

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

BOARD MEETING: VIRTUAL MEETING VIA GOTOMEETING PLATFORM

6.19.2020

10:30 A.M. –12:00 P.M.

Attendees

L. Trifiletti; M. O'Connell; R. Beattey; D. Yanisch; J. Palander; P. Hannon; P. Grant; M. Reese

Absent

M. Kokko; H. Coryell; M. Saylor; C. McNally

Agenda

1. M. Reese was nominated as the Membership Chair and accepted the nomination. The Board voted unanimously to approve the nomination.
2. The Board will be updating our chapter bylaws over the next few months. Included will be protocols for virtual meetings and an emphasis on online communication. We plan to revisit the bylaws on a consistent basis (every three years). R. Beattey is doing a first pass of the bylaws currently.
3. The July general meeting will be a panel discussion about culture diversity, both among clinicians and in working with diverse client groups.
4. The Board approved descriptions for the Membership Chair and General Board Members. This will be added to the bylaws along with descriptions of each Board position. Board members will be allowed to participate via virtual meetings.
5. All WATSA communication will include a disclaimer statement. A template was created on the website that includes the disclaimer.
6. We will begin recording general meetings and posting the recording to the website for a short period of time. CEUS will only be given to those who attend the live meeting.
7. The Center for Forensic Services at Western State Hospital will be renamed after Dr. Bruce Gage. Dr. Gage, currently the chief psychiatrist at DOC has been instrumental in the training of many clinicians both at Western State and DOC. He was recently diagnosed with cancer. DSHS and the governor quickly agreed on the name change.
8. WATSA has been in discussion with Andrea Piper-Wentland about contracting for her lobbying services. She informed the board she will no longer be working in this capacity and her business partner is not taking new clients at this time. The Board suggested approaching a defense attorney's association and offering to provide expertise in their lobbying efforts.

[DOC Update \(M. Reese\)](#): The DOC has instituted a mandatory furlough for management. They will be furloughed one day per week through July then one day per month until the Fall. SOTAP has been approved to start Skype meetings. In the prisons they continue to have four hours per week of treatment with social distancing measures in place.

[SCC Update \(D. Yanisch\)](#): The non-union staff may be required to furlough. Treatment groups are running and staff is working staggered schedules. They are also social distancing and wearing masks.

[Juvenile Rehabilitation Update \(J. Pelander\)](#): Similar to DOC and SCC staff will also be furloughed. Washington state employees are eligible to apply to the Federal Cares Act to be reimbursed for the furloughed time. Parole and probation is continuing to meet with clients virtually and this is likely to continue through the summer.

[Eastern Washington Update \(P. Hannon\)](#): Spokane County is in Phase II and most clinicians are continuing with virtual sessions.

Meetings

July 17th – Cultural diversity panel discussion, Q&A, and case discussion via GoToMeeting virtual platform

Business Items

Program Committee– The annual WATSA retreat will be held September 18th-19th. The Board discussed whether it makes sense to offer an in-person option given the state of things. We will decide next month whether to book the Double Tree Hotel in Olympia for this purpose. 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.

The subcommittees are continuing to meet and collect information about the current state of affairs. The consensus from WATSA board members who serve on the subcommittees is that things are more disorganized and there are more problems than they originally thought. It seems they would be no LRA’s if not for defense attorneys and contracted social workers. M. O’Connell stated there is a sense SCC does not want to participate in discharge planning unless they are in support of the particular LRA. He acknowledged a resource issue. SCC does not have the community base, like social workers to facilitate and plan discharges. It might be helpful if SCC, even if they are not in support of the LRA, speculate as to what would be helpful for the specific resident in the event they are granted an LRA. The overall goal is to have a plan that all parties can agree to and implement.

Treasurer Report –The balance is \$42,670.24 with no outstanding debts.

Agenda items for future meetings

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