

MSOTA QUARTERLY MEETING  
WHITEFISH  
JULY 21, 2006

Individuals in attendance:

Anne Harris, Ginny Watts, Kevin Wyse, Jim Myers, Andy Hudak, Michael Scolatti, Jean Keiley, Chris Nordstrom, Michael English, Chris Quigley, Barb Bottomly

Meeting called to order by Mr. Hudak as road construction led to the late arrival of President Watts. The Membership Committee was directed to interview Chris Nordstrom until President Watts arrived. President Watts did arrive and the meeting continues.

Introductions.

Agenda review.

Minutes of the last meeting in Helena read by Secretary Wyse and approved as read.

Officer Reports:

President: Ginny Watts suggests that if you have items which you wish to place on the agenda, please call her or email her to give her the agenda items.

Vice President: Dr. Robert Page was not present.

Secretary: Kevin Wyse distributed copies of MCA Codes which apply to sexual offenses. If you would like one of these copies, they will be available at each meeting during this year. Likewise, the MSOTA Roster will be available at each MSOTA meeting so that folks can update their information. Motion was made and passed to have Kevin contact the Web Master, Margie, to discuss transfer of payment from Mr. Sullivan's office directly to Margie. Kevin will contact Margie and Shawn Abbott in order to discuss this issue.

Treasurer: Shawn Abbott was not present.

Committees met and reported:

Ethics: No Report.

Legislative:

Ms. Gloria Hermanson attend meeting and provided information regarding effective lobbying of the Montana Legislature. She reported that it is crucial that each member of MSOTA be involved in the legislative process because if we are not then others, who are less informed then we, will be involved. This involvement needs to occur throughout the year as to contact a legislator during the legislative session is ineffective due to the many responsibilities which legislators have during the session. It is important to contact legislators on important issues as the more contacts a legislator

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gets the more aware a legislator will be. In addition, donations to a legislator's campaign will encourage the legislator to listen to the issue which one is presenting. Money doesn't buy votes but it can buy an ear. Legislators vote with you because you have made the most noise or have donated money to their campaign. Ms. Hermanson indicated that members can contact their legislators by phone, email, letters, or doing lunch.

Ms. Hermanson also provided education about how the legislative process occurs. She discussed the process of needing a legislator to draft a bill and then finding several sponsors once the bill is drafted. The more sponsors we get for the bills we wish to pass the better chance we will have at the bill passing. In addition, getting both Democrats and Republicans to sponsor a bill can add to the bills success. Legislators must be educated on the legislation that pertains to sexual offenders and we, as MSOTA members, must be the people who provide that education. Andy Hudak will provide information to all members, in the form of a fact sheet. A motion was made and passed that all MSOTA members must contact their own legislators and present them with this fact sheet. This will begin the important process of educating members over the next several years. The two most important issues facing MSOTA at this time involve indemnification and statutory offenders. If we are going to impact legislation in the future we need to get started now!!!

Finally, it is important to set up a phone tree and email tree. Andy Hudak will press members of the Legislative Committee to set up phone tree and Anne Harris will set up the email tree.

Membership: Membership Committee reports that Chris Nordstrom has been accepted as a Clinically Certified Member.

Standards:

The Evaluation and Treatment Standards Committee reports that the revised Adult Standards are now on the Web Site. The Adolescent Standards will be placed on the Web Site as soon as possible.

Education:

No Report.

\* Old Business:

Marla reports that there will be no risk assessment seminar in the near future as the presenter is coping with family problems.

\* New Business:

ATTENTION ATTENTION!!!!!!!!!!!!!! OCTOBER MEETING HAS BEEN CHANGED TO GREAT FALLS, MT. IT WILL BE HELD ON OCTOBER 20, 2006 AT 2:00. IT WILL BE HELD AT THE HOLIDAY INN AT 400 10TH AVE. SOUTH. ON OCTOBER 19, 2006, THE

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CONFERENCE "COMPUTERS, KIDS AND SEX CRIMES" WILL ALSO BE HELD AT THE HOLIDAY INN. REGISTRATION WILL BE FROM 7:45 TO 8:30. THE CONFERENCE WILL BEGIN AT 8:30 AND END AT 5:00. SPEAKERS WILL INCLUDE MS. MARSHA HURD (FEDERAL PROSECUTOR), MR. DAN VIERTHALERA (FBI AGENT) AND MR. MICHAEL SULLIVAN (SUPERSTAR). THE COST FOR THE CONFERENCE IS 190 DOLLARS AND WILL INCLUDE REFRESHMENTS.

Ms. Anne Harris reports that she struggles with the issue of being viewed in court as an expert in the evaluation and treatment of DD sexual offenders. She is aware of the strict policy of MSOTA that you are not a expert witness until you are clinically certified. The membership body congratulated Anne for bring this issue to the meeting and believes that she is not presenting herself as a clinically certified member of MSOTA. All members with these types of dilemmas are encouraged to consult with other MSOTA members or to bring difficult issues to the membership body at the quarterly meetings.

Kevin Wyse announced the opening of a therapeutic group home for the treatment of adolescent sexual offenders in Boulder, MT. This program will be a part of the Aspen Youth Alternatives therapeutic group home which has been treating adolescents (ages 12-18) with severe mental health diagnoses for many years.

In addition to a sexual offender specific treatment program, which includes both individual and group therapy, the program will offer additional individual therapy, group therapy, daily life skills training, therapeutic recreational activities, as well as an accredited day-treatment school program. This program will take referrals for moderate to moderately-high risk offenders who demonstrate some willingness to participate in sexual offender treatment.

There must be an admission of their offense (no deniers please) and the risk for the offender to run away from the group home must be minimal. This is a campus based program but it is not a locked campus. For referrals or more information contact Kevin Wyse, Maria Jorgenson (406-225-4631), or Jamie Grosberg (406-225-4626). Currently, offenders will be incorporated into the regular milieu, but by October they will have their own unit which will include single rooms. Offenders will still participate in other aspects of the therapeutic community, but will be housed and do the majority of their treatment in this specialized unit.

\* Meeting was adjourned.

\* Winter and Spring meetings:

Friday January 12, 2007 in Bozeman, MT.

Friday April 20, 2007 in Missoula, MT.