

MSOTA Summer Quarterly Meeting
July 25, 2008
Cascade, MT
Minutes

1. **Call to Order** By Pres Bob Page @ 11:17
 - In attendance: Bob Furu, Sandy Heaton, Jean Keiley, Gwen Farnsworth, Lindsey Clodfelter, Mike Scolatti, Anne Harris, Bob Page,

2. **Introductions and Sign-In** (New procedure was suggested by President Bob Page that as we introduce ourselves we also describe our practice or professional interests to improve networking and membership knowledge.
 - **Bob Furu:** Polygrapher who just upgraded his equipment so that it produces a lower error rate. He now uses a sensor on the client's chair seat to detect counter measures used by client to cause inaccurate scores.
 - **Sandy Heaton,** provides services at various places around the state: the Montana State Prison in Deer Lodge to provide assessment; Start Program in WSSH, Missoula Assessment and Sanction Center (MASC) where she provides assessments to determine client ability to function in community setting.
 - **Nina Wendt** conducts sex offender evaluations, mostly in Browning and some in Great Falls. She also provides Disability evaluations, parenting/custody evaluations, and assessment of general mental health issues and assists the recovery of survivors of sexual abuse. Will does some sex offender risk evaluations on teenagers.
 - **Jean Keiley** Federal Probation Officer in Missoula writes pre-sentencing reports (Federal Cases). She previously did sex offender treatment before moving to the Federal Probation and Parole office.
 - **Gwen Farnsworth** provides an adolescent treatment program in Missoula. She does currently not do evaluations and chooses to work with adolescent offenders and their families. She is in practice with Tara Hiller (not yet MSOTA) as a co-therapist through her office. Additionally, Tara provides services to children younger than those that are a part of Gwen's adolescent program.
 - **Lindsey Clodfelter** provides a sex offender aftercare group plus another adult treatment group. She also does evaluations with sexual and non-sexual offenders. She also provides counseling for Chemical Dependency. Lindsey also does some guardian Ad litem.
 - **Michael Scolatti** is currently doing evaluations he no longer does direct treatment of offenders. Among other evaluations is has a contract with the Federal Probation and Parole office to do evaluations, and treatment as needed. His evaluation population is made up of 80% adults and 10-15% adolescents with a few child assessments.
 - **Anne Harris** works with Developmentally Delayed sex offenders and DD persons with Problem Sexual Behaviors. She also has a small private practice with LGBT community specializing in services for Gender Identity disorder, couples and family work.
 - **Bob Page** is based in the Helena area and has limited his practice exclusively to evaluation work since 2001. He conducts general Forensic evaluations, sex offender evaluations, and parenting/custody evaluations. Bob will also do SASSI screenings, but not CD work. He roams throughout the state in his fifth wheeler mobile office and home away from home.

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3. Reading of the Annual Meeting Minutes, April 11, 2008; Great Falls, MT
 - Anne Harris read the minutes of the last meeting, referencing the Annual Report.
 - Minutes of the Annual Meeting were accepted without correction

4. Officer's Reports
 - President---Bob Page had nothing to report that won't be covered under new business.
 - Secretary---Anne Harris the corporation's files have been reorganized and are being sorted for archival purposes. The membership gave permission to begin archival of records not currently relevant to the membership but still need to be maintained for historical purposes. Collected articles regarding assessment and treatment research will be consolidated in ring binders.
 - The membership expressed a suitable permanent location for these archives to be stored.
 - Vice President---Andy Hudak was not able to attend this meeting
 - Treasurer---Shawn Abbott was not able to attend but provided a treasurer's report summarized as:
 - Savings Account Balance \$4,013.61
 - Checking Account Balance \$1,578.03
 - Expenses since last meeting
 - Barb Bottomly, lunch at meeting \$158.28
 - Shawn Abbott, soft drinks for last meeting \$10.00, reimbursement for corporate filing with the Secretary of State \$15.00
 - USPS stamps for routine mailing expense \$42.00
 - Income since last meeting \$1,500.00
 - She has several checks not yet deposited that came in recently
 - Notices sent to members who are late with dues:
 - Karen Bauman—Mail returned as undeliverable
 - Shad Burrow—Check in the mail according to Pine Hills
 - Lindsey Clodfelter
 - Roger Dowty—Mail returned as undeliverable
 - Gwen Farnsworth—mail returned as undeliverable
 - Andy Hudak
 - Mike Scolatti
 - Ron Silvers
 - Mike Sullivan
 - Gayle Wash
 - Nina Wendt—owes for 2007 and 2008
 - Anne Harris—Check in the mail

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- Chris Nordstrom
- Ann Headley
- Christine Pratt—Called and said that South Central generally pays for her dues, will check with her office.
- Chuck Newell—No address on file.

Shawn presented a list of members who she records as not attending a meeting between 4/07 and 1/08 which would place them on inactive status and requiring a reinstatement fee to resume clinical membership.

