Michael O’Connell, Ph.D., MSW

Michael O’Connell’s introduction to social service work began in 1974, when he served as director of a Navy Correctional Center – i.e. the brig.  He got his MSW from the University of Washington, intending to continue his career in

correctional administration, but lost his way and ended up as a therapist doing inpatient substance abuse treatment.  He began a private practice in 1980.  In 1981, desperate for referrals, he began to work with sex offenders.  He

continues that work, today.  Along the way he earned a Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology at the University of Washington, including doing research on using polygraph testing with sex offenders.  He co-authored a book, “Working With Sex Offenders” which outlines standards of practice for community based treatment of sex offenders.

Megan Carter, Psy.D., ABPP

Dr. Carter graduated with her master’s degree in applied social psychology from Portland State University before completing a master’s degree in clinical psychology and a doctorate in clinical psychology, with an emphasis on forensics, at Pacific University in Forest Grove, Oregon. Throughout graduate school she was actively involved in both the Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers (ATSA) and the Oregon chapter of ATSA, serving on the board for both organizations. She completed a pre-doctoral internship at Western State Hospital and then a forensic post-doctoral fellowship through the University of Washington School of Medicine, Department of Psychiatry. She then accepted a position as a forensic evaluator at the Special Commitment Center (SCC), Washington's sexually violent predator facility. She has served on the internship committee for Western State Hospital's pre-doctoral internship for several years, providing supervision for trainees and several seminars each year on various topics related to forensic evaluations. In 2014, Dr. Carter became board certified with the American Board of Professional Psychology (ABPP) in forensic psychology. In addition to her work at the SCC, Dr. Carter maintains a small private practice focused on pre-trial evaluations and child welfare issues.

Amy Muth, Attorney At Law

Amy Muth is a Seattle criminal defense attorney who focuses her practice on representing those accused of sex offenses.  An experienced trial lawyer and negotiator, Amy has extensive sex offense policy experience as well; she has testified and/or reviewed numerous sex offense legislative bills, taught several CLEs, and written several amicus briefs on sex offense issues for WACDL, WDA, and ACLU.  She is a past WACDL president, a past recipient of the WDA President’s Award, and currently serves on the ACLU Legal Committee.  Amy is a 2001 graduate of Ohio State University College of Law.

Jill Levenson, Ph.D., LCSW

Dr. Levenson is a licensed clinical social worker with 30 years experience working with victims, survivors, and perpetrators of interpersonal violence, child maltreatment, and sexual abuse. She is a SAMHSA-trained expert in trauma-informed care (TIC), and has published extensively about adverse experiences (ACES) and TIC. Her groundbreaking research about the link between childhood adversity and adult criminality has paved the way for innovations in sexual offending rehabilitation programs that now utilize a trauma-informed framework.

She uses a scientist-practitioner model to inform both her research and her work with clients. She is a strong advocate for human rights and social justice, highlighting the need for trauma-informed care and primary prevention efforts that recognize the role of early adversity in the development of psychosocial problems and sexually abusive behavior. Jill has served on the board of directors of the Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers (ATSA) and sits on ATSA’s adult clinical treatment committee.

Thomas Graves, Ph.D., LPC

With over 20 years in the field, Dr. Graves currently runs a program for chronically mentally ill persons with sexual offending behaviors at an inpatient psychiatric facility in Pennsylvania. He also specializes in evaluation and treatment of sexual behavior problems in community-based individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. He earned a Ph.D. and M.Ed. in human sexuality from Widener University, and an M.S. in clinical psychology from Millersville University. He has authored book chapters and articles for the ATSA Forum, as well as presented at ATSA and chapter conferences. He created a first-of-its-kind therapeutic online video course for minor-attracted persons hosted by Udemy.com. He and his wife share their farm with six dogs, 35 chickens, eight ducks, seven sheep, and a herd of goats.

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***Presenters 2019***