

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

BOARD MEETING
05.15.2015
11:30 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.

Attendees

B. Judd; M. O'Connell; L. Paxton; K. Rongen; L. Trifiletti; J. Landon; M. Pinedo; M. Saylor; P. Spizman; J. Wheeler

Absent

H. Coryell; M. Kirkpatrick; D. Knoepfler

Agenda

1. Wild Apricot is raising prices by \$20/ month. Pre-pay \$1080 for next two years of service? Will save \$480 by doing this.
2. Eastern Washington representative update
3. Invite defense attorneys and AG representative to a future meeting. Board meeting or general meeting? November meeting?
4. COSA meeting- Dan to represent self or WATSA?
5. Journey Ministries fundraiser
6. MVL- 11 rooms booked, 16 not booked. When to release un-booked rooms. Dan to check on who has made a reservation.
7. Malcolm Ross, from the SVP unit at the Attorney General's office was in attendance to open dialogue between the AG's office and WATSA to collaborate on future legislation.

Business Items

1. All in favor of pre-paying Wild Apricot for the next two years of service.
2. John Colson will be the interim Eastern Washington representative. This is an elected position and will be up for re-election in January 2016.
3. A group of defense attorneys is interested in attending WATSA meetings in the future and possibly having a joint meeting with the Attorney General's office in order to open up dialogue between the groups. P. Spizman will follow up to see if this would be most appropriate for a board meeting or a general meeting.
4. Currently, COSA is seeking a large amount of outside funding to begin running the program. They do not seem to be open to a grassroots effort by local clinicians because this may not be a sustainable option for the program. It is difficult to tell if they will be able to acquire the funding they are asking. It would be useful to get the DOC and Probation involved. J. Landon is involved as the DOC representative. The board is in favor of D. Knoepfler or M. O'Connell speaking on behalf of WATSA at the COSA meetings.
5. Journey Ministries is hosting a fundraiser to support housing, vocational training, etc. to Level III offenders transitioning into the community from DOC or SCC. For more information you can contact Tomackie Kim (tomackie.kim@kingcounty.gov).
6. Concern the retreat has not been publicized enough. More announcements to go out soon. There will be a BBQ on Friday night. WATSA will be hosting a hot dog bar with condiments and fixings. Please bring a side dish or salad to share. Rooms to be released on June 1st. Book your room before that date to get the special WATSA rate.
7. The motivation to invite Malcolm Ross to WATSA has been a lack of communication in the past on sex offender-relevant legislation. This became particularly apparent in regard to bill 1059. 1059 was born from complaints from Pierce County they are receiving too many Level II sex offenders. As such, the bill stipulates offenders must release to their county of origin unless there is a specific reason to divert them. 1059 is already on the Governor's desk to be signed and therefore a moot

point; however it would be ideal to collaborate early in the process as the bill is being drafted. WATSA members are comfortable with the bill as a whole, however a difference of opinion arises when it comes to defining “treatment.”

In drafting the bill, the AG’s office had three provisions (a) define “treatment” as sex offender-specific (b) the SVP client can retain their own expert, but it won’t be presented to the court unless the client also meets with an SCC evaluator (c) the client’s release trial will take the place of the annual review.