- Anne agreed to verify Shawn's list and make an updated list of members who haven't attended a quarterly meeting twice in any one of the last two fiscal years.

5. Committees Meet Then Report

- Ethics---Bob Page Question of whether or not MSOTA could have a specific code of ethics and are we a "certifying agency" Discussion involving the dual role of evaluators and treatment providers as perceived as self referring. After discussion Bob arrived at making reference to the ATSA guidelines for practice. Guidelines are listed on the MSOTA.
- Legislative---Andy Hudak no report
- Membership---Charmaine Nicholson—No report
- Education---Marla North—No Report
- DD Standards---Anne Harris : No additional progress since April. Anne will delegate portions of the standards to committee members in August.

6. Old Business

- Annual Retreat: Bob Pages Discussion focused on the need to refocus the membership of MSOTA. Metaphor was that the membership in the 90's was like a pool and that we have "evaporated" the depth of the resource that the organization is. We are the only professionals recognized by the State of Montana that can provide sex offender risk assessments and treatment. As other professionals come into courts and provide SO services without membership there is a risk that the statutes that require MSOTA members for evaluation and treatment will be less enforceable or may disappear entirely.
 - Sandy referenced that a number of organizations that she belongs to have suffered because the existing organization does not meet the needs of the newer (younger) members. The needs of new members are not the same as the needs of the founders who began with entrepreneurial spirit.
 - Bob: Can we start with a sub-committee to determine the needs of the organization
 - Mike: we've got a structure, and have met the needs of most the older members.
 - Anne Collegial sharing of support and information.
 - Bob: Retreat proposal

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- A place for work and fun
- 2 day minimum
- It should be set up like a conference, so there are topics relevant to persons needs,
- Throughout the retreat, changes can be made to policies and by-laws —sort of like an extended membership meeting.
- 20-30 CEUs set up for participation
- A component of planning: how can we modify the organization to function for the best use of members in coming years.
- Invitation to include additional agencies.
- Fall time suggested as a setting because of comfortable season.
- Evaluation that questions effectiveness of retreat, modification of structure.
- Idea that retreat could be the only required meeting of the year, idea didn't get much support.
- Lindsey: someone should present the history of MSOTA
- The retreat is an internal process, not to include non-members, but keep open the possibility to have some way to include non-members maybe following the retreat.
- **Motion** proposed by Bob Page to construct the Annual Spring 2009 meeting as a 2 day retreat to held in April. Seconded
- and Motion passed
- Bob will pursue CEUs for the time
- **Motion** by Bob P that a retreat Committee be formed to:
 - research the costs of the retreat and make a reasonable recommendation to the membership;
 - secure the CEU's;
 - and plan the agenda.
 - Committee to include Bob Page, Andy Hudak, and Marla North.
 - Motion was seconded and passed without further discussion.
 - Bob will survey the membership to establish the needs of the membership for the curriculum and structure of the retreat.

7. New Business

- Use of Medical Leave from membership: Jim Meyers has suffered a physical injury that limits his ability to attend meetings.
 - Charmaine sent a letter to him that the membership had determined that he would have to pay a penalty of \$100 to reinstate membership due to non-attendance at quarterly meetings.
 - Jim responded with a check for the penalty and that he was paying the penalty under protest citing that others have been granted special consideration for hardship decisions. He believes that his physical injury

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should have been granted such a hardship for attendance. Travel is very painful for him.

- Charmaine asked that this meeting address the issue of medical leave, or holding meetings in Kalispell or Whitefish as locations that would require Jim to travel shorter distances.
- **Motion** was made by Bob Page that anyone who has missed the required meetings be able to submit a request for leave of absence and that the membership would review the request and make a case by case decision. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously without further discussion.
- **Motion** was made that MSOTA reimburse Jim Meyers for the penalty paid with a letter of apology stating that we appreciate his contribution MSOTA and that the membership may have acted without full consideration of his situation. The motion was seconded and passed without further discussion.
- Bob page brought up the issues of sanctions for those members who don't show up to meetings or make contributions to the organization. The ensuing discussion surrounded whether or not there should be punitive action or a more positive approach given to the person to encourage them to come into compliance and contribute their time and wisdom to the organization. No action was taken on this business, but this was a thread of the conversation on revitalization noted below.
- Anne/Shawn CSOM report The State of Montana DOC collaborating with the Center for Sex Offender Management (CSOM) have issued a comprehensive report on the state of and future development of low risk sex offenders in the state. The membership is strongly encourage to read the report and come to next meeting prepared to discuss.
- Website needs to be fixed and represent the current needs of the organization. Several specific requests to do things like update the clinical membership locator and other facilities have gone without repair for many months.
 - **Motion** was made to transfer the website responsibilities to the Board Secretary, including reasonable compensation to clean up and correct the website. The motion was seconded and passed without further discussion.
 - Membership list on the site needs to be accurate, up to date, and should include specialties and areas of practice.
 - Bob Page will contact Mike and switch webmaster from current webmaster to secretary.
- Polygraphs at Pine Hills: Gwen discussed requests from Pine Hills to take clients graduating from their program, though they do not have current risk assessments or polygraphs to validate their progress. Gwen's questions to the institution were to obtain their polygraph. Pine Hills does not conduct polygraphs as a part of their treatment.
 - Bob Furu shared his history of doing Polygraphs at Pine Hills, the former Brown School and other institutions. When they did the polygraphs previously, the treatment staff made use or and appreciated the polygraphs. The DOC administers Pine Hills and does not include polygraph in their treatment protocol because of expense.

