentaft@yahoo.com
We're on the Web!
See us at: advocates4change.org

JOIN US

Membership Fee \$20 for those on the outside and 8 stamps for those on the inside.

Any additional donations are gratefully accepted. Today's Date: _____

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

If you would like to work on one of our committees, please check here:

Call Annie Wallen at 303-333-7023 if you have any questions or comments.

Membership Report

Table with 2 columns: Category and Count. Rows include Out of State (6), Family Members (63), and Affected Ones in System (153).

Membership Fee \$20 for those on the outside and 8 stamps for those on the inside.

Any additional donations are gratefully accepted. Today's Date: _____

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

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