

THIRD ANNUAL RETREAT/CONFERENCE
MONTANA SEX OFFENDER TREATMENT ASSOCIATION
Chico Hot Springs
May 11-13, 2011

I. Introductions and Agenda Review

- a. Meeting called to order at 2:30 p.m.
- b. Introductions by all in attendance.

MSOTA Members: Gwen Farnsworth, Michelle Davis, Gayle Walsh, Al Lewis, Charmaine Nicholson, Shawn Abbott, Chuck Newell, Brenda Erdelyi, Drew Schoening, Alice Hougardy, Karen Baumann, Nina Wendt, Bo Smelko, Jeffrey Scogin, Kevin Wyse, Michael English, Fred Lemons, Tracy Vaughn, Blair Hopkins, Chris Quigley, Ann Headley, Mike Sullivan, Andy Hudak, Anne Harris, Bob Page, Sam Griffel, Susan Bonin,

Board Members: Kirsten Pabst LaCroix, Dawn Handa, John Rhodes

Guests and Presenters: Ken Brown, Linda Johnson, Chandra Moles, Kim Eells, Jessica Manning, (Opportunity Resources) Tracy Pask, Jodi Kirkwood (MT DOC, Juvenile Detention Center) Katie Burton (MT DOC Probation, Missoula), Shaye LaMunyan, Jenn Connors (Case Managers, DPPHS Missoula), Dr. Matthew Mejia, (Steel City Consultants), and Detective Brian Fischer, (Helena Police Department)

- c. A review of the itinerary/schedule was conducted.
- d. Next, President Dr. Robert Page read the President's Letter. The letter summarized the past year and was well received and appears below in officer's reports

II. Normal Board Agenda was suspended for open discussion of contemporary issues facing MSOTA

- a. **Should MSOTA have a position on the Medical Marijuana Law?** The consensus appears to be that this is something the Association should not become involved with. The law or applicable laws will be the guide and we will of course need to stay in compliance with the law in our practices.
- b. **Treatment of deniers:** It was noted that it is difficult to have more than one denier in a Group, and that the length of treatment may be different. Utilizing the polygraph and potential concerns related to this; particularly related to one's right against self-incrimination and the *Imlay* Supreme Court Decision, were discussed. It was agreed that the willingness to treat deniers is an individual Program's decision. In Phase II of the program at the Penitentiary, a sexual offender needs to admit their sexual offenses. Noted was the fact that sixty (60) out of the six hundred fifty (650) at the Penitentiary are deniers.
 - i. A question regarding the treatment of deniers came about as to whether or not the Center for Sex Offender Management has taken a position regarding requiring deniers for treatment. No one seemed to have the answer.
- c. **Discussion about the level of advocacy that occurs in Psychosexual Evaluations.** This seemed to vary, and caution was urged in regards to becoming an advocate and losing one's objectivity in the completion of an Evaluation.

III. Officer's Reports

a. President's Annual Letter

Today we begin our third annual MSOTA retreat and conference. Since last year, we have continued to grow financially as well as professionally. I believe that communication between members has increased outside of our formal meetings, and this has made our relationships with each other stronger. Also, communication between our members and outside officials has been enhanced and as a result, a reputation as team players in society has improved.

I continue to enjoy the honor of being the President and the retreats we have participated in have been both productive and fun.

Over this last year, we have continuously reviewed the research and literature surrounding risk and risk assessments and have standardized our approach to assessing risk of recidivism in offenders. As we move forward into this next year, I anticipate that we will continue to streamline the process of assessing risk. The Standards Committee through the efforts of several members but supported in the main by Bo Smelko, have produced newly constructed drafts of our Adult and Juvenile Standards of Assessment and Treatment.

We have also seen some controversy within our membership over the last year. We have fielded some complaints by professional organizations and have responded accordingly suspending the privileges of membership for one individual. The decision to do so was voted on and was determined necessary for the strength of our reputation as a professional organization.

