

MSOTA  
May 6, 7, 8 2009  
Annual Meeting

Agenda

- I) Brief Introductions: Attending:
- a. Anne Harris, Chris Nordstrom, Mike Sullivan, Sam Griffel, Bob Page, Shawn Abbott, Charmaine Nicholson, Regina Basolo, Ginny Watts, Jim Myers, Ron Silvers, Andy Hudak, Don Bell, Marla North, Jean Keiley, Bob Furu, Kevin Wyse, Karen Bauman, Gwen Fansworth, Roger Dowty, Mike English, Sandy Heaton, Fred Lemmons, Jeffrey Scoggan, Michael Scolatti.

- II) Reading of minutes from summer meeting

- a. Minutes were read and approved

- III) Officer reports:

- a. President: Bob reported on the many accomplishments of the year, including this retreat. His complete year end report will be attached to the minutes.

Vice President: report is summarized below under legislative

- b. Treasurer

Secretary

- IV) Committee Meetings/Reports

- a. Ethics

- i. Chair: Bob Page; Members: Mike English, Sandy Heaton, Nina Wendt, Jim Meyers

- b. Mission: Provide consultation services, investigations and resolutions, surrounding ethical issues and complaints involving MSOTA members

Tasks

- i. To receive communications from all sources regarding ethical questions, concerns, or other issues involving the evaluation and treatment of sexual offenders

To receive and formally process complaints regarding the professional conduct of MSOTA members pertaining to the evaluation and treatment of sexual offenders.

- c. Legislative

- i. Chair: Andy Hudak; Members: Chris Nordstrom, Karen Baumann, Sam Griffel, Mike Sullivan

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

Tasks

- 1. Coordinate with the education committee

Support or oppose legislation consistent with our mission

Propose legislation that supports our mission

Create a framework within our committee that accomplishes these tasks

Create a timeline to follow up with all tasks

Create a contact data base of MSOTA membership for contact during legislative initiatives

Contact with local hospitals to coordinate with tele-med between MSOTA quarterly meetings

Identify key legislators for our issues

Identify key legislation, prior to legislative session “crystal ball”

Sit down with DOC, AG, Offender Registration SVOR

Set a budget and bring a proposal to the membership for cost for the legislative session.

- d. Membership

- i. Chair: Charmaine Nicholson; Members: Fred Lemons, Chris Quigley, Shawn Abbott, Gayle Wash, Lindsay Clodfelter

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

Tasks

1. Screen applicants for membership
- Maintain records of individual members' education, supervision, testing, and interview.
- Track dues and attendance
- Maintain current membership roster
  - e. Education/Public Affairs
    - i. Marla: upcoming Sex Files training will include state of the art presentation from Scolatti and Sullivan on assessment procedures.
  - Organizing and keeping energy for activities not directly involved in our practices historically has been difficult to maintain, the committee chairs and president have to keep monitoring tasks, provide leadership.
    1. Accountability
  - Task oriented leadership is difficult for professionals who primarily work in a facilitative role
    - ii. Discussion of Blog
      1. Requires monitoring and updating, maintenance work
    - iii. Discussion of web site posting
      1. Easiest to do, but can get stale, need maintenance
    - iv. Discussion of Brochure
      1. Target audiences Judges, P&PO, News agencies, Crime Victims Advocates,
    - v. Discussion of Annual or other interval newsletter
  - Generates increased use of web as resource
  - Accesses print and web aware people
  - Public Affairs relationship with the news media: a news release
    1. Bob Furu discussed the use of print media reporters to write an article on MSOTA and may be put out statewide.

f. Standards

Co-Chairs: Ginny Watts and Mike Scolatti; Members: Regina Basolo, Anne Harris, Kevin Wyse, Jean Keiley, Gwen Farnsworth

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

Tasks:

1. Use a team approach to maintain treatment and evaluation standards

Address standards for specific populations

Maintain standards for supervision of the clients

Address tier recommendations in evaluation standards

Develop evaluation standards in regard to child pornography and Federal evaluation

Circulate copies of the Study Guide and Standards to membership for editing content by 5/21/09

Check questions to make editorial review for updating individual questions and make suggestions for additions where needed by June 06/29/09

Review standards annually

Develop risk assessment protocols for specific treatment populations

Update testing for MSOTA Clinical Membership test to be compliant with the Standards

V) Old Business

a. Legislative Report by Andy Hudak

- i. Adam Walsh Act and SORNA Sex Offender Registration Notification Act
  1. No state has met the qualifications of the act

Challenges are happening in the Supreme Court

Tiers are being rejected

Impact of registration

- a. Guys with very low chance of reoffending

are being labeled the same as predatory offenders and creating unnecessary fear in the community

- a. Crime Grants are being declined by states rather than submit to the requirements of the Walsh Act

The way you break down prejudice or bias is to make emotional connection with policy makers.

An unwanted consequence of the Walsh Act is that victims will not report if they perceive the impact on their family/self to have more of a consequence than the abuse.

