

SOMB AUDIT COMPLIANCE



Project Brief: In July 2020, The Office of the State Auditor released a legislative audit of the Sex Offender Management Board (SOMB). This document summarizes the board's progress towards fully implementing those recommendations. In the interest of transparency and accountability, the SOMB has published a detailed progress dashboard here: <https://dcj.colorado.gov/somb-audit-compliance>.

The SOMB is committed to the highest standards of ethics and transparency. The board has implemented a rigorous process to ensure that all policy decisions are made in an objective, ethical, and unbiased manner, and that all of their members adhere to the spirit and the letter of the state's conflict of interest rules.



RECOMMENDATION AND STATUS OF COMPLETION

1 Align guidelines & revision processes with statute
Complete / In Progress

- ✓ Completed Research Standard Operating Procedure and implemented Committee Charters to ensure supporting research is cited in the Standards.
- ✓ Completed a Best Practices Committee Charter and updates to the SOMB Bylaws to require the Best Practices Committee to have more substantial involvement in every standards revisions process.
- ✓ SOMB is reviewing all previous Standards revisions to identify research support per this process, and is on track to complete the full review and update by June 2021.

2 Approve only qualified treatment providers
Completed October 2020

- ✓ Developed an Application Review Committee (ARC) charter and standard operating procedure.
- ✓ Modified the Board's bylaws, policies and provider applications to address the audit's recommendations.
- ✓ Using a new data management system, SOMB staff now document all ARC deliberations and findings related to provider applications, and track whether applicants have met the application requirements.

3 Strengthen process to handle complaints
Completed October 2020

- ✓ Developed an ARC complaint process standard operating procedure.
- ✓ Modified the Board's bylaws, policies and provider complaint form to address the audit's recommendations.
- ✓ Using the new data management system, SOMB staff now document all ARC deliberations and findings related to provider complaints, and track all of the steps in the complaint process.

RECOMMENDATION AND STATUS OF COMPLETION (CONTINUED)

4

Improve controls over conflict of interest

Completed November 2020

- ✓ Requested and received written legal opinion from legal counsel, and revised the SOMB bylaws and conflict of interest policy accordingly.
- ✓ The revised bylaws and conflict of interest policy were approved on November 20, 2020, and have been implemented.

5

Improve controls over funding allocations

Completed December 2020

- ✓ Developed a Surcharge Allocation Committee charter and standard operating procedure and revised the Board's bylaws to address the audit recommendation.
- ✓ Developed a fund solicitation form for all agencies to complete in order to receive a recommendation for funding from the Board.
- ✓ SOMB staff have consulted with JBC staff and the State Controller's Office as required and have established a target fund balance.

6

Document votes with transparency

Completed August 2020

- ✓ Revised the Board's bylaws and implemented changes in Board and Committee meetings to report all individual appointed member votes, as well as who is responsible for this reporting.

About the SOMB: In 1992, the Colorado General Assembly passed legislation that created a Board to develop standards and guidelines for the assessment, evaluation, treatment and behavioral monitoring of sex offenders. The 25-member Board reviews, develops and revises the standards and guidelines using a comprehensive, transparent public process. The Colorado Department of Public Safety and the SOMB work diligently on behalf of the people of Colorado to maintain the public trust and protect the most vulnerable, including children, by overseeing a statewide system that holds those who commit sexual offenses accountable for their actions. The SOMB provides for community safety and protects victims and potential victims by implementing evidence-based safeguards to monitor and rehabilitate those convicted of sexual crimes.

CDPS and the SOMB thank the OSA and the Legislative Audit Committee for their work on the SOMB audit. The SOMB has always taken seriously its statutory mandate to ensure the Standards and Guidelines are supported by evidence, and does a thorough review of all the literature prior to each revision. In 2018 the SOMB commissioned an independent, third-party external evaluation of its decision-making process, including conflict of interest. The evaluator provided results and recommendations in 2019, and the board immediately updated the SOMB bylaws and conflict of interest policy based on those recommendations.