

**WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION FOR THE TREATMENT AND
PREVENTION OF SEXUAL ABUSE**
BOARD MEETING: BUSINESS CONDUCTED VIA EMAIL DUE TO MICHAEL SETO TRAINING

Attendees

Absent

Agenda

Agency Updates (DOC, SCC, DCYF)

Eastern WA

DOH Advisory Committee

Treasury

Membership

Program Committee

SOPB/ legislative updates

- Election certified on 4/17/23. Outgoing treasurer P. Grant is replaced by Jenny Johnson-Riley, who will serve a two-year term as treasurer¹. Renee Newton was elected to a general board position, with a two-year term. Brent Borg will replace C. McNally as the DOC Liaison, also a two-year term. P. Hannon was reelected to a two-year term as the Eastern Washington Representative.
- Joint board meeting with Oregon on 5/13/23 at McMenamins Kalama Lodge.

DOH Advisory Committee: No new updates.

DOC Update (B. Borg): At this time in SOTAP and like in many agencies, filling positions is one of the more challenging tasks. We have several vacant clinician positions across the state and they have been slow to fill. Getting closer to full at Airway Heights and in the community; Twin Rivers has a couple more vacancies. We are returning to more normal operations, as far as the impact of Covid goes. We recently transitioned back to the number of treatment hours and the size of treatment groups that existed pre-covid. In the prison portion of treatment, we will soon be adding specialty groups back into the schedule. These are short-term groups that focus on particular stable risk factors. We are still quite backed up regarding treatment start dates, due to institutional transfer delays and other covid impacts. While the population in DOC has declined over the last several years, we have seen a significant increase in the number of individuals coming into prison with a sex offense.

SCC Update (M.Reese): From the clinical side of SCC, we recently had an informal DRW panel review in preparation for a final panel review. It appears we are on the right track for finally ending the DRW settlement with no big red flags identified during the review. Groups continue to run at normal capacity and at the end of the month we should be fully staffed with psych associates and psychologists. An Assistant Chief Position has finally been approved by HR and I hope to get it posted for recruitment as soon as I return from the conference. This will put the focus on getting approval for a Director of Curriculum Development and Staff Training position as it requires reallocation and is a longer process. Our first set of work groups for updating

¹ The treasurer and president may act as agents for the organization in financial and banking matters.

curriculums was completed last month and ended with 3 finalized curriculum updates (Sexual wellness, Healthy Relationships and DBT) while others are still in the works.

DCYF Update (J. Pelander): I am currently going over the implications of HB 1394 (juvenile registration) and which youth in our system will be impacted. The bill is currently on the Governor's desk awaiting signature. The New Program Specialists 5 position has contracted with a few professional to help assist with the review of our residential SO treatment program and curriculum as they are currently developing recommendations for further enhancements.

Program Committee: Seto training on 4/21. Delmonico and Kuniak training in June. Early stages of retreat planning.

Eastern Washington Update (P. Hannon): None at this time.

Membership Update (M. Reese): None at this time

Meetings

May: Siri Gillespie

June: Delmonico & Kuniak on gaming culture and sexual offending

Business Items

Program Committee—No new updates.

Additional upcoming training opportunities: N/A

Sex Offender Policy Board – M. O'Connell wrote I have assumed the position on the subcommittee following up on the implementation of ESSB 5163 which mostly addresses how SCC will take over many of the responsibilities for transition and discharge planning of residents to community-based less restrictive alternatives. One of the still-to-be-accomplished tasks is to put together a survey to treatment providers working with LRA clients on how they are experiencing the changes. Apparently the Office of Financial Management needs to get involved in the design of such a survey because there is potential for liability or other problems if they don't. I'll find out more about this later this week when I have a Zoom meeting with the SOPB coordinator Whitney Hunt. In any case, WATSA will not need to design or implement this survey.

In the survey WATSA sent out last year there was sparse participation, most of the respondents asked not to be identified and most talked about problems or shortcomings of the new SCC social workers, who were supposed to take over the transition work of defense counsel social workers but were still getting oriented and didn't seem to know what their roles were supposed to be.

In my new role I have begun attending the subcommittee meetings on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday mornings of the month. The subcommittee report should be complete and the Policy Board's responsibility for following up on this part of our assignment from the legislature in June or July of this year.

At last week's subcommittee meeting we started a discussion about what are best practices for informing the community about new LRA placements, given the uproar over a placement in Enumclaw and a failed plan in Tenino (which included shots fired into the vacant house.) One participant in that discussion suggested that whatever we end up saying, we shouldn't mention the gunshots in order not to further encourage such behavior.

Treasurer Report – Treasurer position is transitioning from P. Grant to J. Johnson-Riley. The board voted to invest in a CD account. J. Johnson-Riley will be meeting with the bank to look into options. L. Trifiletti and J. Johnson-Riley will go to Key Bank to add her to the account and obtain a debit card in her name.

Legislative Updates – HB 1394 passed on 4/27. Practice update to be emailed to membership.

Agenda items for future meetings

1. Update chapter bylaws
 - a. Training for new board members
2. Resource list on website for families of youth with sexual behavior problems
3. RSO study provided by Brad Meryhew
4. Board member qualifications and expectations/ clarify when election should be sent out
5. WATSA could benefit from an IT person. Would WATSA be comfortable spending on this position?