- 3. Affects youth 14-21 under Federal sentencing (Indian Country) the title of the offense charged with aggravated sexual abuse automatically a Federal Tier III for life, new photo for life,
- 4. Youth begin to identify as Offender because of label, treatment in the system and assume role
  - a. Young brain is still more capable of being affected for positive change because of brain development calls the question of labeling youthful offenders for life.

### 3. State Legislative Issues

- 1. You have to go three times to get anything done, MSOTA has accomplished the most critical pieces of our agenda in 2 legislatures.
- 2. School District Notification HB55
  - a. Tier III must notify the Superintendent of the District
  - b. **Andy Commits to notifying us if there are any additional changes**
- 3. HB 295 admissibility of other crimes
  - a. During a sex crime trial, the prosecution can bring up all priors rather than in sentencing.
- 4. HB 102 Increased penalty for SOs died in committee

SB 159 Revise the consent bill for Statutory Rape Offense died

SB 87 Essman Bill: Would have prevented any re-unification with any offender with any victim. Died

- a. Also included clause to prevent “loitering” of SOs near a very inclusive list of places
- a. SB 235 LCPC Bill to change the use of “psych” by non-psychologists in labeling their services. Passed allowing MSW and LCPC to use terms such as “psychological” testing.
  - a. When it went to the governor the MPA tried

to alter the qualification

All Masters license boards will have to define qualifications to do psychological testing and to advertise same to the public

b.

- Polygraphs of youth before leaving Pine Hills
  - Discussion meshed with that of the judges conference
- Judges Conference
  - MSOTA Presenters
    - Role of polygraph in the court room
    - Tier issue at the prison, 1 and ½ years ago an inmate paroled to Billings sued over risk level and absence of inmate participation in the process of risk determination.
    - Judge's meeting is in October, Marla will email details

Request for presenters for the Judges conference to present the MSOTA message

- Blair
  - Inmates show up at the prison without tier designation from sentencing: 60-70% don't have designations from the court at sentencing and have to be assessed when entering and discharging from the prison

The issue is going to create the need for consistent risk assessment mechanism across front end (PSI), in treatment/incarceration, and at discharge.

- The discussion about how to document changes in the risk level are made, the processes that MSOTA members go through to take into account variable such as:
  - Issue: We are blind sometimes to prior assessments when conducting current assessments
  - We need comprehensive access to new information

Some assessors stick to only actuarial data, and sometimes, some assess with professional opinions that take into account additional variables that are perceived to affect risk.

Risk assessment is not the same as prediction

Mike Scolatti suggested the use the "HARE and SORAG" instruments for added breadth for useful assessments.

- CSOM: An assessment of the past, present and future work with sex offenders in Montana. Each MSOTA member should be familiar with the recommendations.

Legislative:

- Andy asked for an updated mailing list of those members who he can count on to respond to legislative alerts or other work that influences legislation

Andy gave a review of the efforts in this past legislative session.

VI) New Business

a. Mission Statement

A committee of the whole met to construct the Mission Statement: The mission of the Montana Sex Offender Treatment Association is the promotion of community safety and education by maintaining professional standards for the evaluation and effective treatment of sexual offenders.

- i. IT was moved and seconded to accept the mission statement.
- ii. The Mission statement was accepted by unanimous vote  
1.
  - i. Motion to allow the education committee to design and mail an informational post card regarding the MSOTA website statewide.

**budgeted at \$500. Moved, seconded and passed.**

- ii. **Motion to amend the by-laws to eliminate the Winter meeting to create two brief meetings and one extended Annual Meeting and Retreat. MSP**
- iii. Don Bell: Static-99 Risk level Tables have changed, check the Static-99 source on the web or email Don and he will send the revised tables

VII) Special Panel Discussion, as part of retreat featured a host of P&P officers:

- i. Van Arvenetes: Assistant Federal Defender, Great Falls, MT:
  - 1. 406-727-5328
- ii. Lloyd Dopp: P&PO Sydney, MT:
  - 1. 406-433-5061
- iii. Sue Chvilicek: Park County, Chief Juvenile P&PO Park County:
  - 1. 406-222-4162
- iv. Gwen Massey: Chief Juvenile PO for Bozeman not DOC work for office of 18<sup>th</sup> District Court:
  - 1. 406-582-2180
- v. Dave Edwards: Kalispell P&P for SOs
  - 1. 406-752-2575
- vi. Cathy Murphy,: Helena, P&P for SOs
  - 1. 406-444-2761
- vii. Chuck Juhnke: Bozeman P&P
  - 1. 406-556-4523
- viii. Michelle Puerner, Missoula, SO PO
  - 1. 406-542-7146
- ix. Michael Aldrich: P&P Bureau Program Manager, DOC Helena
  - 1. 406-?? maldrich@mt.gov

VIII) Next meeting time and location

- a. July 17, 2009 @ 10:00 AM At Fairmont Hot Springs (Anaconda), Bob Page hosting

October 19, 2009 @ 10 AM Missoula, location TBA, Anne Harris Hosting  
May 5,6,& 7, 2009 begins at 4:00 PM Location TBA, Jim Meyers Hosting

IX) Adjournment: 6:35