



STATE OF WASHINGTON

**SEX OFFENDER POLICY BOARD**

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**Minutes**

**Sex Offender Policy Board**

**Registration and Notification Committee**

**Washington Assoc. of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs**

**3060 Willamette Drive N.E. Lacey, WA 98506**

**January 13, 2009**

**Members Present:**

Brad Meryhew  
Maureen Saylor  
Sheriff Mark Brown  
Kecia Rongen  
Jeri Costa  
Anmarie Aylward

**Staff Present:**

Jean Soliz-Conklin  
Andi May

**Others present:**

Dianna Ashlock, Department of Correction; Bob Conklin, Private Citizen; Michael Kahrs, Attorney; Lindsay Palmer, King County Sexual Assault Resource Center; Amy Pearson, Office of Crime victim Advocacy

**I. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

The meeting was call to order by the Chair Kecia Rongen called at 9:10 a.m.

**II. INTRODUCTIONS**

The Board members, staff and other interested parties introduced themselves.

**III. MOTION # 4 APPROVE THE NOVEMBER MINUTES**

**Moved:** Sheriff Mark Brown

**Second:** Brad Meryhew

**Passed:** Unanimously

**IV. WSIPP RESEARCH RELATED TO SEX OFFENDER REGISTRATION AND NOTIFICATION LAWS-WA STATE**

Moved until the next meeting.

**V. WSIPP Research Proposal-Roxanne Lieb**

Moved until the next meeting.

**VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Lindsay gave an update on what the Community Notification sub-committee has been working on and passed out a hand-out. The sub-committee has established key goals for the workgroup which include:

- Review state statutes on community notification and determine how WA State law compares or contracts with other states.
- Review information on the impact of AWA on Community Notification.
- Review research on community notification with a focus on intended and unintended impacts of community notification; in addition the impact on recidivism of sex offenses.
- Establish a list of gaps that exist between intention of law and outcome of community notification.
- Present potential improvements to community notification.
- Recommend possible legislative changes.

This spurred several areas of discussion for committee members, which included:

- Discrepancy among jurisdictions with leveling. An offender may be one level in one county and move to another county and may be raised or lowered based on the individual counties criteria. This remains an important area for our committee to examine.
- Guidelines for lowering levels. There may be offenders who have been in the community a number of years without any offense behavior who could benefit from their level being lowered. Some law enforcement agencies do have

guidelines for lowering levels and others are requesting assistance with developing those guidelines. Again, this is an important area for our committee to examine.

Kecia gave an update on the Juvenile sub-committee. The Juvenile members met via AccuConference on January 12<sup>th</sup> and recommended that we get a basic foundation of the updated research related to juvenile sexual offenders. We will then use that context as our basis for further research and recommendations.

The committee decided to combine our smaller sub committees into three instead of five. **There is now a Community Notification sub committee (Lindsey-Chair), Registration, Risk Assessment and Failure to Register have been combined into one (Brad-Chair) and Juveniles (Kecia-Chair) is the third.**

Sub committees will continue to meet via AccuConference and report back to the larger group each month on their progress.

#### **VII. AWA POSITION STATEMENT**

Kecia led a discussion on a draft AWA position statement for the committee to consider. There was a lot of discussion about the position, which was initially indicating WA State should state that we are in compliance because we meet the spirit of AWA with our current registration and community notification statutes.

After discussion, the committee recommended that we choose not to adopt AWA at this time. The Sex Offender Policy Board will continue its effort to improve our current processes surrounding registration and community notification laws for the state. This recommendation will be presented to the full Board on January 15<sup>th</sup> for further consideration.

#### **VIII. OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS**

Shannon, SGC staff was unavailable for this topic. She will update us on her research at our next meeting. Jean cautioned us to be mindful of the Open Public Meetings Act when we are scheduling our smaller phone conference meetings. It may be subject to public input depending on your agenda items.

#### **IX. SHANNON'S AVAILABILITY FOR THE COMMITTEE**

Shannon is a part-time employee of SGC and has a background as a lawyer. She is available for 10 hours per week to assist the Sex Offender Policy Board with any research needs they may have. This will be very helpful to our committee as we need various topics researched. Please talk to Jean and/or Kecia for requests.

#### **X. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned, by Kecia Rongen at 12:00 p.m.

**APPROVED AND ADOPTED BY THE REGISTRATION AND COMMUNITY NOTIFICATION COMMITTEE.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kecia Rongen, Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date