



CSOR

*Though I have fallen,
I will rise. - Micah 7:8*

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ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE TAKES A MAJOR STEP IN THE WRONG DIRECTION!

Word was received at CSOR recently that the Attorney General's Office made a decision that put us back a few years in terms of people with the Lifetime Sentence getting out of prison. While the Legislature has exclaimed for years that it is extremely expensive for many of those convicted of a sexual offense to spend years at the Colorado Department of Corrections (CDOC) languishing as they wait for an all too rarely available treatment spot, the Legislature has also done little about it.

Outside Evaluators' Reports in 2013 and 2014 of the CDOC and the Sex Offender Management Board's (SOMB) community treatment programs made it clear that low risk persons who make up a significant part of the sexual offense population in prison, did not need treatment on the inside. It is interesting that it was the Joint Budget Committee (JBC) of the Colorado Legislature that mandated the hiring of an outside evaluation team but left it up to the SOMB to accept and employ the strongly made suggestions of that team. The constant change in legislators and the struggle to move forward when different political parties control the house and senate, make it challenging for them to embrace and enact recommendations made by an evaluative group that they themselves hired! The emotional cries of those victimized, their advocates and the district attorneys, in spite of a huge amount of solid research showing that the vast majority of persons who committed a sexual offense(s) do not recidivate sexually, also often stop the legislators from going as far as they need to go.

The Parole Board in apparent co-operation with the Sex Offender Treatment and Monitoring Program inside CDOC, believing it was helping to get low risk people out of prison without treatment to take treatment on the outside as suggested in the Outside Evaluators' Report, and making room for medium and high risk people to get the treatment they needed inside, began to let a few low risk folks out of prison. It is not clear whether a casual and general review of this statute (C.R.S. 18-1.3-1004(3)) by the Attorney General's Office uncovered this move in what by many was considered the right direction, or whether district attorneys, victims' advocate and those victimized raised major concerns regarding what they considered the dangers of letting people out without treatment. Whichever it was, it has once again put the legislature in general squarely in the seat to finally do something about the ill-begotten Lifetime Act of 1998. Hopefully, this year's legislative session will find a way to make this right! Below find the Attorney General's Memorandum to the Parole Board on November 6, 2018.

"Recently, the Attorney General's Office reviewed the Colorado Lifetime Supervision Act and Colorado Revised Statutes (C.R.S.) and it was determined that sentenced offenders who fall under the Colorado Lifetime Supervision Act and C.R.S. must have "successfully progressed in treatment" to be considered for parole.

In 1998 the Colorado Legislature passed the Colorado Lifetime Supervision Act. Under this type of sentence, offenders must serve the term of their minimum sentence in prison and participate and progress in “treatment” in order to be considered a candidate for parole.

C.R.S. 18-1.3-1004(3) provides that each sex offender sentenced pursuant to this section shall be required as a part of the sentence to undergo treatment to the extent appropriate pursuant to section 16-11.7-105, C.R.S.” Further, C.R.S. 18-1.3-1006(1)(a) requires that “in determining whether to release the sex offender on parole, the parole board shall determine whether the sex offender has successfully progressed in treatment and would not pose an undue risk to the community if released under appropriate treatment and monitoring requirements...”

Effective immediately, any sex offender that falls under this Act and C.R.S. will be required to have successfully progressed in treatment in order to be considered for parole.

**ATSA (Ass’n. for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers)
Yearly Conference
Vancouver, B.C. October 17, - 19**

By
Tami Floyd, CSOR Board Member

A personal note: I attended ten sessions in 3 days and absorbed a lot of good information in a very short time. This is a summary of one of my favorite sessions.

Are we Listening? Valuing All Individuals Impacted by Sexual Victimization

This session focused on all individuals impacted by sexual victimization, including individuals who have perpetrated, those who have been victimized, and the broader community. The goal of the session was to see whether these different groups are listening to and learning from each other. The panel was made up of 6 of the top experts in these areas: Gwenda Willis, PhD, PGDipClinPsyc; Danielle Harris, Ph.D., Kieran McCartan, PhD; Jill Levenson, PhD, LCSW; David Prescott, LICSW, and Alissa Ackerman, PhD.

