

# SEX OFFENDER MANAGEMENT BOARD MINUTES

Friday, February 20th, 2015

## Board Members

Alli Watt  
Allison Boyd  
Amy Fitch  
Angel Weant  
Bill Hildenbrand  
Carl Blake  
Jeff Geist  
Jeff Jenks  
Jeff Shay  
Jessica Curtis  
Jessica Meza  
John Odenheimer  
Kim English  
Merve Davies  
Missy Gursky  
Nancy Jackson  
Richard Bednarski  
Tom Leversee  
Brie Akins  
Marcelo Kopcow  
Rick May

## Visitors

Jerry Frey  
Roger Kincade  
Debbie Baty  
Valerie Estrada  
Cheryl Davis  
Mary Evans  
Dena McClung  
Karmen Carter  
Mathias Antony  
Bryan Jameson  
Susie Roman  
Jo Stack  
Carolyn Turner  
Jodie Goter  
Jason Guidry  
Dr. Chris Renda  
Christina Johnson  
Maria Trujillo  
Laura Saurini  
Susan Walker

## Visitors

Genie Connaghan  
Lynn Lowe  
Tomei Kuehl  
Laurie Rose Kepros  
Shefaei Phillips  
Wellesley Bush  
Michelle Brister  
Leigh Anne Butcher  
Steve Parker  
Taralyn Clark  
Jamie Gibbs  
Josiah Martin  
Jessica Botkin  
Laura Gibbs  
Kimberly Howard

## Absent Board Members

Kandy Moore            Pam Bricker  
Bill Hildenbrand        Amy Fitch

## Staff

Chris Lobanov-Rostovsky                      Harmony Fox                      Lucy Klos                      Roxanne Hotchkiss  
Cathy Rodriguez                                  Jesse Hansen                      Raechel Alderete

## Board Meeting Begins:

**Introductions** – Chris Lobanov-Rostovsky welcomed the Sex Offender Management Board’s (SOMB) new Implementation Specialist, Roxanne Hotchkiss.

**Future Agenda Items** – Jessica Meza requested additional information about crimes committed against sex offenders while incarcerated in Colorado.

**Announcements** – Chris Lobanov-Rostovsky requested that at the end of each meeting all documents that will not be kept are returned so the staff can properly dispose of them, as some material may be sensitive or confidential.

Cathy Rodriguez noted that the SOMB has completed a new community notification video and it is now available. Also, the SOMB will soon be mailing out the Adult Standards Policy Update books to all providers.

Jesse Hansen noted that the Family Response Survey now has sufficient responses and will be closing shortly. Once this information is processed, it will be made available.

Raechel Alderete announced numerous trainings being conducted. This information is available on the SOMB website training calendar.

Carl Blake noted that the J.G. variance is no longer in effect.

Jeff Geist commented on January 2015 Board meeting and noted that Executive Committee has resolved to allot additional time for potentially contentious items to allow for a smoother meeting flow. He also announced that additional guidelines will be put in place for both audience and board members to aid in the continued professionalism for future meetings. Lastly, he reminded that all board meetings are public meetings and everyone should be aware that all comments made should be made with this knowledge.

Missy Gursky noted the importance of board members being fully educated prior to the official meeting as this will best aid in the decision items.

Allison Boyd requested additional efforts of sending board members as much information as possible prior to the meeting in order to aid board discussion.

**Approval of January minutes -**

**APPROVAL OF JANURARY MINUTES:** motion to approve Rick Bednarski; 2<sup>nd</sup> Merve Davies.

<b>15 Approve</b>	<b>0 Oppose</b>	<b>2 Abstain</b>	<b>Motion Passes</b>
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**Approve Agenda** – Agenda Approved

**Sexual Violence Prevention: A Primary Prevention Approach (Presentation) – Tomei Kuehl, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE)** – Hand-outs provided.

Tom Leversee noted that the PowerPoint slide with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) risk factors unique to sexual violence was a good list, though he might add “social isolation” and “parent-child conflict” to the list.

Mimi Scheuermann asked if current legislation has an impact on this program.

Brie Akins commented that the legislation aids in the technical assistance.

Tomei Kuehl noted that no matter what happens in the legislation, they are already making efforts to connect their work more through the community to provide consistent and connected support.

Marcelo Kopcow asked how the youth are selected for these programs and if there is parental consent to participate.

