

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

BOARD MEETING
01.17.2014
11:30 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.

Attendees

Christmas Covell, Marshall Kirkpatrick, Dan Knoepfler, Michael O'Connell, Linda Paxton, Maureen Saylor, Paul Spizman, Jennifer Wheeler, Dan Yanisch

Absent

Brian Judd, Kecia Rongen

Agenda

- Committee Reports
 - Program Committee
 - Membership Committee
 - Policy Committee
 - Budget Committee
- Other issues

Business Items

Program Committee–

This years' *Spring Conference* will include James Cantor (presenting the current research on brain functioning and sex offending behavior), Andrew Harris (talking about risk assessment and research on static and dynamic risk factors), and attorney Robert Smith (electronic Protected Health Care Information and Hi-Tech requirements), Suncadia Lodge February 28-Mar 2, 2014. As of this morning there are 48 people registered, but we would like between 75-80. Our contract calls for us to pick up 151 "room nights." As of Wednesday we had 98 room nights picked up, so we need 53 more such room nights to meet our contractual expectations. Once our block is done, if someone isn't reserved by 01.28.14 they will reserve to others.

Additional upcoming training opportunities:

Michael Seto is offering a 1-day training in Vancouver, BC on May 12, 2014. This will be on Internet and Child Porn issues. WATSA is able to sponsor it, with a price of \$150 for WATSA members (with a higher price for non-members). This is a very good opportunity for our involvement and ongoing interaction with Canadian colleagues.

Almost all of this years' meetings are scheduled, with speakers lined up:

- March 2014 -- Lisa Johnson of King Co Prosecutors, Corinn Bohn, Rich Anderson, and other JRA prosecutors want to come to a WATSA meeting as consumers of evaluations – concerns about evals and how better to collaborate with providers
- April – Andrea Piper Wentland, WA Coalition of Sexual Assault Victims
- May – DOC Jeff Landon is the new DOC SOTP Clinical Director
- June – in Wenatchee, topic to be determined
- October -- the Fall Retreat will once again be held at Mountain View Lodge in Manson. This year it will occur from October 3 – 5.

Eastern WA chapter issues: Marshall Kirkpatrick has spear-headed monthly meetings with a contingency from Airway House, and Moses Lake. Alternating every other month between Spokane and Moses Lake locations. Participation has started to dwindle in Moses Lake, mostly due to speakers dropping out at the last moment. If you want a strong showing in Western WA will need to bolster efforts from staff in Airway Heights. Discussed possibly switching to quarterly as opposed to monthly meetings, and different providers coming over from western WA.

Membership Committee

Discussion of presidential succession and upcoming election. Jennifer Wheeler will be the official “past president” for a year, assisting in the training of the new president who will be elected today. The “Vice President” position will be replaced in the future by the “president Elect” position.

Reminder to all that are not Clinical members (attorneys, CCO’s, Victim Advocates) of ATSA that you can become an affiliate member of ATSA for a year for \$35. This is an inexpensive way to become an ATSA member, which is a prerequisite if you want to join WATSA.

Need to start contacting legislators in regards to the “underlying credential” issue. Only certain kinds of licensed professionals can be certified as SOTP. We need to rewrite the RCW and draft legislation for changes. We will be grandfathering those who are presently certified. We are looking for people with connections and who are interested in contacting legislative staff.

Discussed committees in both houses of state government that could advance the grandfathering of SOTP certifications for the underlying credentials. This could be attached to different bills’ language. We need to write it up and send it in to state code revisors who will do the writing. Also get bipartisan support from eastern WA as well. The issue is before the Senate Health and Wellness Committee.

It may be time for WATSA to get its own lobbyist to address sex offense specific issues before the legislature.

Sex Offender Policy / Media Committee

The latest report by the Sex Offender Policy Board is soon to be distributed to legislative members. It addresses the SOPB recommendations for changes to SSOSA, including:

- To clarify who is eligible for SSOSA (that it is not just for family members),
- To look at a SSOSA-like sentence for child porn or other offenders based on level of risk,
- To reinstate / or revitalize the SOTP advisory committee,
- To seek elimination of lifetime supervision for non-revoked SSOSA completers.

A letter representing Dan K and WATSA was submitted to address a private request for the addresses of all registered sex offenders in WA state, including Level 1. This has implications beyond WA, and ATSA has been involved as well. An injunction has been placed on the woman from launching her website. How should ATSA / WATSA respond? Discussed a letter to the State Patrol. WA promoted the idea of community notification where it serves the public service. It could hurt that idea by diluting the effect of notification overall. Michael O and Dan Y will work to craft an official WATSA declaration.

Budget Committee

Treasurer Linda Paxton reports we currently have a solid bank account balance of approximately \$21,955.31. There is an additional \$10K deposited today from the recent infusion of membership dues and fees, and conference registration, etc.

Other Issues

Richard Packard was contacted by defense attorneys about a current bill being presented that would require SCC residents to participate in an evaluation with the DSHS evaluator before getting an outside evaluator. It also addresses a requirement to change through “treatment.” Paul Spizman worked to craft a letter on behalf of WATSA raising concerns about this proposal, and what actually constitutes “treatment” in forensic and other state institutions.

Agenda items for future meetings

Selection of members for the various committees now that new members have joined.