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- Sandy: Steve Gibson, administrator of Juvenile offenders will not approve treatment services beyond minimum and will not include polygraph examination.
- Gwen suggested that the polygraph be required before she could accept adolescents in her community treatment program. She believes that without polygraph the liability for community based treatment is too great.
- Bob Page made a proposal to issue a position paper that says that MSOTA will not accept clients exiting juvenile facilities without an exit polygraph and an updated risk assessment.
- Sandy: Mike Sullivan was previously contracted to conduct a quality of treatment assessment at Pine Hills.
- Proposal for Mike Sullivan and Fred Lemmons to draft a position paper related to treatment of juveniles to go to membership for approval and to be written sent from MSOTA officially.
- Misc:
 - A lively discussion ensued at the end of the meeting regarding the revitalization of MSOTA. This had been a theme throughout the meeting during most items on the agenda. The points of overall consensus at meetings close were:
 - MSOTA is a valuable and important organization for our membership but also for our communities' and our client's well-being and safety.
 - MSTOA is a standard setting organization that was first inspired by the needs of a small group of professionals who needed to establish professional methods of assessment, containment, treatment, and community involvement in an emerging field of Sex Offender Treatment.
 - The first decade or so of MSOTA was marked by the entrepreneurial spirit of a new entity as it sought to achieve both internal strength and harmony and an effective and valid relationship between its members, their clients, victims, communities, justice system and legislature.
 - Over the past several years general interest and enthusiasm for participation in MSOTA has seemed to decline among the membership. Some reasons for this may include:
 - a. Many original members careers have become well established surpassing the initial need for on-going support from others
 - b. Early legislative successes with the legislature and local jurisdictions have resulted in a level of acceptance of MSOTA member's assessment and treatment protocols to the point of local self sufficiency.
 - c. New professionals entering the profession of treating Sex Offenders, their families and victims, appear to need less support from MSOTA. The value of participation and usefulness of MSOTA may not seem relevant to these newer participants in Offender Treatment.

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- d. MSOTA may be at a stage of organizational development (developmental stages exist in organizations similar to individuals and families) where the entrepreneurial phase has passed and we are now in what is known as an institutional stage of development.
 - e. As MSOTA is lacking full participation, it may become vulnerable to a lack of professional recognition and the maintenance of necessary internal strength to continue to respond to legislative and other threats to the practice of our profession.
 - f. There is a need to learn the current perceived needs of all members so that the membership of MSOTA can re-envision and re-invigorate MSOTA
 - g. When President Bob Page has compiled the needs of the membership this information will help to establish the agenda for the planned Spring Quarterly meeting and retreat.
8. Next Meeting Time and Location: Missoula, Anne Harris will be hosting, location TBA.
9. Meeting was adjourned at 2:32

October 17th in Missoula Hosted by Anne Harris at the Missoula Public Library, 301 E. Main St. in the small meeting room accessed directly through the rear parking lot library door. Parking in the library lot is a 3 hour limit and is monitored, BUT street parking in that area is unmetered so street a block or so east of library is usually a good bet, or you can move car at lunch break and be safe. We will be having lunch catered from Doc's Sandwich shop. A sample menu is available on this site as "Docs Menu".

January 16 2009 Bozeman

April 10 2009 Great Falls

10. **Post meeting education: There was no education presented at this meeting**

Case Review Presented: No cases were presented for review at this meeting. Membership is encouraged to submit cases for the Fall meeting. CEU's will be available for presentation and participation in case reviews. Presenters can acquire CEU's for time used to prepare a case (check your specific professional licensure for details)

To prepare a case for review the presenter should:

- A brief printed summary of the case that includes:

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- Salient background to the case
 - Critical issues or problems encountered in the assessment or course of treatment
 - MSOTA or other professional guidelines applicable to your case
 - A summary of how you resolved a relevant and instructive dilemma in this case or a presentation of your need for peer consultation with difficulty.
 - The written summary should be sent to the education committee at least 10 days prior to the meeting.
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- A case presentation should be planned to last no more than approximately 30 minutes with a discussion to follow of approximately 30 minutes.