



STATE OF WASHINGTON

**Sex Offender Policy Board**

*PO Box 40927 • Olympia, Washington 98504-0927*

*(360) 407-1050 • FAX (360) 407-1043*

MINUTES

**Sex Offender Policy Board**

**Administrative Office of the Courts**

**18000 International Blvd.**

**SeaTac, WA. 98188**

June 18, 2008

**ROLL CALL Members Present:**

Anmarie Aylward  
Ida Ballasiotes  
Dave Boerner  
Sheriff Mark Brown  
Brooke Burbank  
Jeri Costa  
Bev Emery  
Evelyn Larsen  
Brad Meryhew  
Dr. Henry Richards  
Kecia Rongen  
Maureen Saylor  
Mary Ellen Stone  
Rebecca Hendricks  
Andrea Piper

**Members Absent**

Russ Hauge  
John Koster  
Andrew E. Neiditz

**Staff Present**

Jean Soliz-Conklin  
Andi May  
Stevie Peterson

**Others Present:**

Joanna Arlow, Policy Director, Washington Association of Sheriff and Police Chiefs (WASPC); Shani Bauer, Counsel, Senate Human Services and Corrections Committee; Patricia Eilers, Citizen; Joe Hawe, US Marshal, Western Washington; Rebecca Hendricks, Association Washington Counties (AWC); Lonnie Johns-Brown, Washington Coalition of Sexual Assault Programs (WCSAP); Mike Kline, US Marshal, Eastern Washington; John Lane, Executive Policy, Office of the Governor; Patricia Layden, Citizen; Tom Layden, Citizen; Regina McDougall, Counsel, Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC); Jim Morishima, Counsel, House Human Services Committee; Bernard Ryan, Counsel, Senate Democratic Caucus; Jennifer Strus, Senior Counsel, Senate Human Services and Corrections Committee.

## **I. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Dave Boerner at 1:15 p.m. Dave explained that he was convening the first meeting as chair of the Sentencing Guidelines Commission in accordance with the statute.

## **II. INTRODUCTIONS**

The board members, staff and members of the public introduced themselves.

## **III. HISTORY OF THE SEX OFFENDER POLICY BOARD**

Jeri Costa, Chair of the WA State Indeterminate Sentencing Review Board (ISRB), gave a short history of the evolution of the concept of sex offender boards. The federal government created the Center for Sex Offender Management ([www.CSOM.org](http://www.CSOM.org)) in the Department of Justice in 1997 and several states have started boards as well. There are a variety of models. Some boards provide offender management and others just provide policy advice.

Sex offender experts first met in July of 2007 to discuss the idea of a Washington board, to reduce fragmentation and increase accountability not only for the offenders, but the systems too. Many topics were discussed at that first meeting, including communication, implementation of the new Adam Walsh Act and housing for sex offenders. The group acknowledged that many experts and workgroups exist in Washington, but they are not tied together. They identified a need to gather and bring information about best practices and noted that much can be learned from other states such as Pennsylvania and Colorado. The group recognized that sex offender work must be victim centered, with an emphasis on public education.

## **IV. SSB 6596 - REVIEW OF THE SEX OFFENDER POLICY BOARD LEGISLATION**

Jean Soliz-Conklin, Executive Director of the Sentencing Guidelines Commission, explained the legislative history of the bill (SSB 6596) which created Washington's new board. She reviewed the major aspects of the bill and explained that a workplan is due to the legislature in December.

In response to questions, Jean told the members that the legislature did not require everything to be done immediately and that the first workplan was called "initial". The legislation asks for annual updates to the workplan, anticipating an evolving process. The Board asked staff to develop a tool to assist them in the next meeting as they begin to put the duties in context and prioritize them.

Staff also promised to bring in a grid to the next meeting that will help them stagger the initial terms of the appointed members, in accordance with the legislation.

At the invitation of Chairman Boerner, U.S. Marshalls Joe Hawe and Mike Kline explained that they looked forward to working with the Board as it discusses implementation of the new federal Adam Walsh Act related to sex offender registration and notification. The US Marshall's Office is responsible for enforcement of the Act. The Board discussed pros and cons of the legislation, and Jean pointed out that the legislature has requested that the Board review the state's adult sex offender registration and notification system and report by December of 2009.

Adam Walsh plans are due in April of 2009, according to Jeri Costa, but extensions are being granted. Guidelines are not yet released. There was consensus that the discussions would take place in accordance with a workplan the Board would soon develop, and that an ad hoc committee may be formed for the purpose.

## V. BOARD MEMBER BACKGROUND

**Brooke Burbank (Office of the Attorney General)** is the Section Chair for the Sexually Violent Predator Unit. She mentioned that she is interested in offenders' ability to maintain stable housing and employment to reduce recidivism.

**Kecia Rongen (DSHS Juvenile Rehabilitation Administration)** Program Administrator for the Sexual Offender population, and told the group that juveniles were not treated much differently than adult sex offenders, recommending consideration of that as an issue for the Board.

**Ida Ballasiotes (Sentencing Guidelines Commission)** has been working as a victim's advocate since the Community Protection Act of 1990 and was a state representative for ten years.

**Brad Meryhew (Washington Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers)** is a criminal defense attorney who devotes 95% of his practice to sex offender issues. His priority is to help sex offenders succeed in their rehabilitation with housing, employment and tools to help lower recidivism.

