

MSOTA Fall Meeting
Minutes
October 18, 2013
Heritage Hall at Fort Missoula

- I) Brief Introductions
- a. **Members Attending:** Susan Bonin, Jeffrey Scogin, Michael English, Christa Smelko, Blair Hopkins, Sean Goeddel (Missoula P&PO), Tara Katteu (Missoula P&PO), Tracy Vaughn, Andrew Edgar, Kevin Wyse, Hal Lewis, Jim Myers, Shawn Abbott, Sandy Heaton, Gwen Farnsworth, Charmaine Nicholson, Andy Hudak, David Williams (MSP), Michelle Puerner (MSP), Michelle Davis, Brenda Erdelyi, Jean Keiley, Chris Nordstrom, Anne Harris
- II) Reading of minutes from Summer Meeting, Accepted as read
- III) Officer reports
- a. President Absent, Reported that the Annual meeting will be at Chico Hot Springs again.
- b. Vice President No report, conducted meeting in the absence of the President
- c. Treasurer
- i. Savings Balance \$9,668.00
- ii. Checking Balance \$2,915.56
- d. Secretary: Web site maintained
- IV) Committee Meetings/Reports
- a. **Ethics**
- Chair: Bob Page;** Members: Mike English, Sandy Heaton, Nina Wendt, Jim Meyers, Jeffrey Scogin, Gwen Farnsworth, Chuck Newell, Christa Smelko
- Mission: Provide consultation services, investigations and resolutions surrounding ethical issues and complaints involving MSOTA members**
- There is an active complaint against a Clinical Member and review procedures are being followed by the Ethics Committee. It was confirmed that the ATSA Code of Ethics apply as the basis for MSOTA ethical complaints.
 - Andy explained origin of the process for MSOTA is to insure accountability of the members by addressing ethics complaints through:
 - committee review to identify ways to address the issue directly with the member and to

- document resolution of the complaint if internal resolution can reach a satisfactory end;
 - decide if action beyond internal procedures is required to correct the problem and notify the appropriate authority for further determination.
- We voted to use ATSA Ethics Standards as the MSOTA guide to resolve ethical complaints, at the Summer Meeting, 2012.
 - Andy will check with ATSA to be sure that we have permission to use their standards.

b. Legislative

Chair: Andy Hudak; Members: Karen Baumann, Sam Griffel, Mike Sullivan Bo Smelko, and Brenda Erdelyi

Mission: To improve community safety through education and legislation by coordinating with state government and other stake holders to influence public policy

- The 2010 session was the most recent push to provide input to implementation of the Adam Walsh act.
- A testimony was given in the 2012 session regarding expanding the registry to include all offenses against children and families (see minutes from Annual Meeting 2013)
- Mark pointed out that the shift of low level tier to high level without valid risk assessment and instead using only victim and offender ages or other arbitrary measures, dilutes the visibility of the truly dangerous offenders.
- Jean reflected that the state feels compelled to not follow Adam Walsh and risk Federal Funding being lost.
- If the State following Adam Walsh risk standards, many low level offenders being moved to Tier III.
- Andy brought up the discussion of child abuse notification laws as they relate to when an adult offender in treatment discloses his own childhood victimization is there a duty to report?
 - One opinion is no because a person over 18 has the right to decide to report,
 - Another opinion is, if the alleged offender of the person in treatment indicates that their offender still has access to children it should be reported to prevent further victimization.
- DPHHS in the past has not always referred suspected cases of childhood abuse to law enforcement if the child's existing treatment and service mileau protected the involved children, now, however, DPHHS policy has changed to require reporting in all cases of suspected abuse to law enforcement.

