

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

BOARD MEETING: VIRTUAL MEETING VIA GOTOMEETING PLATFORM

7.17.2020

10:30 A.M. –12:00 P.M.

Attendees

H. Coryell; L. Trifiletti; M. O'Connell; D. Yanisch; J. Palander; P. Hannon; M. Reese

Absent

M. Kokko; M. Saylor; C. McNally; R. Beattey; P. Grant

Agenda

1. The Board will be updating our chapter bylaws over the next few months. Included will be protocols for virtual meetings and an emphasis on online communication. We plan to revisit the bylaws on a consistent basis (every three years). R. Beattey is doing a first pass of the bylaws currently.

Page 12 of the bylaws mention an advisory board which is way to make official the participation on non-ATSA members on the board. These advisors are individuals who have special expertise that can inform board business, who are not ATSA members. J. Pelander, M. Kokko, and C. McNally are examples. There will be a motion next board meeting to vote on this.

2. The Sex Offender Civil Commitment Programs Network (SOCCPN) is looking to bridge their conference and the ATSA conference this October. There will be an option to register for SOCCPN when people register for ATSA and anyone is welcome to attend. Concerns have been raised about how to conduct sessions with consideration for international attendees who are in different time zones.
3. M. O'Connell volunteered to write a history of the WATSA chapter.
4. M. Reese was appointed to her board position. The position will be up for election after a two year term.

DOC Update (M. Reese): As of 7/16/20, DOC community-based treatment was approved to resume virtual sessions. There have been no changes to how treatment is being administered in the prisons. Staff is contingency planning in the event of a total lock down and which assignment clients can complete independently. As of 7/16 there were 17 COVID + inmates. All staff will be able to self-test soon for COVID and non-medical staff are being trained on how to administer tests.

SCC Update (D. Yanisch): A staff member tested positive for COVID a few days ago. That person was working on two units and both are in quarantine. There has been an increase in behavioral issues among residents, particularly residents on the high acuity unit. Annual reviews have been impacted because residents are not permitted to leave their units. They are working on the possibility of a private phone line on each unit. There is a focus on institutional issues like getting mail and food to the island.

Juvenile Rehabilitation Update (J. Pelander): A youth from one of the camps tested positive for COVID and he had recently been at another institution. They are contact tracing and planning on doing testing. Concerns were raised regarding false negatives on the testing.

Eastern Washington Update (P. Hannon): DOC community-based treatment is starting back up. P. Hannon indicated she is seeing clients in person, on a limited basis, with safety precautions in place. The Lincoln House will be opening soon which will provide housing to sexual offenders. The owner of the house is Kristi Hunziker, a former affiliate of Julie Crest.

Meetings

August 21st – Annual joint meeting with KCSARC

September 18-19th – Roger Wolfe Memorial Retreat

October – ATSA conference, no meeting

November 20th – Sam Louie to present on working with Asian clients with problematic sexual behaviors

December – no meeting

Business Items

Program Committee– The annual WATSA retreat will be held September 18th-19th. The Board voted unanimously to have the retreat be completely virtual. The cost will be \$75 and 9 CEUS will be offered. BJ O’Neal has committed to presenting a half day on juvenile sexual offender considerations and R. Beattley will facilitate a half day of round table discussion. The Board discussed programming for the remaining half day.

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. The date is tentatively February 26-28th, 2021.

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 formed three sub-committees 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.

The Community Notification subcommittee is prepared to submit their recommendations and some are already being implemented. The Treatment subcommittee is revisiting HB2851 that was submitted to the legislature last year. The bill died likely because of it’s large fiscal note. The bill gave more responsibility for LRAs to DOC and DSHS. The subcommittee plans to resubmit the bill. It has been convenient to allow defense attorneys to take the lead on LRAs because it makes financial and political sense, however not sharing the burden with other parties makes the process messy.

Lowell Porter made a presentation and it was helpful to understand issues from a data stand point. He broke the state into three regions and discussed the number of beds and providers needed for each.

There is an apparent contradiction in the RCWs- one section states the community must be notified within 30 days if an LRA moves in and a second section states LRAs must be released quickly after being granted the LRA. This has led to conflict with community members who felt they were not adequately warned about an LRA moving into their neighborhood.

Treasurer Report –The balance is \$42,670.24 with no outstanding debts.

Agenda items for future meetings

1. Update chapter bylaws
 - a. Training for new board members
 - b. Vote on advisory board
2. RSO study provided by Brad Meryhew
3. Chaperone training
4. Board member qualifications and expectations/ clarify when election should be sent out