



STATE OF WASHINGTON
SEX OFFENDER POLICY BOARD
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MINUTES
Thursday, July 16, 2009
1:30 p.m. to 4 p.m.
Office of the Attorney General
800- 5th Ave. 20th FL
Seattle, WA 98104

Members Present

Vice Chair Andrea Piper
Brooke Burbank
Maureen Saylor
Jeri Costa
Mary Ellen Stone
Kecia Rongen
Brad Meryhew
Andrew Neiditz
Amy Pearson
Dianne Ashlock (for Anmarie Aylward)

Members Not Present

Ida Ballasiotes
Chair Russell Hauge
Lynda Ring-Erickson
Sheriff Mark Brown

Staff Present

Shoshana Kehoe-Ehlers
Shannon Hinchcliffe
Andi May

Others Present

Amy Pearson, Office of Crime Victims Advocacy; Lindsay Palmer, King County Sexual Assault Resource Ctr.; Lisa Johnson, King Co. Prosecuting Attorney's Office; Monica Reeves, DSHS-JRA; Terry Lee, University of Washington Division of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry; Shani Bauer, Senate Counsel; Sharon Harris, WATSA; and Rashad Morris, Senate Democratic Caucus

1. Call to Order

Vice-chair Andrea Piper called the meeting to order at 1:35p.m.

2. Introductions

3. Revise and Adopt Agenda

Agenda item #4, the Program Director's Report, was moved to the end of the agenda.

MOTION # 23: MOVE TO REVISE AND APPROVE AGENDA

Moved: Mary Ellen Stone

Seconded: Kecia Rongen

Passed: Unanimously

4. Approval of Minutes

MOTION # 24: MOTION TO APPROVE APRIL 16, 2009 MINUTES

Moved: Maureen Saylor

Seconded: Amy Pearson

Passed: Unanimously

5. Juvenile Adolescent Brain Development Presentation

Dr. Terry Lee

Dr. Terry Lee, from the University of Washington Child & Adolescent Psychiatry Residency Training Program presented on juvenile adolescent brain development.

Ms. Rongen introduced Dr. Lee by providing a background for the purpose of his presentation. This information will provide the foundation for the Registration and Notification Committee Juvenile Workgroup's recommendations to the Legislature this November 2009.

Dr. Lee provided a power-point presentation. Limited copies were available for the Board. He started his presentation by describing the stages of brain development. By age 6, the brain is 95% of the adult size, there is evolution throughout your lifespan. The brain peaks in size in early adolescence; the gray matter is the thinking part and the white matter is insulation.

During adolescence, gray matter begins pruning and becomes more efficient. Frontal lobes begin a period of growth and maturation around early adolescence. Myelin (white matter) increases throughout early adulthood. The frontal lobe is one of the last parts of the brain to develop. It does not stop developing until mid 20's (the reasoning part of your brain) planning, judgment, suppressing inappropriate social behavior.

The limbic system is involved with processing emotion and motivation. When it is fully developed it works with frontal lobes to help control behavior.

The differences between adults and juveniles when it comes to brain functioning are as follows:

- Adolescents do not read emotions as well as adults. Adults and juveniles use different parts of the brain when making this determination (juveniles do not use as much of their frontal lobe.)
- In juveniles the limbic system stands in for the frontal lobe. There are also neurotransmitters in the brain and dopamine. In juveniles, this system is not fully developed.
- There are shifting levels of dopamine, and it is the neurotransmitter that is connected to addictions and feeling rewarded. The neurotransmitters rev you up and are involved with many processes such as pleasure, problem solving, and others.
- Dopamine mediated “Reward Deficiency Syndrome.” This condition is similar to addiction and compulsive behavior in adults. Shortage of dopamine in the adolescent reward system develops because of migration to prefrontal cortex development. (*Dr. Lee’s presentation continued*)
- The differences include motivation, impulse control, judgment, delay of gratification, sexual arousal, inhibition, and resistance to peer influences. Dr. Lee also briefly addressed some gender differences.

Dr. Lee went onto identify the various disruptions that will impact typical brain development (this will generally be found to have occurred in high risk kids).

- Substance use, abuse, and dependence. (56% of males and 40% of females involved in juvenile justice system are affected by this.)
- Fetal exposure to drugs
- Traumatic brain injuries
- Family and social disruptions
- Stress, abuse, chronic fear and hunger.

Dr. Lee discussed how adolescents respond less to punishment and are more seeking of rewards. By age 16, individuals have a lot of your intellectual power that they will have as adults. However, this intellect does not yet correlate with the real world; the adolescent will be more impulsive and acquiesce to peer influences. Adolescents often do not think about the future or perceive risk well. They are intellectually capable but do not have the maturity to apply that intellect to make those decisions.