**Rebecca Hendricks (Association of Washington Cities)** is the Victim Advocate for the Lakewood City Attorney's office. She explained that she was sitting in for Andrew Neiditz, the Lakewood City Manager, and that he was glad to be appointed to the Board because Lakewood has a significant population of sex offenders.

**Jeri Costa (Indeterminate Sentencing Review Board)** explained that she began working with sex offenses as a victim's advocate, and served as the executive director of Families and Friends of Violent Crime Victims before serving eight years in the state legislature. She became the Community Victim Liaison for the Department of Corrections before being appointed by the Governor to be Chair of the ISRB. She told the group that her focus is on all of the issues related to the needs of sex offenders and for community safety.

**Anmarie Aylward (Department of Corrections)** is in charge of the End of Sentence Review Board and the GPS Sex Offender Monitoring program at the Department of Corrections, where she has worked for twenty years. She said she hopes to take best practices information back to DOC.

**Maureen Saylor (Washington Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers)** is a private certified sex-offender-treatment provider and a psychiatric nurse who treats adolescents and adult sex offenders. She retired after thirty years of service at Western State Mental Hospital and says her Association is interested in safe and effective treatment.

**Sheriff Mark Brown (Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs)** told his colleagues that he has been the Sheriff of Island County for a year and a half, and has taken personal responsibility for the community meetings regarding sex offenders. He is concerned about the complexity of sex offender reentry, which includes issues such as housing, chemical dependency, mental illness and employment. He would put housing as a first priority.

**Andrea Piper (Washington Coalition of Sexual Assault Programs)** Andrea is the Interim Associate Director of WCSAP, which is a coalition of sexual assault programs. The coalition's focus is victim-centered and they will soon hire a new executive director.

**Bev Emery (Office of Crime Victims Advocacy)** is the director of the office and has been working in the sex offender response system for a long time. She is looking forward to bringing back a reasoned conversation about sex offenses to the public and the policymakers. She is also interested in the cost-benefit of sex offender response and additional funds to invest in victims of sexual assault.

**Mary Ellen Stone (Sentencing Guidelines Commission)** is the director of the King County Sexual Assault Resource Center. She told the board she is very proud of the work being done in this state. She sees the new Board as needing to take a broad view of the issues, using “on the ground” expertise and information.

**Dr. Henry Richards (DSHS Special Commitment Center)** is a clinical psychologist and Superintendent of the Special Commitment Center. He is interested in how the center can stop being a dead end for sex offenders, and how to open community places for them in a safe way.

## **VI. INTERIM BYLAWS**

Jean reviewed the interim bylaws for the Board, answering questions. The Board made no suggestions for changes at this time, but plans to discuss them again at the next meeting, after the Board is officially constituted. The Board was reminded that the bylaws were based on the Sentencing Guidelines Commission bylaws, in accordance with direction from SSB 6596. In addition, some of the bylaws are necessary to stay in compliance with state laws regarding open meetings. Jean advised them to adopt interim bylaws as a first act, which would then make their actions official and allow them to operate. An ad hoc bylaw subcommittee can later be constituted to revise them as needed.

## **VII. CHAIRPERSON**

The Board was asked how they wanted to approach electing a chair and a vice-chair (Article IV: Proposed Bylaws). Mary Ellen Stone suggested that the commission take a few moments at the beginning of the next meeting to discuss the role of the Board. Should it be seen as an agency-led group or as community-based? What about the role of criminal justice? The Board expressed consensus with that suggestion and agreed to postpone the election until after that discussion. Dave Boerner offered to continue the meeting (instead of adjourning it) so he could convene the next meeting as well, in compliance with the statute.

## **VIII. BUDGET**

Jean reviewed the FY 2009 budget with the board, explaining the Sentencing Guidelines Commissions’ role in staffing the Board and administering the budget. She pointed out that the SGC is donating space and equipment to allow for a higher salary level than was funded. The expertise and skills required to support the wide variety of duties of the board call for a well-paid professional. She cautioned the Board that travel and meeting money goes very quickly and showed them that had been allocated \$75,000 for contracted research or other services.

## **IX. STAFF HIRING**

The Board was informed that Andrea May was promoted from within SGC staff to serve as the administrative assistant for the Board. The remaining professional “program director” staff person is yet to be hired and Jean invited Board participation in the interview process. Volunteering were: Brooke Burbank, Kecia Rongen, Maureen Saylor, Mary Ellen Stone and Bev Emery. Jean told the group that Russ Hauge offered to assist as well. She said she was trying to get a timeline, as a new exempt position must be

created prior to hiring, and that can take time in state government. She will report at the next meeting, or call a teleconference of the committee if action is possible before then.

**X. 2008 NATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON SEX OFFENDER  
MANAGEMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY**

Jean explained that the SGC had reserved two slots for the meeting, which will take place in Baltimore July 30 and 31. One slot was reserved for Jeri Costa. She asked if other members would like to attend, reminding them that it was costly, but exactly the kind of expertise needed by the Board. Kecia and Maureen asked to go, and Lonnie Johns Brown asked that WCSAP receive support for a trip, noting they would let staff know who WCSAP wanted to send.

**XI. NEXT MEETING**

The board decided to set the next meeting from 1 to 4 p.m. on Monday, July 7<sup>th</sup>. Members generally supported using free facilities where possible and meeting in Seattle if necessary.

**XII. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was not adjourned, but continued until July 7, 2008, by Dave Boerner at 3:40 p.m.

**APPROVED AND ADOPTED BY THE SEX OFFENDER POLICY BOARD**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dave Boerner, Acting Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jean Soliz-Conklin

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