The one thing that stood out most was the fact that all of these professionals have done some “soul searching” in the last year or so to really analyze if what they are doing is the right approach toward helping those they treat and with whom they work. “Do we respect the dignity and inherent worth of the people we work with?” Most of them said in one way or another that there were things they felt were working and things that really were not and they had done some personal assessment and begun making changes in needed areas.

Some of the things that they felt needed attention were:

They were uncomfortable with the whole concept of the widespread use of derogatory and stigmatizing labels to refer to persons who have been convicted of a sexual crime. Do we really want to refer to the them as “the thing we don’t want them to be i.e. sexual offender?” They felt that we still have a long road ahead to get the labels currently utilized to change, but we have to start somewhere and be consistent and comprehensive in changing to respectful language in our professional, everyday conversations.



I have always thought of Christmas time, when it has come round, as a good time; a kind, forgiving, charitable time; the only time I know of, in the long calendar of the year, when men and women seem by one consent to open their shut-up hearts freely, and to think of people below them as if they really were fellow passengers to the grave, and not another race of creatures bound on other journeys. ~Charles Dickens

Research shows that many of those who have been convicted of a sexual crime were impacted by some sort of childhood trauma or adversity that affected the way they developed. The challenge is to get those in this field to think about offending behavior through the lens of trauma. This is critical to being able to formulate evidence-based solutions to create successful programs and the best methods for delivering them.

Those that treat and supervise people convicted of a sexual crime often have a complicated relationship with the nature of their work. This causes a need for these professionals to utilize high-quality self-care, including continual professional development, self-improvement strategies and self-assessment.

Professionals need to use more individualized, story-telling roots, both from the voices of survivors and from those that committed the sexual crime against them. Connection is the key! People are harder to hate up close and personal. It is really hard to understand a phenomenon without understanding/consulting those directly impacted. This can also be helpful in learning how to relate to different professionals in establishing joint working practices.

Current policy and practice rarely leave individuals who have experienced sexual victimization feeling healed or whole. So why do we keep doing what we are doing if it is not working? The concept of restorative justice can help in the healing process **IF we can work together.**



A Closing Personal Note: Although I am not a treatment provider, nor do I supervise someone that committed a sexual offense, I am the spouse of someone who was convicted of this offense. I am very encouraged to hear these professionals who are the cream of the crop in their profession, approaching all of these groups of individuals with compassion, respect, dignity and continued self-assessment. It gives me hope that there are individuals in the field that do care about actually providing therapeutic treatment versus punitive measures only.

ATSA CONFERENCE IN VANCOUVER, B.C.

Highlights!
Susan Walker

Tami Floyd, CSOR Board Member and I traveled from Denver to Vancouver on Wednesday October 17 for the Conference of the Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers (ATSA). This is our second year in attendance at this conference to be held next year in Atlanta, Georgia. Vancouver is a beautiful city teeming with people, and very humid! Humidity was around 93% most of the time we were there! We want to share regarding some of the sessions, i.e. “the good, the bad and the ugly.” Most were good, some were excellent, and a couple were more on the bad and ugly side.

Tami and I both attended “The Current State of Sex Offender Registration, Registries and Implementation.” The organizer of this session was Marnie Dollinger, M.S. from the SMART Office (Office of Sex Offender Sentencing, Monitoring, Apprehending, Registering and Tracking). She had two co-presenters, both of them presenting non-controversial information. Marnie shared research she had personally done that seemed to negate what all of us know so well to be the truth regarding challenges related to finding jobs and housing for our men and women. In her questions to people on the registry, some of which were asked on Native American Reservations, she stated she found that those on the sex offense registry did not have any particular trouble finding housing and jobs. This was certainly a shock to me, as much of my time and the time of other advocates is spent assisting those on the registry in finding suitable housing and work. The presentation made it sound as if the ease with which a place to live and to work was found was a somewhat obvious fact, at least in Marnie’s mind.

