



STATE OF WASHINGTON

**OFFICE OF FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT**

*Insurance Building, PO Box 43113 □ Olympia, Washington 98504-3113 □ (360) 902-0555*

**SEX OFFENDER POLICY BOARD**

January 22, 2016 9:00am – 1:00pm

Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs  
3060 Willamette Dr NE  
Lacey, WA 98516

Members Present:

Kecia Rongen  
Andrea Piper-Wentland  
Brad Meryhew  
Bonnie Glenn  
Keri Waterland  
Jonathan Meyer  
Michael O'Connell  
James McMahan (proxy Jamie Yoder)  
Daniel Yanisch  
Richard Torrance

Members Absent:

Holly Coryell  
Hon. James E Rogers  
Julie Door

Staff:

Keri-Anne Jetzer

Guests: Jeff Patnode, ISRB; Jamie Yoder, WASPC; Malcolm Ross, AGO; Jeff Landon, DOC; Marisa Ordonia, TeamChild; Jedd Pelander, DSHS-RA.

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

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

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION #16-1: MOTION TO APPROVE MEETING MINUTES FROM NOVEMBER 6, 2015**

**MOVED:** Andrea Piper-Wentland

**SECONDED:** Brad Meryhew

**PASSED:** Unanimously

### **III. PERSONNEL**

#### **a. Chair position**

Chair Rongen informed members that she will need to step down as the SOPB Chair due to her new role as the Director of the ISRB and that Jeff Patnode would be ISRB's representative on the SOPB. She asked members for nominations for SOPB Chair. Brad Meryhew nominated Keri Waterland and Keri accepted the nomination. There were no other nominations.

#### **MOTION #16-2: MOTION TO NOMINATE KERI WATERLAND AS SOPB CHAIR**

**MOVED:** Brad Meryhew

**SECONDED:** Michael O'Connell

**PASSED:** Unanimously

As Jeff is the ISRB representative, he will retain his position as Vice-Chair until the term expires in June 2016.

#### **b. Update on Coordinator position**

Keri-Anne informed members that Leah Fisher had been hired as the Coordinator and would be starting with OFM on February 1. She also briefed members on the SORNA grant duties the Coordinator will be working on in addition to working with the SOPB.

#### **c. Project contractor**

Keri-Anne reminded members that part of the 2014 SORNA funds will pay for a contractor to follow up on one of their recommendations in the December 2015 report. She described to members the two parts of the work to be completed by the contractor: the survey of county risk evaluation processes and the literature review of evidence-based risk evaluation practices.

She provided members with questions for the contractor to answer through their work but requested feedback from members for other questions. Members discussed information that would be beneficial for the contractor to find out. Keri-Anne said she would add the items discussed and send to members for another review.

### **IV. REVIEW OF FACT SHEETS**

Chair Rongen inquired where the fact sheets would be located. Keri-Anne said that they would be posted on the SOPB website and that she had received confirmation that there were funds for a limited printing of hard copies. Other than that, other agencies would be welcome to link to the SOPB website or download a copy and post on their own website.

Brad Meryhew offered to review the documents for legal accuracy. Several suggestions were made on the various fact sheets. Some members offered to provide

additional language for the sheets and Keri-Anne said she would send out an email outlining member assignments.

## **V. REVIEW OF LIVING DOCUMENT**

Members were asked to review the living document completed by the last contractor. Keri-Anne asked members if anything was missing or needed to be changed.

Bonnie Glenn suggested adding the mission or the guiding statute to the beginning of the document. Brad Meryhew suggested adding the 2007 Governor's discussion group that resulted in the creation of the SOPB. A few additional formatting suggestions were made. Members also agreed how wonderful it was to have this document available.

Jeff Patnode inquired if anyone has heard about any progress related to the public disclosure recommendation made by the SOPB in the December 2016 report. No one knew of any legislation related to it.

## **VI. GOVERNOR'S REQUEST - NEXT STEPS**

Chair Rongen started discussion on the items in the Governor's request letter.

Brad Meryhew mentioned that SORNA does not require registration for individuals under 14. That might one option where the state can become more compliant with SORNA.

Rick Torrance noted that NCJA has done a lot of work on what other states are doing in regard to SORNA compliance which could be a resource. Keri-Anne noted that there were also some SORNA non-compliant areas in Washington in the 2014 SORNA grant language. Chair Rongen suggested reviewing the SOPB's analysis of the Adam Walsh Act from several years ago.

Michael O'Connell offered a list of issues from the last ATSA meeting related to sexual offending that could advance the safety of the public through further study:

- Reconsideration of the statutory names of offenses. Titles should be for purpose of actual risk variables. Sexual Exploitation of a Child and Rape of a Child were the two statutory names that were examples.
- Put money in resources in addressing high risk offender vs low risk offenders. Examples included how SCC is being bled dry and how a great deal of law enforcement resources are being expended on internet stings.
- With more resources to SCC, that SCC should be a laboratory for trying out new things and not limiting it to cognitive behavioral therapy for people who have a range of issues, neurodevelopmental issues, iatrogenic responsivity issues, etc.
- Using Risk-Need-Responsivity as the foundational approach.

- SOPB meetings to be more widely reported and invite people to attend, participate and be more aware of what is being discussed.
- Undercharging some crimes, especially for Spanish-speaking defendants. An example was where someone was drunk, held a hostage, committed rape but was charged with a misdemeanor domestic violence.
- Top to bottom review of Chapter 71.09 RCW. It's 25 years old and was based on assumptions that were current at the time but may have been superseded by events.
- DOC supervision of people who are in secure community transition facilities. These people have up to two escorts following them around the community, plus their DOC supervision. When DOC supervision ends, they go from having lots of supervision down to no supervision at all. Perhaps the answer is to toll the supervision until after the transition.
- Funding and mandating training for DOC around sex offender supervision and management.
- Where and how accessible is the data that went into any of the SOPB reports, i.e. research articles, etc.?
- SCC - University connections and having it become a center of innovation
- Sovereign immunity and how it affects government agencies' risk tolerance for trying things.
- Chair Rongen said she would add lifetime supervision because the conditions for being put on lifetime supervision are not risk-based.
- Jeff Landon said he would add failure to register. The amount of resources DOC prioritizes for an offense that is not empirically based to sexual re-offense and might be related to a sex offense that occurred 15+ years ago.
- Michael O'Connell suggested reviewing prior SOPB reports that did not result in any changes and build on those.
- Keri Waterland talked about conflicting statutes.

Malcom Ross talked about how the litigation costs have exploded and the appeals have increased by 300% over the past few years as regards Chapter 71.09 RCW. An idea he had would be to make the statute more of an administrative process and based on the Lean model.

Members decided to meet on either Feb 4 or 5 so that the Coordinator would be present when plans are made to move forward. Keri-Anne will send a Doodle meeting request to find the best time and inform members.

**VII. OTHER BUSINESS**

Members briefed one another on legislative bills related to their respective agencies.

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

Members thanked Kecia for serving as chair for so many years and for her service to the SOPB.

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

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Chair Keri Waterland

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Date