

# Pre-Conference Seminar (II)

## **BUILDING & MAINTAINING LOCAL COLLABORATIVE TEAMS TO EFFECTIVELY MANAGE SEX OFFENDERS IN THE COMMUNITY**

*Presenter: Donna Reback, MSW, Social Policy Consultant*

### **Workshop Description**

This day-long, pre-conference workshop will focus on building local capacity to manage sex offenders living in the community through the development of collaborative sex offender management teams. The workshop content will:

- describe a clear set of steps and activities known to be most effective in organizing local sex offender management efforts
- address the importance of collaboration, discuss what true collaboration requires, and present methods and tools for building and strengthening collaborative efforts focused on reducing sexual victimization
- illustrate how the five fundamental principles of comprehensive sex offender management are best translated into policy and practice
- present and reflect on experiences from a wide range of state and local jurisdictions which have been supported by the Center for Sex Offender Management. Examples include, but are not limited to, describing efforts to build treatment capacity, share information between supervision agents and treatment providers, address victim concerns, conduct meaningful community notification, and educate the public.

The workshop will utilize lecture, group discussion, individual and small group exercises, and provide opportunities to become familiar with existing tools and resources intended to strengthen local collaborative sex offender management efforts. Participants are encouraged to bring and share specific situations, challenges and successes for group exploration and solution building. Hopefully we'll have fun together as we think creatively about how to do this very important work!

### **Learning Objectives**

At the end of this session participants will:

1. Understand the concrete steps and activities needed to implement the five fundamental principles of a comprehensive approach to managing sex offenders in the community
2. Identify ways to engage and maintain the participation of key stakeholders on a local sex offender management team
3. Become familiarized with policies and practices that should underlie a local approach to managing sex offenders in the community
4. Understand how a local sex offender management team can assess community strengths and gaps

5. Identify specific steps community teams can take to build needed, effective sex offender management supervision and treatment resources.
6. Identify activities local teams can use to educate the public
7. Know how to access and use tools and resources that support the implementation of an effective local sex offender management strategy
8. Walk away with a template for building a local approach to managing sex offenders in the community

### **Biography**

Donna Reback is a social policy consultant and a licensed clinical social worker who lives in Stowe, Vermont. Her professional career began in the 1970's when she worked as a VISTA Volunteer for the Vermont Department of Corrections, setting up volunteer programs in the Burlington Vermont probation and parole office. Her career path and training has led her to work in academic and mental health clinical settings, to lead long-term policy development projects funded by private foundations and public governmental and private non-profit agencies and to conduct research on criminal and juvenile justice issues, aging and disabilities services and mental and public health policies.

Over the past 23 years, Donna has used her group work skills to facilitate the efforts of more than 35 multi-disciplinary collaborative policy team around the country that have engaged in long-term efforts to achieve ambitious policy goals and reforms. Pertinent to this workshop, Donna worked with the Center for Sex Offender Management (CSOM) from its inception in 1997 to 2007 acting as site coordinator to a diverse group of states and local jurisdictions (including the State of New York, New York City and eight additional New York counties) that received technical assistance awards from CSOM. Donna helped each site build a collaborative, multi-disciplinary sex offender management team, analyze its current sex offender management policies and practices, identify and broker training to build the specific set of competencies needed to manage sex offenders and enhance community safety, and create a strategic implementation plan to guide ongoing work. Finally, Donna worked with CSOM to develop and deliver a Collaboration Training Curriculum to many of the sex offender management teams around the country working with CSOM.