*Our hearts grow tender with childhood memories and love of kindred,
and we are better throughout the year for having, in spirit,
become a child again at Christmas-time.*

~Laura Ingalls Wilder

Being who I am, when it was time for the audience to speak, it seemed appropriate to tell her as well as the group attending, that I was the mother of a registrant, and that much of my time at CSOR was spent helping people coming out of prison find jobs and housing. CSOR also helps with other necessary amenities such as phones, clothing, help getting food stamps, driver's licenses, social security cards and benefits etc. The reality of the registry's onerous hold on those with a sexual offense in their background did not appear to register with her (my opinion). I commented to Marnie and the group that "you sound so happy about what you are telling us about the registry and its effect on registrants." Then I made mention of the fact that research shows that the registry does nothing to protect anyone from sexual assault, and asked her why that didn't seem important to her. She answered that "the registry is the law" and it is her job to uphold the law.

Chris Lobanov-Rostovsky, administrator for the Sex Offender Management Board in Colorado, was also in the audience and stood up to share a few "protective words" for Marnie, stating that she was just doing her job and we shouldn't be so hard on her (paraphrase). Others who spoke from the registrant perspective were Gail Colletta from Florida (National Ass'n for Rational Sex Offense Laws) and another man who stated that he agreed with my remarks.

The big question for me is: When, if ever, will those in sexual abuse treatment and allied professions who believe their own research showing that the registry does nothing to protect public safety finally stand up and say so loud and strong!

HOW MUCH INTERVENTION IS ENOUGH?

R. Karl Hanson, Ph.D.

In conversation with

Robert J. McGrath, M.A.

ATSA Conference – Last Plenary Session

2018

This ATSA Session focused first on the US Justice Center's 5-Levels for *General Crime Risk/Need*. They are: 1) Very Low Risk (Pro-social, made mistake; 2) Below Average Risk (Minor Concerns); 3) Average Risk (Typical problems for individuals in trouble with the law; 4) Above Average (Chronic rule violation, few strengths; 5) Virtually certain to reoffend.

Next, the focus moved to *Standardized Levels for Sexual Recidivism*. They are: 1) Very Low Risk (Older, prosocial, made mistake in the past); 2) Below Average (Minor concerns); 3) Average (Typical problems for individuals with a sexual offense history; 4) Hx of rule violation, problems with sexual self-regulation, few strengths; and Chronic problems; 5) Hx of rule violation, problems with sexual self-regulation, few strengths – more and more severe.

Then Dr. Hanson shared *Treatment Dosage Recommendations*. They are as follows: 1) Very Low Risk (None Needed). 2) Below Average (Case Management); 3) Average (100+ Hours Intervention – Change Focused Community Supervision; 4) Above Average (200 – 300 Hours of Changed Focused Intervention and Cascade of Services).

Some fairly complex graphs followed which we don't have room to show here, but what struck me was the fact that in Colorado and across the U.S., the public as well as the people who work with registrants still clearly lump all who have sexually offended into one group most of the time. While thanks to the Outside Evaluations mandated by the Legislature in 2013 and 2014, progress is finally being made in some settings to treat according to Risk, Need and Responsivity, way too often news comes my way regarding the stereotypical views of some therapists and Parole and Probation Officers, who put everyone in one pot.



I was asked by a national colleague why I would attend a conference like this one whose attendees for the most part are making a lot of money off those who must register for a sexual offense. I answered that in Colorado (and I am sure in other states as well), we spend a lot of time interacting with therapists, officers, polygraph examiners, D.A.'s, victims' advocates and so on, and many issues need fixing besides the registry and residency restrictions.

As a previous article in this newsletter says, it is crucial that we all work together and listen to each other in order to move forward toward a more truthful and realistic picture of, and solutions to, issues of sexual offense! More money is spent on the small percentage of people who are currently on the registry **by far** than on finding ways to prevent sexual abuse from happening! As we are all aware, the majority of offenses happen in the large percentage of the public who are not on the registry i.e. never before identified as people who have sexually abused.

I for one, am glad I attended and hope if the money holds out, to be able to attend again! Both Tami and I attended on a self-funded basis.

