



STATE OF WASHINGTON

**SEX OFFENDER POLICY BOARD**

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**Minutes**

**Sex Offender in the Community Committee Meeting**

**Office of the Attorney General**

**800- 5th Ave. 20th FL, Seattle, WA 98104**

**Thursday, June 18, 2009**

**2:00 p.m. to 4:30p.m.**

**Members Present**

Mary Ellen Stone  
Andrew Neiditz  
Anmarie Aylward  
Carey Sturgeon  
Brad Meryhew  
Amy Pearson

**Staff Present**

Shoshana Kehoe-Ehlers  
Andi May

**Others Present**

Patricia Layden, Private Citizen; Tom Layden, Private Citizen

**I. Call to Order**

Chair Mary Ellen Stone called the meeting to order at 2:10 p.m.

**II. Introductions**

Members, staff and interested parties introduced themselves.

**III. Revise and Adopt Agenda**

The order of the agenda items was changed and then adopted.

**IV. Approval of Minutes**

Three corrections were made to the minutes before the Committee moved to approve them.

- Correction: Senator Carrell's name misspelled.
- Correction: 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph, the word should be "mitigated", not "appealed".
- Carey Sturgeon was present at the May meeting.

**MOTION # 4 MOVED TO APPROVE THE MAY 2009 MINUTES WITH CORRECTIONS**

MOVED: Andrew Neiditz

SECOND: Kecia Rongen

PASSED: Unanimously

**V. WSU Preliminary Literature Review Report**

The Committee reviewed the preliminary findings of WSU's Literature Review. Kyra Kester, author of the report, will present her formal findings at the next meeting.

The Committee discussed several observations they made when reviewing the report. This also spurred discussion related to housing options for sex offenders.

- There is not a lot of research in this area.
- Stability and housing is relevant for recidivism but there have not been longitudinal or in depth studies looking this. The goal they set for evidence based information is very high. Cannot always rely on evidence based research.
- The study looks at whether or not residency restrictions enhance safety; does not appear to do so.
- The report does a good recitation of small, unique programs and projects. Many of the programs do not necessarily focus on sex offenders.
- Members agreed it would be helpful to list the housing programs that are working in the SOPB's 2009 Legislative report.

- Spokane has communities where education and prevention has successfully worked to get people involved in accepting sex offender housing. There has been great success where education and reentry has worked well when lead by grassroots organizations.
- There was a suggestion to learning more about how staff works with sex offenders in Lakewood. It appears from a supervision standpoint, that sex offenders living together have been effective.
- There was some discussion what this report demonstrates is that the research is not going to guide us entirely.
- If law enforcement could do more community education to calm the fears; that would help communities accept sex offenders moving into their neighborhoods.
- Services available for sex offenders when they transition from incarceration resulting from probation violations are much less than when the offender initially transitions into the community after the incarceration from their underlying sentence.

The Committee concluded that they will highlight the proven elements of good housing programs in the December 2009 Legislative Report. They will also include in the report the common practices in the housing programs identified in the WSU report, along with what the Committee hears from speakers and panelists.

They identified certain areas and points they would like WSU to expand on in their report if possible.

- Flesh out the programs that mentioned at the end of the report.
- Identify methods that significantly increase the housing options available for sex offenders. This is something that the Board hopes to hear in Yakima
- Review the 2008 Report on California Housing and Homelessness Report
- Would like information Iowa's appeal of sex offender residency restrictions.
- Discuss the public safety link between combating sex offender homelessness and keeping the community safety.

#### **VI. Discuss Plan for Committee's Session at SOPB Yakima Forum Issues:**

The Committee brainstormed what it would to address during its session at the SOPB Yakima Forum next week. This included:

- Housing;
- Victim Advocacy Issues;
- Prevention;
- What's working and what's not working; Barriers;

- How do law enforcement and victim advocacy work together?;
- Opening remarks from the panel;
- Describe the scope of the problem; and
- Identify the people in the audience and call them into the discussion.

## **VII. Finalize Committee Purpose Statement and Work plan**

After much discussion during the last two meetings, the Committee agreed on the following Committee Purpose Statement:

“To improve public safety by fostering successful reintegration of sex offenders into the community through public education and appropriate housing.”

### **MOTION # 5 MOVED TO APPROVE COMMITTEE PURPOSE STATEMENT**

MOVED: Andrew Neiditz

SECOND: Brad Meryhew

PASSED: Unanimously

## **VIII. Discuss Future Presenters**

The Committee decided at this time to hold off on scheduling presenters in light of the special August meeting in Lakewood and the tentatively scheduled half-day conference in October. The Committee also agreed that they would like to hear from the representation already on this Committee.

## **IX. Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

## **X. Adjournment**

Ms. Stone adjourned the meeting at 4:22 p.m.