- Professional persons who are reporters can now follow up on a report filed with DPHHS to learn about the outcome of the report, i.e. did it result in investigation, prosecution, dismissal.
- Andy asked to have members submit legislative issues submitted to him soon for the upcoming session so that he can prepare talking points and membership volunteers for the legislative session.
- Andy put forward the idea of having clients initiate legislative proposals, as a form of empowerment for them in their recovery.

c. Membership

Chair: Chris Nordstrom, Members: Charmaine Nicholson, Fred Lemons, Chris Quigley, Shawn Abbott, Karen Bauman, and Tracy Vaughn

Mission: To assess the competency of applicants for Clinical and Associate memberships according to MSOTA membership criteria

- Chris reported that several persons are being reviewed for membership at both clinical and associate levels
- A member has failed to pay dues or attend meetings since 2011 and will be removed from active Clinical Membership.

d. Education/Public Affairs

Chair: Marla North, Members: Don Bell, Blair Hopkins, Ann Headley

Mission and Purpose: To explore Methods and Means to reach out to the public, State officials, and community organizations.

- Committee is still working on a fact sheet reflecting the work and volume of work that MSOTA members accomplish.

e. Standards

Co-Chairs: Bo Smelko and Mike Scolotti; Members: Anne Harris, Jean Keiley, Gwen Farnsworth, Don Bell, and Drew Schoening

Mission: Establish and update standards for evaluation and treatment to promote the professional and effective delivery of services to sexual offenders and the community.

- The State's Department of Developmental Disabilities is working with Gerry Blasingame as a consultant to help

develop protocols for DD/ID assessment, treatment, and treatment progress and supervision review for individual clients.

- Review copies of these state policies will be made available to MSOTA Standards for review, hopefully prior to completion.
- One issue of current concern is that DDP funding for community base SO treatment may become based solely on a RRASOR score and not a complete risk assessment. This has the potential to disproportionately affect funds for both Community Supervision and Treatment.

V) Old Business

- a. Discussion about community perception/response to MSOTA
 - i. County Attorney in Ravalli complained about MSOTA members advocating for clients, as evaluators, and in one case advocating the client to come to their program (business) as part of the formal assessment recommendations.
 - ii. New treatment models are requiring more offender involvement in treatment planning. Good Lives Model as an example.
 - iii. There have been some complaints about data being used incorrectly in Risk Assessment procedures. Such complaints should be submitted to the provider and the Standards Committee directly.
 - iv. Some attorneys in the past have questioned how we screen new Clinical Members, the membership criteria are available publicly from our web site.
- b. Need for evaluators to secure all collateral information from both defense and prosecutors including NCIC data
 - i. Should evaluators make an 'attempt' to attain information from both sides?
 - ii. Getting and NCIC report seems essential to insuring all criminal information has been reviewed
 - iii. Lack of information may also be a problem when doing DD evaluations because DD service providers and other social agencies minimize with their client's behavior or fail to report at all.
 - iv. A motion was made that the Standards Committee will review the area of collateral information requirements for Risk Assessment standards and report to the Annual Meeting MSP
 - v. Records of jailhouse phone calls is an example of collateral information that could contribute to a most complete risk evaluation outcome
- c. Reimbursement for Legislative Committee Chair,
 - i. Andy does track hours, and travel

ii. Jim Myers moved to pay Andy \$2,000 to compensate him for his legislative work in 2011 and 12. Moved Seconded and Passed.

VI) New Business

- a. Addressing some of the questions/responses from Katie Gotch (ATSA) and Andy was referred to next meeting.
- b. Specific treatment protocol addressing clients with Aspergers and other disorders affecting treatment response was referred to next meeting.
- c. Discussion about penile plethysmography and the issue of due process (case of David McLaurin) was referred to next meeting.
- d. Nominations for new officers and procedures for election process
 - i. President
 1. Bo Smelko,
 2. Bob Page,
 3. Andy Hudak
 - ii. Vice President
 1. Andy Hudak
 2. Christa Smelko
 - iii. Treasurer
 1. Shawn Abbott
 - iv. Secretary
 1. Anne Harris

VII) Next meeting time and location: Chico Hot Spings May 2014

VIII) Adjournment 2:40