Tomei Kuehl commented that they use a universal approach to reach students of all degrees of risk to address the social impact. They also use an opt-out system of parental consent.

Merve Davies commented that many of these risk factors relate back to domestic violence and intimate partner abuse and that these factors are not necessarily unique to only sexual violence, which can be a very important factors for clients.

Chris Lobanov-Rostovsky noted that these factors do have crossover outside of sexual violence, but that these factors are risk factors for sexual violence and that is the focus point for the SOMB.

Tom Leversee commented that this type of program is very exciting to see being implemented and he agrees with the universal approach.

Chris Lobanov-Rostovsky noted that there is both the possibility of adjudication and/or informal intervention in each case and trying to create a system where intervention happens earlier creates a situation where prevention is more part of the focus.

Raechel Alderete asked how CDPHE is addressing parent concerns with their children being taught this type of information as well as what the response is of the children involved.

Tomei Kuehl noted that each school is different and this has proven to be a challenge, but a critical step that requires community relationships.

John Odenheimer requested additional information about the PowerPoint slide on the Sexual Violence Prevention Survey.

Tomei Kuehl explained that this slide shows the change that occurs from before to after a child has gone through one of their programs.

Mimi Scheurermann asked how the program is getting consent from parents.

Tomei Kuehl responded that the current system is an opt-out system. Therefore, it only requires a permission slip to be signed if the parent does not want their child to participate in the program.

Missy Gursky asked who is running the courses and what their training is.

Tomei Kuehl responded that CDPHE grantees are the trainers and they are given ample opportunities for training.

A question from the audience asked if school staff are given opportunities to train so that they would be ready to deal with reporting a suspected case of sexual abuse.

Mimi Scheurermann responded that by law each school is required to have personnel trained to be reporters, trained on how to report, what signs to look for, and to whom reports should be made. Training is offered online that anyone can access, but face-to-face trainings are also offered to schools.

Laurie Kepros asked how the program addresses children who have been removed from the school system due to zero tolerance laws or other personal/family strife.

Tomei Kuehl commented that the current target is 12-25 year old students. She added that with additional resources maybe this could be expanded. Currently, they are open to comments or connections that might expand in this direction.

Carl Blake asked if there was an online resource that potentially parents could utilize even if the children are not in the school system.

Tomei Kuehl noted this is not currently an option, but she would like to see the program expand in time.

Bryan Jameson asked what the CDPHE uses as a definition for sexual violence.

Tomei Kuehl commented that the CDPHE includes anything from unwanted touch to rape.

Susan Walker asked if alcohol is also addressed in this education.

Tomei Kuehl commented that alcohol is a core piece of what they teach and how the consumption of alcohol or marijuana alters the ability to consent.

Jessica Curtis addressed her support for this program and how she hopes the SOMB may further aid future prevention work.

Chris Lobanov-Rostovsky requested to know whether the SOMB would like to continue speaking with CDPHE in the future and collaborate on projects. There was general SOMB consensus of support.

## **Break**

**Proposed Revision to Approved Supervisor Background Approval (Decision Item) - Continuity of Care Committee** – Cathy Rodriguez explained what the process is for the Approved Supervisor Background Check. Handout provided.

Missy Gursky commented that her experience is that the FBI records have taken up to a year to be returned and as such she supports this new policy.

Chris Lobanov-Rostovsky noted that this policy was brought forward as approved supervisors, who were previously approved, found out that they are no longer approved when an offender moves to a new system/treatment program. This created a situation where they then had to face the long wait to once again to become reapproved.

**APPROVAL OF APPROVED SUPERVIOR BACKGROUND:** motion to approve Missy Gursky; 2<sup>nd</sup> Rick Bednarski.

**16 Approve**

**0 Oppose**

**0 Abstain**

**Motion Passed**

**Human Trafficking Council Update (Action Item) – Maria Trujillo, Division of Criminal Justice (DCJ)** – Cathy Rodriguez explained how persons involved in Human Trafficking are often times in unique positions when it comes to sex offenses and this creates a focus point that may require some consideration from the SOMB. Handouts provided.

Merve Davies asked what data exists pertaining to how many sex offenders are also victims of human trafficking and or somehow previously involved in trafficking.

Maria Trujillo commented on various situations where a pimp was convicted as a sex offender, but the law was not able to prosecute them on human trafficking charges. Therefore, this person may not be identified as involved in human trafficking while completing treatment. This leaves the data incomplete.

