

WASHINGTON STATE CHAPTER OF THE ASSOCIATION FOR THE TREATMENT OF SEXUAL ABUSERS

BOARD MEETING: VIRTUAL MEETING VIA GOTOMEETING PLATFORM

5.15.2020

10:30 A.M. –12:00 P.M.

Attendees

H. Coryell; L. Trifiletti; M. O'Connell; R. Beattey; M. Saylor; D. Yanisch; J. Palander; P. Hannon; P. Grant; C. McNally; M. Reese

Absent

M. Kokko

Agenda

[DOC Update \(Cory McNally\)](#): Currently SOTAP treatment has been suspended in the community. They attempted virtual groups but discontinued. Clinicians are checking in with clients. Clients in the prisons are receiving four hours of treatment per week. Staff is trying to anticipate problems that will likely arise when restrictions are lifted. The Department of Health started a Treatment Advisory Board and C. McNally was appointed to the Board. The Board will look at RCW 6641 and the WAC associated with SOTPs. The Board will examine licensure costs and also have three community SOTPs appointed.

[SCC Update \(Megan Reese & Holly Coryell\)](#): The staff is primarily managing crises. They increased the number of clinicians on the island from six to ten this week. There is a tentative plan to start small group treatment in June. There have been no known COVID19 cases on island so far.

[Juvenile Rehabilitation Update \(Jedd Pelander\)](#): Things are similar to last month. Groups are running in the institutions. They are emphasizing safe practices like social distancing and trying to limit movement as much as possible. They are expecting 45-60 JR to 25 juveniles to come from DOC and go to Greenhill School but they have not received them yet. There is a state-wide hiring freeze which is making it harder for some to do their job but providers are doing the best they can. J. Pelander was also appointed to the Treatment Advisory Board.

[Eastern Washington Update \(Priscilla Hannon\)](#): A number of clients have Internet restrictions which complicates telehealth. The expectations of confidentiality are the same as in-person groups, however some clients are struggling to find a private place to do treatment. P. Hannon stated she has been impressed with the groups and finds it easier to conduct telehealth sessions with existing clients. Her sentiments were echoed by other board members.

Meetings

June 19th – Topic TBD via GoToMeeting virtual platform

Business Items

Program Committee– The annual WATSA retreat will be held September 18th-19th at the Double Tree Hotel in Olympia. The meeting will include in-person attendees and will also be broadcast virtually. The cost will be \$75 and 9 CEUS will be offered. BJ O'Neal has committed to presenting a half day on juvenile sexual offender considerations and R. Beattey will facilitate a half day of round table discussion. The Board discussed programming for the remaining half day. The Board unanimously agreed to these details.

We are working on a joint 2021 conference with the Oregon chapter of ATSA. A location is TBD but Skamania Lodge and Hood River Inn are possibilities. The date is tentatively February 26-28th, 2021.

Additional upcoming training opportunities: The SOTIPS/ ROSAC/ VASOR-2 training will be rescheduled for Spring 2021.

Membership Committee – N/A

Sex Offender Policy / Media Committee – The Sex Offender Policy Board (SOPB) has formed three sub-committees including (1) Treatment Plans, Discharge Plans, and Conditions of Release to an LRA (Less Restrictive Alternative) (2) SCTF (Secure Community Treatment Facility) Siting and LRA Siting and (3) Community Notification for SCC Releases.

J. Pelander reported on the community notification subcommittee and indicated they met 5/13 and began by getting a clear understanding of the current process of community notification. There has been an issue with a house in Poulsbo. The house was cited and is located in a well-to-do neighborhood. The surrounding community expressed concern about having sexual offenders as neighbors. A community notification meeting was held with law enforcement that did not go smoothly. The community was not properly notified and it is not clear where the miscommunication happened. There appear to be two conflicting laws related to offender release. The first requires community notification 30 days prior to release. The second law requires an offender be released to the community within 24 hours after being granted an unconditional release.

M. O’Connell, D. Yanisch, and C. McNally are on the treatment and discharge plans subcommittee. They indicated they also had one meeting to discuss the state of affairs and agreed there is significant room for improvement. M. O’Connell invited providers to give feedback on their experience with the LRA process. The Community Protection Act was created hastily in 1990 with the idea that no one would be released into the community. Residents are released but not usually because they completed treatment, rather because their attorney has made it so. The result is residents end up in the community but are unprepared for release. SCC and DOC fear the liability of endorsing the resident’s release into the community. Because of these factors the resident’s release into the community can be disorganized. The SOPB recommended changes to this law four years ago.

Treasurer Report – Suncadia refunded all money from the cancelled conference (\$3,250). We are updating the website to reflect all refunds given to registrants, less the \$10 administrative fee. The balance is \$39,457.29 with no outstanding debts.

Agenda items for future meetings

1. Update chapter bylaws
 - a. Training for new board members
 - b. Membership chair
2. RSO study provided by Brad Meryhew
3. Chaperone training
4. Board member qualifications and expectations/ clarify when election should be sent out