The legislative committee continued to impress us all with their diligence, which included some brilliant testimony presented by several members including Chris quickly, Andy Hudak, Bo Smelko, and Mike Sullivan.

Our other committees have been frustrated with minimal participation of their members outside of regular meetings. I hope that we can continue to impress upon all members the importance of living up to your obligations as members of your respective committees.

I myself have admittedly failed to complete my obligations of circulating the new flyer to public organizations and professionals as a necessary method of public outreach and education. However, all in all, I believe that we are continuously growing as an organization and with diligent commitment on our part we will continue to do so. Again, I appreciate the honor of my position as president and hold this position very seriously with my ongoing commitment to our organization's growth.

Respectfully,
Bob Page, President

b. Vice President: Andy Hudak

- i. Andy's report is covered under his work as Legislative Committee chair.

- c. Treasurer: Shawn Abbott
 - i. Checking: \$9,200.86
 - ii. Savings: \$476.04
 - iii. Expenses for 2010 retreat: \$2,319.85
 - iv. Money to Andy for legislative issues: \$1,800.00
 - v. July Meeting expenses: \$348.04
 - vi. Sept meeting expenses \$125.00
 - vii. Money to Anne Harris for website stuff: \$140.54
 - viii. The Dues of many Clinical and Associate Members are due as of the date of this meeting. Shawn asked that the membership please update their dues asap.

- d. Secretary: Anne Harris
 - i. The web page is updates monthly or when Anne receives additions or corrections from members.
 - ii. Anne will prepare a more detailed Members web page so that members can provide more profile information regarding their practices to the public.

IV. Old Business: Committee Reports

a. Ethics

- i. Chair: Bob Page; Members: Mike English, Sandy Heaton, Nina Wendt, Jim Meyers, Jeffrey Scogin, Gwen Farnsworth, Chuck Newell
- ii. Mission: Provide consultation services, investigations and resolutions, surrounding ethical issues and complaints involving MSOTA members
- iii. Report:
 - 1. Bob reported on a case of a member who had complaints filed on their membership. The member's Clinical status was revoked as a result of this process.
 - a. Bob read email complaints sent by a Clinical Member to Department of Corrections. Letters are on file with the MSOTA Ethics Committee.
 - b. There was an attempt to mediate the ensuing conflicts through informal process of communication between the individual and the Ethics Committee.
 - c. A written notice was given for a sanction to receive supervision to emphasize communication. The response to the notice was litigation and refusal to participate in the proposed corrective process.
 - d. Every effort was made to protect the member from public embarrassment.
 - 2. Bo encouraged the Ethics Committee to include in the sanction letter a means to address the Committee directly to seek a means to re-establish Clinical standing.
 - 3. Committee may need to develop means to notify concerned agencies when

a member is sanctioned by removal from Clinical status.

4. Kirsten LaCroix, Missoula Assistant County Attorney, suggested was made that upon achieving Clinical status there is a written announcement sent to potential referral sources that in addition to stating the new Clinical status, where and how the individual and those agencies will be notified of a change in status.
 - a. It was suggested that Ethics Committee look into how this procedure can be stated and worked into our Professional Standards, Membership application and other documents.

