

MSOTA 2008 Annual Meeting
April 11, 2008
Great Falls, Montana

In Attendance:

Anne Harris	Karen Baumann
Barb Bottomly	Kevin Wyse
Blair Hopkins	Marla North
Bob Furu	Martha Morgan
Bob Page	Mike English
Charmaine Nicholson	Regina Basolo
Chris Nordstrom	Sandy Heaton
Chris Quigley	Sam Griffel
Dawn Handa	Shawn Abbott
Jean Kiley	
Ginny Watts	

Call to Order, by President Ginny Watts at 11:10

Reading of Minutes of last meeting

Correction: one correction to an email address
Regina Moved minutes accepted seconded by Marla
Minutes accepted

Officer's Reports

- **President Ginny Watts** Annual Report:
MONTANA SEX OFFENDER TREATMENT ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL REPORT
2007-2008

1. Summary of Committee Activities

a. Ethics

The Ethics Committee once again addressed issues of individuals who are practicing outside of MSOTA but who are misrepresenting themselves as MSOTA clinical members or as having comparable training. The conflict with the state psychologist's board continues to be an issue as the board has been unresponsive to the committee's request for information on how the board determines "comparable training." In addition, the Ethics Committee addressed ethical concerns and breaches of ethical standards by MSOTA members.

b. Legislative

MSOTA Legislative Committee chair Andy Hudak worked diligently with committee members to impact the devastating landslide of bills aimed at maximum sentences for all sex offenders and a movement away from supporting treatment for sex offenders. The work put in by Andy and his committee did have some affect in attenuating some of the most destructive legislation. Unfortunately, a substantial body of legislation passed that was contrary to MSOTA's platform. The membership acknowledged Andy's expenditure of efforts by providing reimbursement for a portion of his expenses.

As the legislative session wound down, efforts by Montana psychologists to limit the professional practice of other mental health providers were brought to the attention of the membership. A law passed in the 2004-2005 legislative session, which limited the use of terms including the affix “psych,” began to be enforced. Several MSOTA members became embroiled in court actions in regard to this law. In addition, efforts were made to decrease reimbursement by the Montana Public Defenders Office for LCPCs and LCSWs.

While the efforts of Montana Clinical Mental Health Counselors Association (MCMHCA) and MSOTA members were affective in combating the attempts of psychologists to decrease payments for non-psychologists by the Montana Public

Defenders Office, our efforts have been limited to date in addressing the problematic law through the Attorney General's office. MCMHCA requested that MSOTA join with MCMHCA to hire a lobbyist to address the problematic law in the next legislative session. MSOTA promptly agreed to commit funds for just such an effort. The lobbyist may also assist MSOTA in tracking laws specific to our members in the next session, alleviating some of the demands on the Legislative Committee chair.

- c. Membership
The membership committee added one new associate member to the Association.
 - d. Education
Marla North brought Dr. Dana Anderson to Billings in May of 2007 to present a two-day workshop on Static and Dynamic Risk Assessment of Sexual Offenders. As an acknowledgment for Marla's efforts in providing local continuing education opportunities in the field of sex offender treatment and assessment, the association assisted Marla by defraying some of the expenses of the workshop.
 - e. Standards
Anne Harris and committee members continued to research and develop standards for evaluation and treatment of individuals who are developmentally disabled and who have acted out sexually.
2. Old and New Business
- a. The membership used meetings to discuss concerns about legislation affecting services to the sex offender population, to share information about new treatment programs and new additions to established programs, and to exchange information. In the last year, probation and parole officers have been increasingly involved in our meetings. While probation and parole officers have attended meetings in the past and while some are associate members, P&P coordinated their April 2007 meeting with MSOTA, and plans were made to continue coordinating meetings in the future.
 - b. Regina Basolo and Shawn Abbott began the process of reviewing and updating the association's by-laws.
 - c. Rick Deady and Pam Burke of DOC attended the October 2007 meeting to solicit participation from MSOTA members in shaping a proposed specialized treatment unit which may house up to 140 Tier I and II sex offenders. The goal is to develop a continuum of care for sex offenders in Montana. An Ad Hoc committee was formed to facilitate communication.

Committee members are Andy Hudak, Chris Nordstrom, Mike Sullivan, Marla North, Charmaine Nicholson, Anne Harris, and Shawn Abbott.

- d. Thank you once again to the officers and board members who have served over the last year: Officers Robert Page, Kevin Wyse, and Shawn Abbott; and board members Ken Grady, Tom Meissner, Judge Randy Spaulding, and Robert Furu. In July of 2007 Ken Grady stepped down from his position on the board. The Association extends heartfelt thanks to Ken for his many contributions to the Association, to its members, and to our efforts.

As outgoing president, I feel compelled to express my concern for the state of MSOTA. We have watched as our respected position in the state has been challenged, several times successfully. We have lost credibility in the eyes of other professionals and that loss of credibility is affecting our efficacy in guiding policy, in impacting the care of our clients, and in maintaining members' individual professional standing. We have focused our frustration outside of our membership, blaming greedy psychologists, ignorant legislators, disgruntled public defenders, and untrained juvenile probation officers. It is my belief, however, that we have become our own worst enemies.