There has been a lot of controversy over the definition of treatment and what constitutes treatment. A few points were emphasized by Malcolm. (1) the SVP laws are primarily designed to protect the public and although they are in favor of successful treatment and reintegration, this is secondary to public safety (2) the constitution calls for period review of all SVP cases and this should be done at a minimum of once every three years. Washington is conservative and does an annual review. (3) treatment is not constitutionally mandated. *Kansas v. Hendricks* says treatment needs to be available, but that doesn’t mean the client needs to/ is able to participate. (4) between 2000 and 2005 a trend became apparent. Many clients would retain their original evaluator and the evaluator would use essentially the same report from their original trial. Nothing was accomplished and the system was being overloaded. (5) in 2005, the statute was changed and stated the client must show substantial change in their condition from participation in treatment or physiological state (i.e. stroke, etc.) to be considered for an LRA. The intention of this change in language was to reduce the burden on the court. Unfortunately, many requests for hearings flooded the court using different definitions of treatment. Many tried to argue that participation in religious rituals or simply being present in the treatment environment (i.e. milieu) was therapeutic and therefore constituted treatment. The question arose- is simply being present in the SCC milieu considered “treatment” and can this alone produce change? There is behavioral modification in place in the milieu. To date, no court has granted a trial based on the milieu argument and this has made its way up to higher courts. Malcolm stated the work load of the courts has increased 130% because of different definitions of “treatment.” There also seems to be a lack of consensus about what “treatment” is among SCC treatment providers and outside providers. Another discrepancy arises in regard to clients whose “mental abnormality” (that qualified them to be an SVP) is also a barrier to them receiving formal treatment. Does case management count as treatment if dynamic risk factors are being addressed? (6) Malcolm and WATSA agree that there is room for improvement in the SCC treatment program. Treatment can be used as an incentive to work toward release. Milieu therapy has some merit in that it allows clients a “real life scenario” to practice the skills they learn in formal treatment. ATSA guidelines for treatment will also be helpful. (7) WATSA would be in favor on consulting on legislation like this in the future to head off possible problems before they arise. Malcolm stated the AG’s office is willing and enthusiastic about collaboration. The SOPB will also be an important resource in this collaboration.

Program Committee–

Natalie Wilcox is committed to presenting at the 2016 conference. J. Wheeler and Christmas Covell have volunteered to present on Ethical Decision Making if the need for another presenter arises. Randy Otto was suggested as an ethics presenter for the 2018 conference. Consideration of doing a “victim impact” themed conference in 2019. M. Saylor will price and compare venues for the 2019 conference.

Additional upcoming training opportunities: None at this time.

Eastern WA chapter issues: None at this time.

Membership Committee – No update at this time.

Sex Offender Policy / Media Committee –

SSB 5870: per email from M. O’Connell

Email from Equal Rights Washington:

Some of you may have already heard, but very unfortunately, the bill to ban conversion therapy for minors ([SB 5870](#)) was killed Tuesday afternoon by the Senate Majority Coalition/Republicans. Senator Marko Liias attempted to add the bill to the schedule for consideration before the end of session, but in a “procedural” vote the Majority Coalition voted not to allow it on the schedule, essentially killing the bill.

Although we likely had our votes to pass the bill if it was brought for a vote on topic/substance, the Majority Coalition has been able to stay strong and maintain their hold on our State Government by voting together on what they call “procedural” votes. So although they didn’t technically vote on the bill itself, voting on whether or not the bill gets heard is/was considered procedural.

Good afternoon SOPB members,

This week, the Senate unanimously approved SSB 5154<<http://app.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/summary.aspx?bill=5154&year=2015>> - Concerning registered sex or kidnapping offenders. Section 16 (New Section) of the striker amendment (5154-S AMH GOOD JONC 054<<http://lawfilesexext.leg.wa.gov/biennium/2015-16/Pdf/Amendments/House/5154-S%20AMH%20GOOD%20JONC%20054.pdf>>) adopted by the House and approved by the Senate requires the SOPB to review and make findings and recommendations regarding the following:

- (a) Disclosure to the public of information compiled and submitted for the purposes of sex offender and kidnapping offender registries that is currently held by public agencies, including the relationship between chapter 42.56 RCW and RCW 4.24.550;
- (b) Any other best practices adopted by or under consideration in other states regarding public disclosure of information compiled and submitted for the purposes of sex offender and kidnapping offender registries;
- (c) Ability of registered sex offenders and kidnapping offenders to petition for review of their assigned risk level classification and whether such a review process should be conducted according to a uniform statewide standard; and
- (d) The guidelines established under RCW 4.24.5501 addressing sex offender community notification, including whether and how public access to the guidelines can be improved."

It goes on to state that the SOPB must report its findings on or before December 1, 2015.

This bill is dead at this point. The American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children (APSAC) has guidelines for treating juvenile offenders and they specify aversion and PPG are not to be used unless there is a specific rationale for it.

Budget Committee

Net income: \$4958.48

Profit from WATSA conference: \$2945.69

Other Issues:

Maureen has the continuing education certificates from the WATSA conference complete and will be sending them out soon.

Agenda items for future meetings