b. Legislative

- i. Chair: Andy Hudak ; Members: Chris Nordstrom, Karen Baumann, Sam Griffel, Mike Sullivan
- ii. Mission: To improve community safety through education and legislation by coordinating with state government and other stake holders to influence public policy
- iii. Report:
 1. Andy made effort to get more members involved in the legislative process. Testimonies are available as podcasts from legislative web site.
 2. SB 276: Attempt to pass homosexuality as a deviant code was defeated by legislature Sam worked on this. This was the first time we had support from others besides the ACLU
 3. HB 109 would have established the Adam Walsh Tier system, which would have eliminated psycho-sexual risk assessments to determine risk level. Risk would be based solely on conviction of sexual intercourse without consent. The Sheriff's Association and County Attorney Association helped defeat this bill, likely based on the long established relationship and success of MSOTA and other members of the system. The budget was the other critical factor. Budgetary implications resulted from a drastically increased Tier III registration to 688 from 70 out of 900 or so registered offenders. Legislature was convinced that the mixing of low risk with high risk would make the true high risk offenders invisible.
 4. SB 152 Third misdemeanor sexual assault becomes Felony
 5. SB 149 Predatory Loitering: would give power to "certain authorities" to approach someone to say that they were predatorily loitering and on second occurrence would result in \$500 fine. Conservatives on committee were encouraged to include law enforcement in process or warning. Bill did pass, and must be charged under two different statues. Next session we will attempt to include safety plans for offenders who have need to be in a given area of vulnerability.
 6. Mike Sullivan: we may take a more pro-active approach in the future for differences in charging for prison officer rape of inmate,
 - a. Andy is going to assign responsibility particular bills to follow and testify on that specific bill.
 - b. In the fall MSOTA is going to arrange a meeting with Mike

Ferriter and Pam Bunke

- c. The best legislative work that we do in on the local level, speaking with legislators. Web site will include specific talking points and power points to make complete and uniform information on specific issues.

c. Membership

- i. Chair: Charmaine Nicholson; Members: Fred Lemons, Chris Quigley, Shawn Abbott, Karen Bauman
- ii. Mission: To assess the competency of applicants for Clinical and Associate memberships according to MSOTA membership criteria
- iii. Proposing mandatory attendance at only one meeting per year
- iv. Need to cull membership list for those who have not paid dues or did not attend meetings
- v. Problem with people applying for membership, process for streamlining process of application
 1. Online application
 2. Letters of reference
 3. Need for updated status of application process
 4. Pay-Pal could be used to take membership fees online directly to treasurer
- vi. Discussion of Clinical Membership test
 1. There is a move away from orals because of standardization issues
 2. Written test is inadequate and because of rapidly changing field may always present and issue to keep current, but we still need some type of bar to measure clinical candidates.
- vii. New written test
 1. New draft test to be written by membership committee based on the published MSOTA standards of assessment and treatment.
 2. Ginny Watts turned over all of the hard copy of the existing test and what work has been done to date to the Membership Committee
- viii. New Oral Test challenges
 1. Committee is tasked to make the oral a more user friendly and accessible process.
 2. The committee will develop the ability for members on a regional basis to administer the oral exam and a schedule of test dates will be published on the MSOTA web site and registration in advance will be required.
- ix. Membership Dues:
 1. Shawn will send out letters to persons who owe dues for 2010 or earlier
 2. Shawn and Charmaine will clean up the list and keep Anne updated so that the web site is up to date
 3. The list was updated at this meeting and will be “refreshed” via emails to Anne/Secretary

d. Education/Public Affairs

- i. Chair: Marla North, Don Bell, Blair Hopkins, Ann Headley
- ii. Marla: upcoming “Sex Files” training will include state of the art presentation

- from Scolotti and Sullivan on assessment procedures.
- iii. Report: Nothing available for report

e. Standards

- i. Co-Chairs: Bo Smelko and Mike Scolotti; Members: Anne Harris, Kevin Wyse, Jean Keiley, Gwen Farnsworth, Don Bell, Drew Schoening
- ii. Mission: Establish and update standards for evaluation and treatment to promote the professional and effective delivery of services to sexual offenders and the community.
- iii. Report: New standards are posted on the MSOTA web site and Members are encouraged to provide feedback to Bo and committee after reviewing.
- iv. At the July meeting we will finalize the draft standards for assessment and treatment. The membership is advised to review and have comments or corrections prepared in advance of the July Meeting.

