

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

BOARD MEETING: VIRTUAL MEETING VIA GOTOMEETING PLATFORM

4.17.2020

10:30 A.M. –12:00 P.M.

Attendees

H. Coryell; L. Trifiletti; M. O'Connell; R. Beattay; M. Saylor; D. Yanisch; J. Palander; P. Hannon; P. Grant; M. Kokko; C. McNally; M. Reese

Absent

Agenda

1. The Board continued discussion of how we would like to utilize Andrea Piper-Wentland's (APW) lobbying services. D. Yanisch has volunteered to be the point person on this matter and had a discussion with APW about the next steps. WATSA's priorities include: tracking relevant bills and communicating them to the Board in a timely manner with the possibility of a monthly newsletter to WATSA membership; facilitate meetings with legislators; inviting members to testify and participate with legislators regarding relevant bills; etc. D. Yanisch will develop a more specific statement of work for the Board to review then a 6-8 months contract will be developed by APW and approved by the Board before proceeding.
2. The annual retreat has been cancelled due to the coronavirus. We are considering a hybrid in-person/ virtual retreat in the early Fall. More information will be forthcoming.

[DOC Update \(Minna Kokko & Cory McNally\)](#): Currently SOTAP treatment has been suspended in the community but they are accepting new clients. They are experimenting with virtual groups. A major concern is for clients who are releasing from prison who do not have housing as many houses are not taking new tenants. Some community treatment providers are not taking new clients but there are SOTPs who are continuing to take new clients. Treatment groups taking place inside institutions have been cut in half to allow for social distancing. Everyone in the meeting is required to wear a mask which has been difficult therapeutically. Most of the clinicians are tele-commuting but going to the institutions for groups. No testing is being conducted at this time. The feedback from clinical staff has been that it is difficult to be socially isolated and working from home.

[SCC Update \(Megan Reese\)](#): Currently all treatment groups are suspended. Six clinicians are on two week rotations on the island for crisis management. The impact of these changes is starting to be seen among residents. Staff is working to possibly post educational and/ or treatment-related material on community TVs. There have been no known COVID19 cases on island so far.

[Juvenile Rehabilitation Update \(Jedd Pelander\)](#): Community SOTPs are allowed to continue treatment via telehealth. They are reviewing the possibility of early release of juveniles who have passed their minimum sentence date. Juveniles who are being considered for early release must have a solid release plan. Of 45-60 cases, one is a sexual offender. There will be no new intakes in community facilities through the end of May.

[Eastern Washington Update \(Priscilla Hannon\)](#): The concerns brought forth by other providers were echoed.

Meetings

May 15th – Topic TBD via GoToMeeting virtual platform

Business Items

Program Committee– Suncadia agreed to a full refund of conference-related fees and deposits. We are working on a joint 2021 conference with the Oregon chapter of ATSA. A location is TBD but Skamania Lodge and Hood River Inn are possibilities.

Additional upcoming training opportunities: The SOTIPS/ ROSAC/ VASOR-2 training will be rescheduled for Spring 2021.

Membership Committee – N/A

Sex Offender Policy / Media Committee – The Sex Offender Policy Board (SOPB) has reconvened at the request of Senator Christine Rolfes, the head of the Ways and Means committee. Their first meeting was on April 17th and Brad Meryhew was voted in as Chair and Jedd Pelander as Vice Chair. Three sub-committees were formed including (1) Treatment Plans, Discharge Plans, and Conditions of Release to an LRA (Less Restrictive Alternative) (2) SCTF (Secure Community Treatment Facility) Siting and LRA Siting and (3) Community Notification for SCC Releases. Each sub-committee will write a report reflecting the current situation, relevant research, and recommendations for improvement. The sub-committee reports are due in mid-October and the final report will be submitted by December 1st. SOPB members and others may have an opportunity to present their position during the assembly. The SOPB will meet monthly with presentations at each meeting. The May meeting will include a presentation by defense attorneys on their position. People who are not SOPB members may join the sub-committees. If you are interested please contact SOPB Coordinator Leah Landon, Office of Financial Management at Leah.Landon@ofm.wa.gov.

Treasurer Report –The current balance is \$40,425.80. All refunds have been issued for the conference less \$10 for administrative fees.

Agenda items for future meetings

1. RSO study provided by Brad Meryhew
2. Chaperone training
3. Board member qualifications and expectations/ clarify when election should be sent out