Cathy Rodriguez noted that there have been sex offenders, specifically female offenders, who were first victims of human trafficking and that the challenges they face are vastly different than other offenders, yet treatment providers may not be aware of this history.

Merve Davies commented that it seems the treatment for these individuals should look very different, including the evaluation.

Cathy Rodriguez noted that this is an area where she would like to see more focus dedicated.

Mimi Scheuermann noted the overwhelming prevalence of this issue and how sex offenders are currently being addressed if a treatment provider does discover this information.

Missy Gursky commented that many of the same devices are used for human trafficking as are used in general sex offenses. Therefore, she feels the treatment of this person is not vastly different, especially because each treatment plan is individualized for all sex offenses already. The practice of individual treatment plans is utilized for people identified as being in human trafficking and therefore their specific needs should already be being addressed.

Allison Boyd noted that the issue of human trafficking is only going to increase as identification of victims gets better and the data becomes clearer.

Jeff Jenks noted his experience is that individuals involved in trafficking have multiple offenses and not just in the trafficking of persons. He believes that polygraph could look at adding questions to the Sex History polygraph specifically on human trafficking to aid in discovering their involvement.

Rick May asked if persons who only use online media to exploit persons for sexual acts is also part of trafficking.

Maria Trujillo commented that it is on the federal radar, but she would need to research further to know if Colorado has specific laws addressing this.

Carl Blake asked if international adoption has been explored as an avenue of trafficking.

Maria Trujillo noted she is not currently aware of this as a primary focus.

Carl Blake asked if the Council has considered other uses for the assessment tools not just to identify if someone was involved in human trafficking.

Maria Trujillo commented that using the high-risk assessment tools for sex offenses could be very useful in human trafficking in various ways and she would be open to this conversation.

Cathy Rodriguez asked how treatment provider would address a person who was first a victim of human trafficking and then became a sex offender. Also, how would this information change the treatment and even potentially the charges they face.

Rick May noted that a person's lifestyle is an important piece of information when forming polygraph questions. Oftentimes, human trafficking is generational and when a person has this background it needs to be addressed in treatment.

Angel Weant commented that when this situation is identified the focus is then on a combination of supervision and not over supervising, with the risk factor being addressed foremost.

A question from audience asked if mental health or personality disorders are addressed in treatment.

Missy Gursky commented that mental health concerns could be good area to focus on.

Laurie Kepros asked if research is currently being conducted to identify risk factors of someone becoming involved as a human trafficker.

Maria Trujillo commented that this area would be an excellent area for research, but she is not currently aware of this research being done.

Laurie Kepros asked about a bill concerning immunizing victims of human trafficking.

Maria Trujillo commented that the bill has been examined and updates are being made to the Council.

Tom Leverage asked what services are offered for victims.

Maria Trujillo commented that there are a variety of options. Denver has a Problem-Solving Court to help. Sometimes the individual is in detention from unrelated charges, or the individuals are in foster care, group homes, or residential treatment, and sometimes they have been reunified with their family. But in many cases the individual will still attempt to run away and return to the life of being trafficked.

Allison Boyd commented that many of the victims do attempt to run and do not see themselves as victims and therefore require very different treatment to specifically address this serious concern.

Carl Blake commented that treatment plans are developed specifically to address these issues, as well as specific treatment locations to lessen the risk of them running. Lastly, the treatment plan has to address the fact that some of the victims will use the treatment home as a place of recruitment for their traffickers.

### **Lunch – no business conducted**

**Treatment related to the offender’s victimization history and the impact on offending behavior (Presentation) – Dr. Kevin Powell, Colorado Division of Youth Corrections (DYC) – Handouts provided.**

Jo Stack asked what Dr. Powell does when he finds a situation where probation/parole officers do not agree with his treatment plans.

Dr. Powell responded that this requires a direct dialogue between the treatment provider and probation/parole officer.

Jo Stack asked about adult clients who are in denial and how he addresses this situation.

Dr. Powell commented that he encourages the Adult Standards to continue to utilize similar methods to what he has presented, which allow for a balance between offender needs and accountability.

Susan Walker commented that she was very grateful for Dr. Powell’s presentation and hopes to see more of these practices in the Adult Standards in the future.

Tom Leverage commented that the Adult Standards have had an outside evaluation, but what is Dr. Powell’s perspective of the need to adopt more Risk, Need, Responsivity (RNR) principles into the Adult Standards.