NEWS TIDBITS

1. CSOR writes to James Mozie at the United States Penitentiary in Tucson, Arizona. We just received a letter back from James with exciting news. He has written and published a book through prisonsfoundation.org called: REDHANDED – Lies, the FBI, Prosecutorial Misconduct, and Judicial Coverups. James states: “A little not so secret “secret” is that the Feds are breaking laws and violating the constitutional rights of a good portion of the people they are prosecuting for sex offenses. I am one of these people, and I prove it in the REDHANDED publication with official documentation taken in my federal investigation.

You can read this and other outstanding books by imprisoned authors free at www.PrisonsFoundation.org. Or, you can write to: Prisons Foundation, P.O. Box 58043, Washington, D.C. 20037.

2. For those of you who may not realize it, CSOR has three women writing to men at the Colorado Department of Corrections and across the U.S. in state and federal prisons. Susan, Jan and Terri not only answer letters from men and women incarcerated; they also review those letters for case management issues that need to be followed through on. Sometimes just one letter takes a couple of hours to read and answer when you include phone calls, e-mails and other actions that need to be taken to get answers to questions and concerns men and women in prison have. Men write me (Susan) and say they know I “hate” long letters. It is not that I hate long letters – it is that sometimes reading them takes so long, it makes it incredibly challenging and almost impossible to address all of the issues referred to in the letter.

So, for best response from all of us, keep your letters short, and don’t address too many problems in one correspondence. It makes it hard for us to get back to you quickly and with a good answer! We know your stamps, envelopes and paper are limited, and realize that is sometimes why letters are “packed” with information. I am so grateful as I know all of you are, for Jan and Terri’s diligent work on behalf of all of you in prison. No legal issues please! We are not attorneys.

3. Gannon, T.A., Olver, M., Mallion, J. and James, M. 2018. Submitted for Publication
Does specialized psychological treatment for offending reduce recidivism? A meta-analysis examining staff and program variables as predictive of treatment effectiveness.

Basic concepts of this paper submitted for publication are:

- a) Modality: group versus combined group and individual = better
- b) Supervision: staff supervision versus none or unknown = better
- c) Arousal conditioning: arousal conditioning versus none = better
- d) Polygraph: NO polygraph = better!**

We are waiting anxiously for this paper to be published to see the evidence presented for each of these approaches in terms of their effectiveness in treating those who have sexually offended!



It is Christmas in the heart that puts Christmas in the air. ~W.T. Ellis

Another paper already published under the auspices off the Ministry of Justice called Impact Evaluation of the Prison-based Core Sex Offender Treatment Programme says:

Treatment is most effective when:

- psychological expertise is “hands on” and consistent.
- Inappropriate sexual interest is tackled.
- Treatment is group based
- Supervision is provided

-Polygraph is absent!

A Late Edition to News Tidbits

Oral arguments for Millard vs. Rankin were heard at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday November 15, 2018 in the Byron White Federal Courthouse in Denver. There were a good number of advocates attending, as well as what looked like the whole Attorney General’s Office for the State of Colorado.

Arguments were short. The Attorney General’s Office was well prepared with their side of the argument and never appeared to stumble in the presentation. Since the woman speaking did not project, I heard little of what she said (earphones were NOT available in the Federal Courtroom).

The Attorney chosen to present the case for Mr. Millard was chosen by the ACLU. He had a better voice in terms of projection and I was able to hear his presentation. He did, unfortunately stumble when one of the three justices asked him a question about recidivism, and whether the registry affected it. He either chose not to answer the question or didn’t know the answer to the question which was rephrased by the justice a couple of times.

THANKSGIVING

Thanks to all who remembered me and my family during the rough months this year.

Thanks to all who give what they can to remember CSOR – whether it be stamps, money or offers of assistance.

Thanks for the seasons of Thanksgiving and Christmas, when our minds turn to all we have to be grateful for.

Thanks for second chances, sometimes third and fourth chances, to live our lives the way that we know is right.

Thanks for Jesus who was sent to earth by his Heavenly Father, to change and mold our lives in His image.

Thanks for a country that while far from perfect, offers us so much.

Thanks for the precious gift of life itself and while numbered, the days that God has given us to live on this earth!



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