V. New Business:

- a. Discussion about medical marijuana and it's implications with sex offenders (treatment and evaluations),
- b. Discussion of various opinions and ideas about treating deniers,
- c. The committee of the whole discussed evaluations of deniers who have taken plea deals.
- d. Discussion regarding appropriate transitions of offenders from residential to community settings.
 - i. Those who make it through prison are by nature presumed to be higher risk as opposed to those who were treated in community, and they may not be. Risk and aftercare should be developed following release by the community provider with the input of the prison or institutional program. This includes a review of the relapse prevention plan, development of new skill sets to work the relapse prevention plan on the outside vs. the paper plan that was developed in prison atmosphere.
 - 1. Complications of inmate moving from prison to community
 - a. Establishing residence
 - b. Jobs
 - c. Registration
 - d. Phase III: in some programs they may be starting phase III over again without therapist knowledge of their previous progress
 - ii. Andy requested that aftercare treatment providers write down their goals and assessment/monitoring procedures. The following topics were suggested at minimum for consideration: Committee follow through was not assigned to this task:
 - 1. How do providers link monitoring of current offender behavior back to the risk instrument previously used to assess.
 - 2. How do PO and therapist monitor the implementation of the relapse prevention program and adjust to compensate/anticipate changed/changing conditions.

3. Released inmates experience culture shock that includes new limitations, opportunities, and threats that will be present in community after even a short (4-5 year sentence). How are these dynamically worked into aftercare?
- iii. When client is moving from program to program there is a need to reduce “barriers to treatment”
 1. It was suggested that we should develop standards for transition from program to program,
 - a. Should be based on risk, reflect current status and relapse plan
 - 2. This was delegated to Standards Committee**
- e. Bob read a letter of resignation from MSOTA from Ginny Watts due to a change of focus in her practice.
 1. Committee of the whole elected to send Ginny a plaque thanking her for her years of dedicated service.
- f. There was a discussion about whether or not to pay for ½ of the members’ expense of rooms at retreat. The committee of the whole elected to reduce the room reimbursement from 50% to 25%.
- g. Next meetings
 - i. Summer Meeting:
July 22, 2011 10 AM-2 PM
[Helena Public Library](#)
 - ii. Fall Meeting hosted by TBA

- h. 1:30-2:30 Case Reviews/Peer Feedback:
 - a. *discussion about specific cases and outcomes,
 - b. *use of polygraphs with specific populations
 - i. (DD, Juveniles, etc.),

- i. 2:30-2:45 Break

- j. 2:45-4:00 ***Serving DD Offenders in a Community Setting: An Integrative and Inter-disciplinary Approach***
 - 1. Presentation by the DD Specialized Services Program from Opportunity Resources, Missoula. Review of the development and evolution of the ORI community based supervision and treatment program for DD offenders. Panel discussion to include Anne Harris, MSTOA; Ken Brown, Program administrator; Jessica Manning, Residential Services Coordinator; Shaye LaMunyan & Jenn Connors DPHHS Case Managers; Katie Burton, DOC Probation Officer.

- k. 4:00-5:30 Discussion of newest standards and how we can be more consistent in our approaches to evaluations and treatment and risk assessment update

- l. Friday, May 7:

- m. 8:00-Noon: ***Pedophilia, the Public's Favorite Sex Offender.***
 - 1. Special presentation by guest speaker Dr. Matthew Mejia, Clinical Director of Steel City Consultants in Pueblo, CO. Dr. Mejia has presented at national conferences including ATSA and APA Div. 32. Dr. Mejia will present current research on pedophilia and discuss child pornography, hands-on offending and the non-offending pedophile. Current theories on etiology and treatment will be discussed as well as similarities and differences between this population and other offenders of children.

- n. 12:00-1:00 Interactive lunch

- o. 1:00-2:30 ***Child pornography offenders and sexting:***
 - 1. Research and detection presented by Detective Brian Fischer, Helena Police Department

- p. 2:30-4:00 Closure, discussion on seminar usefulness, ideas for our fourth annual conference, 2012