Dr. Powell commented that he would like to see more focus on the positive/strength factors.

Allison Boyd commented that in her experience victims do not want offenders to be treated harshly and that this kind of treatment does not aid anyone. She is thankful to see the way offenders are being addressed in this presentation, while still acknowledging their actions.

Missy Gursky commented that she is also in support of the Adult Standards Revisions Committee keeping this kind of treatment in mind while going through their revision process.

John Odenheimer asked about the differences between adult sex offenders with adverse childhood experiences versus adult sex offenders without an adverse background. Specifically, the group of people who did face adverse childhood experiences and yet did not grow up to sexually offend.

Dr. Powell commented that this is a very interesting area of research because it is not clear what specific protective factors that are in place have prevented these people from offending. One critical factor he believes is a supportive caregiver, but certainly people without this factor are also successful.

Mimi Scheuermann noted that the factors of what stops someone from reoffending are often different and allowing for this is a huge step in community safety.

### **Break**

### **Variance for Josiah Martin, Jessica Botkin and Michael Rose (Decision Item) - Application Review Committee –**

Carl Blake noted that this variance is for supervision to be provided via phone and skype mediums, with a requirement that once a quarter a face-to-face meeting takes place. Specifically, this supervision would be for the Developmentally Delayed (DD) population. This variance is being requested because the providers are in the Grand Junction area while the supervisor is in the Denver area.

Missy Gursky commented that the field needs more providers in the DD area.

Merve Davies commented that distance should not be a hindrance to otherwise willing providers.

Allison Boyd asked how the supervisor would be able to review case documentation.

Jessica Botkin commented that they have a second supervisor who will review their documents and the DD Supervisor will sign off on all treatment plans.

**APPROVAL OF VARIANCE:** motion to approve Rick Bednarski; 2<sup>nd</sup> Mimi Scheruermann.

<b>17 Approve</b>	<b>0 Oppose</b>	<b>0 Abstain</b>	<b>Motion Passed</b>
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### **School Reference Guide (Action Item) – Raechel Alderete -**

Allison Boyd asked if all sections have been before the SOMB before.

Carl Blake commented that all sections have been before the SOMB and discussed fully.

**APPROVAL OF SCHOOL REFERENCE GUIDE:** motion to approve Rick Bednarski; 2<sup>nd</sup> Mimi Scheruermann.

<b>17 Approve</b>	<b>0 Oppose</b>	<b>1 Abstain</b>	<b>Motion Passed</b>
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**MEETING ADJOURNS at 2:40 pm.**

### Turning Participant Results

Session Name: New Session 2-20-2015 2-40 PM

Created: 2/23/2015 10:15 AM

Device ID	Remote No.	First Name	Last Name	1) Motion: Approve the January minutes	2) Motion to approve the Approved Supervisor Approval Background	3) Motion to approve variance	4) Motion to approve school reference guide
2B201	1	Pam	Bricker	-	-	-	-
2B212	2	Mary	Baydarian	3	1	-	1
2B213	3	Richard	Bednarski	1	1	1	1
2B216	4	Carl	Blake III	1	1	1	1
2B226	5	Allison	Boyd	1	-	1	1
2B22D	6	Jessica	Curtis	-	1	1	1
2B237	7	Merve	Davies	1	1	1	1
2B23B	8	Kim	English	1	1	1	3
2B246	9	Amy	Fitch	-	-	-	-
2B25B	10	Jeff	Geist	-	-	-	-
2B261	11	Missy	Gursky	1	1	1	1
5EE64	12	Rick	May	1	1	1	1
2B26A	13	Bill	Hildenbrand	-	-	-	-
2B26E	14	Nancy	Jackson	-	-	-	-
2B281	15	Jeff	Jenks	1	1	-	-
2B291	16	Marcelo	Kopcow	1	1	1	1
2B295	17	Allison	Watt	1	-	1	1
2B2A8	18	Tom	Leversee	1	1	1	1
2B2D6	19	Jessica	Meza	1	1	1	1
2B2F5	20	Kandy	Moore	-	-	-	-
2B2FF	21	John	Odenheimer	1	1	1	1
2B302	22	Mimi	Scheuermann	3	1	1	1
2B32A	23	Jeff	Shay	1	1	1	1
2B32C	24	Angel	Weant	-	-	1	1
2B32F	25	Brie	Akins	1	1	1	1