



STATE OF WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

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SEX OFFENDER POLICY BOARD

October 2, 2015 9:00am – 12:00pm
Criminal Justice Training Commission
19010 1st Avenue S, Room C-101
Burien, WA 98148

Members Present:

Kecia Rongen
Andrea Piper-Wentland
Brad Meryhew
Jeff Patnode
Dan Yanisch
Hon. James E Rogers
Keri Waterland
Julie Door
James McMahan (Jamie Yoder proxy)
Richard Torrance
Michael O'Connell

Members Absent:

Holly Coryell
Jonathan Meyer

Staff:

Keri-Anne Jetzer

Guests: Shannon Hinchliffe, SOPB Contractor; Candice Bock, AWC; Sandy Mullins, Governor's Policy Office.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Kecia Rongen called the meeting to order and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION #15-4: MOTION TO APPROVE MEETING MINUTES FROM AUGUST 27, 2015 WITH CHANGES

Moved: Andrea Piper-Wentland

Seconded: Michael O'Connell

Passed: Unanimously

Changes: Correct the misspelling of Judge Rogers name on page 2 and the misspelling of 'statute' on page 3.

III. FACT SHEET TOPICS

Chair Rongen referred to a request letter from the Governor's Policy Office and asked Keri-Anne to go over its intent. Keri-Anne explained that, at the last meeting, there was discussion about whether the Board should be working on items like fact sheets. This letter is an umbrella document that will allow the Board to do its work. The fact sheets are included in the bullets with the rest of the items pertaining to additional funding from a FFY 15 SORNA grant that will pay for a SOBP Coordinator position.

Sandy Mullins arrived at the meeting and provided background information related to the SORNA grant funding and the projects chosen for the Board and the Coordinator position related to SORNA compliance. She explained the letter was purposefully broad to allow the Board to recommend areas that would be worthy of more study, to use the expertise of the Board to suggest areas to be investigated instead of waiting for the legislature to come up with them.

Chair Rongen asked about the March due date. Sandy said that date was not in stone but that it would be good to have something SORNA-related by then.

Members decided to vote on fact sheet topics via email. Jamie Yoder commented that, related to the travel topic, when the forms are sent to the tracking task force, no information comes back so it is possible that offenders may be cleared to leave on this side but could be turned away at the border in another country. Regarding the basic registration requirements, she added that WASPC is updating a similar form at this time.

IV. DISCLOSING REGISTRY INFORMATION TO THE PUBLIC LITERATURE REVIEW PRESENTATION

Shannon Hinchcliffe presented to members the results of her review. She warned that the review may not be satisfying to them because there is so little information on public disclosure of registry information. She then reviewed the literature review document and commented on the articles that were found.

There was discussion about the November deadline for the report and whether that allowed the Board enough time to complete the assignment. Members suggested adding one more meeting in November and turning in the report after the December 1 due date.

There was discussion about the Offender Watch information that WSP has been releasing. If they provide a copy of the database, are they including level 1 offenders and other information? It is believed that they only provide 'front' data, information available on the registration sheet, in a spreadsheet-type of format for all leveled

offenders. Brad noted that WSP has admitted to providing this information to criminal history vendors.

Shannon added that one piece of literature she found indicates there is a cost to collateral consequences. It says that over-notification can turn into a criminogenic factor. She went on to note that public safety is the lens through which this policy has traditionally been viewed.

There was discussion about the connection between notification, registration and recidivism. Brad commented that there is a large body of work that finds that notification and registration do not reduce recidivism, including one study by the WSIPP. Richard also noted that research also indicates additional attention to low risk offenders can increase recidivism.

Members talked about the public disclosure perspective and the public safety perspective regarding the pending litigation of the Zink case. Chair Rongen informed members that Rowland Thompson, a media lobbyist, and Toby Nixon, President of the Washington Coalition of Open Government, were both invited to this meeting. Sandy mentioned the victims' component of the possible litigation outcome. She then suggested adding to the report any issues the Board was unable to flush out within the timeline given in case the legislature wants to learn more about the bigger picture.

Chair Rongen asked members if they were ready to make recommendations related to this issue. Members decided to take more time before making recommendations and discuss it at the next meeting.

Andrea Piper-Wentland said she could provide literature related to victims and public disclosure in order to have it included in the report. She offered to send the information to Shannon. For the next meeting Chair Rongen asked members to be prepared to talk about what other findings may want to be added to the report, to be talking to their constituents and writing down thoughts around the presentations by Shannon at the next meeting.

V. DISCUSS ASSIGNED RISK LEVEL AND RELIEF OF REGISTRATION AND UPDATE RISK LEVEL CLASSIFICATION SUBCOMMITTEE

Keri-Anne reminded members about the motion to create the subcommittee to create a recommended form. Keri-Anne informed the members that, if an extension is approved, the remaining funds from the FFY 14 SORNA will help pay for contract work that can help follow up on the recommendations in the report to the legislature. The question posed to the members was if the purpose held by the subcommittee (recommended form) could instead be completed by a contractor after the submission of the report.

Jeff added that having a contractor do the work would allow for more in-depth research to occur whereas the subcommittee members don't have the time or resources to be as thorough as a contractor would be.

MOTION #15-5: MOTION TO RESCIND MOTION 15-3 FROM THE AUGUST 27, 2015, MEETING

MOVED: Richard Torrance
SECONDED: Judge Rogers
PASSED: Passed; 1 opposed

Discussion: Brad Meryhew said he has already started and will continue collecting literature on the factors that are empirically supported for reducing risk.

Members discussed the idea of a state-wide uniform risk level classification request process and whether it should be a model policy. Chair Rongen thought the first thing would be to determine whether the Board agrees there should be a uniform state-wide process and from there work on developing the guidelines. At that point, the Board could have the discussion of where guidelines would live. Michael suggested first reviewing the literature to learn what studies have shown to work. Richard inquired what the reasons were for having the process different everywhere.

Shannon shared with members that, while we always want to base our policy decisions on research, because of the police discretion model used in this state, which is not like models used in most states, member will not find much research on the police discretion model used here. She went on to say the research will help but it likely won't lead to a policy decision.

Chair Rongen asked members what the next steps should be. Judge Rogers suggested looking at literature first. Brad offered to bring in a literature review for the next meeting. Candice Bock added that it would be helpful to know how the community is involved in a state-wide uniform process practiced in other states.

VI. OTHER BUSINESS

Chair Rongen asked Keri-Anne to review the upcoming scheduled meetings. Keri-Anne talked about the upcoming meetings and the due date to the OFM Communications unit to review the document before submission to the legislature.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

APPROVED AND ADOPTED BY THE SEX OFFENDER POLICY BOARD

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Chair Kecia Rongen

Date