

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

BOARD MEETING

8.17.2018

10:00 A.M. –12:00 P.M.

Attendees

H. Coryell; L. Paxton; L. Trifiletti; M. O'Connell; P. Hannon; M. Saylor; J. Williamson

Absent

P. Spizman; D. Yanisch

Agenda

1. Static-99R booster training: Overall went very well with good feedback from attendees. There were 20 registrants who paid for a total of \$3,067.12. After Dr. Schweighofer submits his receipts (around \$2,200) we will have a final tally. Four registrants paid but did not attend. No refunds are available as all registrants were made aware of the refund policy when they registered. The materials from the training were only distributed to those who registered.
2. Attorney Brad Meryhew recently addressed the Board with concerns about SOTPs identifying victims in our evaluations and progress notes. This will be covered in part at the September meeting as it pertains to respecting the privacy of victims. However there needs to be a conversation about how/ what treatment providers can do to protect the privacy of our clients to the extent possible. There were two landmark cases involving Donna Zink v. Benton County (<https://caselaw.findlaw.com/wa-court-of-appeals/1877070.html>) and the Koenig v. Thurston County (<https://caselaw.findlaw.com/wa-supreme-court/1613075.html>). Both cases involve making public disclosure requests for the files of Level I sex offenders. The Koenig case was overturned by the state Supreme Court and the Thurston County was ordered to release records. These records usually include completed evaluations and progress notes. Sometimes the reports are redacted, but not always and not always thoroughly. Essentially, everything written by treatment providers is accessible to the public.

Some ideas were put forth from treatment providers including putting a HIPAA statement on evaluations and password protecting documents but none would be sufficient to keep the document out of public access. At a minimum it would be good practice to inform clients their file may become accessible to the public. Another suggestion to protect the victim would be to mention the victim name once with DOB and state something to the effect of "Jane Doe (DOB) herein referred to as victim 1." This would help attorneys to redact reports more easily and thoroughly.

There was a conversation on the ATSA listserv about these practices in Washington state and many people were surprised. Ethically, this is an important topic for treatment providers. The Board agreed to continue discussing this at the November general meeting and at the ethics panel at the annual conference. It might be helpful to invite a person from the Office of Public Disclosure and/ or someone from the Attorney General's office. This would be an excellent topic for the SOPB if they were currently functioning.

3. M. O'Connell was in contact with a DOC supervisor in Eastern WA regarding setting up a training. He plans to follow up with her.
4. L. Trifiletti will follow up with Paypal regarding taking Dan's name off the account.
5. H. Coryell will follow up with DOH.
6. H. Coryell talked with Brad Johnson from the ATSA board regarding a possible relationship with the Global Institute of Forensic Research (GIFR). He agreed it is not unreasonable to ask for an incentive to advertise on their behalf. H. Coryell to follow up with GIFR.

Monthly Meetings

September 2018- 3rd annual joint meeting with KCSARC- The Role of Victim Empathy in Family Reunification

- Possible program committee meeting

October 2018- ATSA conference, no WATSA meeting

- Possible program committee meeting

November 2018- ATSA recap & discussion about evaluations/ progress notes being accessible to the public.

December 2018- no meeting

Business Items

Program Committee–

The annual conference will be March 1-3rd 2019 at Suncadia. M. Saylor plans to follow up with Skamania Lodge about moving the conference there in 2020. The idea was suggested to do a joint conference with OATSA, possibly every other year.

Elena Lopez was approached about her interest in sitting on the ethics panel at the conference. She expressed interest.

Additional upcoming training opportunities: N/A

Eastern WA chapter issues: N/A

Membership Committee – N/A

Sex Offender Policy / Media Committee – N/A

Financial Update – The current balance in \$35,932.52 but Dr. Schweighofer's expenses have not been deducted yet. WATSA has made a profit on recent events including: \$877.56 on chaperone training; 124.20 chaperone training; 614.18 SOM conference CEUs; 1296.20 Retreat; 155.06 VRAG training

L. Paxton (treasurer) gave feedback that there has been poor communication between event organizers and herself. She indicated it would be helpful to have a copy of the contract given to presenters and consistency in procedures. It would be useful to have a checklist.

The refund policy was discussed. The Board agreed to offer refunds to people if they cancel one month before the event. If a person is paying on someone's behalf they should be instructed to indicate that in the notes when making the payment. We want to push online registration and

payment. It is difficult to have people do this any other way. We will also make it clear any people paying by check send their payment to the treasurer. Any questions about the conference registration will be directed to M. Saylor.

Other Issues: N/A

Agenda items for future meetings

1. Andrea Walker's dissertation and recruiting new SOTPs