Under Roper v. Simmons (2005 U.S. Supreme Court), Justice Anthony Kennedy stated in his majority opinion that juveniles are more vulnerable or susceptible (than adults) to negative influences and outside pressures including peer influence.

Rehabilitation is important to increase the efficiency of the frontal lobe. Juveniles are very amenable to rehabilitation and treatment. Treatment for juveniles should address: emotional regulation, identifying feelings, and then substitute more skillful behavior for the impulsive reaction.

Dr. Lee will email his power-point presentation to Ms. Kehoe-Ehlers who will then forward it to anyone who would like a copy.

6. Committee Reports

The Committee chairs updates the Board on what their committees have accomplished during the last few months and where they are at in their work plans.

- **Registration and Notification Committee Report (*see handout, Status Report*)**

Committee Chair, Ms. Rongen, presented an update on this Committee. The committee has three workgroups working on specific issues. The committee in general has looked at several areas such as statute simplification, homelessness, juvenile considerations, relief of registration, and community notification. Last Tuesday at its regularly scheduled meeting, the committee heard some preliminary recommendations from the juvenile and community notification workgroups. These workgroups identified their values and goals and laid out the next steps for their work. This includes refining recommendations for presentation to the full committee. The committee will also hear from stakeholders during the next month. They will first meet with the Washington Association of Sheriff and Police Chiefs (WASPC) after the next committee meeting and then hear from a variety of stakeholders at the upcoming forum in Everett. Lindsay Palmer and Brad Meryhew each provided updates on the progress of their workgroups.

- **Sex Offenders in the Community Committee (SOC) Report**

Mr. Meryhew (on behalf of Committee Chair Mary Ellen Stone) gave the SOC Committee report. Ms. Kester, from WSU, presented her literature review report to this committee earlier this morning. She noted that there are not a lot of longitudinal studies to provide evidence for her report. She pointed to a comprehensive approach that Colorado has taken. She also stressed pre-release planning for successful models of transition. Public education is the number one thing that she stressed to be the most helpful method for successfully transitioning recently sex offenders into the community and assist them in obtaining housing.

- **Benchmarks Committee Report**

Mr. Meryhew (on behalf of Committee Chair Bev Emery) presented this report. We are supposed to look at the entire system, establish what it is and measure performance, which has been a large task. The Committee elected to start with re-entry and supervision. The Committee has been studying different sex offender management models as outlined by the CSOM materials. For example, Vermont starts assessment and re-entry planning the day a sex offender enters prison. Each sex offender is assigned a designated a release officer. The use of volunteers during the transition phase is critical; where people lack a personal support system, this volunteer transition phase can take the place of that system. In

Washington State, the focus of the CCO is that the sex offender complies with conditions. The cost is case management and offers an offender a progressive path to a different way of living. Colorado uses a restorative justice model and Texas uses a volunteer-based community re-integration model.

7. Future SOPB Meeting in Everett

The Board agreed to hold its August 2009 meeting in Everett. It will meet with various stakeholders from the sex offender management system in Everett, similar to the Yakima forum. The Board will decide upon a date and time within the next few days. It will most likely take place on August 20th, the same date as the already scheduled full Board for meeting.

8. Debriefing the SOPB Yakima Forum

The Board debriefed what took place at the SOPB Forum in Yakima on June 25, 2009. The Board reviewed a compilation of the notes taken during the three Forum sessions and a compilation of written comments Forum invitees. Members discussed different perceptions of overall concepts and issues from the forum. Overall, the comments were very positive. The Board went on to discuss how they want to integrate this information into their work. The Committee Chairs and Workgroup Chairs will take the comments back to the committees and workgroups.

9. Program Director's Report

- 2009 Legislative Bills Wrap-up – Ms. Kehoe-Ehlers provided an updated version of the summary of 2009 legislative session sex offender bills. There was not much additional information from the last legislative session update. There were two bills pending in April 2009 that passed and were subsequently signed by the Governor.
- Budget Update – Ms. Kehoe-Ehlers provided a brief update on the budget. The SGC and SOPB budget will be combined for the next biennium. The budget was reduced from the last biennium. This will most likely impact future research contracts.

10. New Business

There was no new business addressed.

11. Public Comment

There were no comments made by any members of the public

12. Adjournment

Vice Chair Piper adjourned the meeting at 3:58 p.m.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED BY THE SEX OFFENDER POLICY BOARD

Vice Chair Andrea Piper

Date

Shoshana Kehoe-Ehlers

Date