At our January meeting, Dr. Bob Page, chair of the Ethics Committee, expressed his concern that we as an association have lost touch with our most important purpose – maintaining the highest standard of care by association members through the process of peer review. He encouraged members to support and challenge each other. I could not agree more. When we ignore the actions of our colleagues – whether we have concerns about them or they have concerns about us – we demonstrate a lack of respect for our profession. Other professionals observe our lack of respect and, in turn, lose faith in us. If we have questions about the conduct of a fellow MSOTA member, it is our ethical obligation to raise our concerns with that member and, if necessary, to take our concerns to our ethics committee. Even more importantly, we, the clinical members of MSOTA – no matter how long we have worked in this profession – have an ethical obligation to examine our own conduct on an ongoing basis, to seek consultation on an ongoing basis, and to listen respectfully and thoughtfully when our peers challenge us on our actions. I am personally recommitting to actively seek and give just such peer support and I challenge each and every clinical member of MSOTA to do the same.

Submitted by,

Ginny Watts, President
Montana Sex Offender Treatment Association

Bob Page moved and motion was seconded to accept the Annual Report as read. There was no discussion

Vice President-Bob Page

Bob was concerned that members welcome feedback from other members regarding professional work and members providing peer feedback to each other on evaluation and treatment concerns. He expressed a desire to earlier days of meetings that included discussions of specific cases. Bob made the specific suggestion that the membership institute regular peer review at our quarterly meetings as part of a commitment of MSOTA to peer review.

Discussion:

1. The use of MSOTA evaluations in Federal and District Courts.
2. List of MSTOA approved clinical members that do evaluations be sent to all judges, attorneys, and prosecutors.

- **Secretary Kevin Wyse** gave the Election Results for new officers

President: Bob Page
Vice President: Andy Hudak
Secretary: Anne Harris
Treasurer: Shawn Abbott

Board Members: Robert Feru, Dawn Handa, Judge Randy Spalding, Jean Keiley.

- **Treasurer- Shawn Abbott**

Check book Balance is	\$2,671.86
Savings Account	<u>\$1,573.51</u>
Total all accounts	\$4,245.37

There was discussion regarding of annual Dues on the following points:

- a. It was moved and seconded that annual membership dues be raised from \$50 to \$100.00. Motion passed without discussion
- b. It was moved and seconded that the Dues change become effective as of this date April 11, 2008. Motion passed without discussion.

- Break for Committee Meetings

Committee Reports

Membership-Charmaine Nicholson

- Charmaine still to write letter to Jim Myers regarding medical leave from MSOTA Membership.
- Names of committee members to be sent to clinical applicants so that they will now mail their work samples directly to Membership Committee members directly to avoid delays in transmission time.

- Motion was made by the Membership Committee to increase the fee for Associate Member from \$25 to \$50 from Membership Committee.
 - a. Discussion was that fee increase was reasonable,
 - b. Motion was seconded and passed unanimously

Education Marla North

- The Judges Quarterly Convention will meet in October 2008 and will accept MSOTA as a presenter if we provide a letter indicating the agenda outline, presenter bio, and length of time needed for presentation.
 - The discussion tried to determine which committee will take responsibility for the presentation to the Judges Convention. Bob Page suggested that Andy handle this task through the Legislative committee.
 - Ginny took the initiative to follow through on developing the presentation to the judges.
- Marla has written to Drs. Taylor and Bloom, have not been responding to request for a workshop in Montana.
- Marla made a suggestion for a retreat for all members to workshop and peer review cases during a two day meeting with a full day of work
- Consider presenting same type of agenda that will be presented to the judges to youth probation and youth treatment. Others suggested that Department of Family Services be included in such training.
- Two national presenters on forensics in Missoula OPD end of April on the 24 and 25th

Ethics-Bob Page

- There is another person practicing under MSOTA label without being an MSOTA member. The individual is naively potentially harming victims and offenders by presenting themselves as a professional in the field of sex offender treatment.

DD services-Anne Harris

- Anne shared that service providers are now being required to report staff time differently and the nature of the reporting may limit flexibility of staff to provide the level of supervision necessary for some community treatment clients.

Web site-Anne Harris

- Anne reported that the Yahoo group site is up and many have joined, but many others have not joined an easy to use site to network with each other that has access restricted to members only.

Old Business

- By-Laws
 - To expedite Bylaw changes, Bob Page proposed that the Committee propose changes for voting at the annual meeting

- Proposed changes that an Associate member can continue to practice as an Associate under supervision so long as they are working towards clinical membership and providing treatment and/or evaluation.
- There are those who prefer to remain Associate members, while under supervision.
- Ginny: Tendency over time has been to keep the membership rules that restrict the behavior of individual members to a minimum.
- Bob brought up the value of Associate Members who are not working towards clinical but who provide valuable liaison to their areas of interest, i.e. probation.
- Final proposal is that people keep Associate membership so long as their supervision maintains current and they provide documentation of their supervision and work.
- All members, regardless of type, need to come to quarterly meetings at least twice a year.
- A Director can be removed through a hearing process and that they have the right to counsel. Regina questioned who was financially responsible for the cost of representation of the officer.
 - Discussion determined that the issue of cost of representation should not become a part of the bylaws.
- It was moved and seconded that the recommendations of the Bylaws Committee be accepted as proposed, the vote was unanimous.

Bob Page shared information regarding dictation software of Dragon Naturally Speaking Version 9 Preferred. He said it was excellent dictation software for dictation.

Ginny suggested that we institute a retreat as quarterly meeting. Marla will work on designing a retreat for a quarterly meeting.

July 25th meeting will be held at Sandy Heaton's on the Dearborn River
234 Cooper Dr.
Cascade, MT

2008-2009 Meeting Schedules:

October 17th in Missoula Hosted by Anne Harris

January 16 2009 Bozeman

April 10 2009 Great Falls

Meeting was adjourned 1:03 PM

Yahoo! Maps - 234 Cooper Dr, Cascade, MT 59421-8406

