

Workshop #15
FRIDAY, JUNE 12, 2009 – Session 4 (10:15-11:45)

**PROVIDING COMMUNITY EDUCATION ON SEX OFFENSES
THROUGH PANEL PRESENTATIONS**

Presenters

- Robin Braunstein, J.D., Division Director
OCO Inc., Services to Aid Families
- Annmarie Barnard, B.A. Public Justice, Victim Support Advocate
OCO Inc., Services to Aid Families

Audience

Pertains to adults and adolescents

Level

Intermediate

Learning Objectives

1. identifying stakeholders within individual communities
2. organizing panel presentations for community education on sex offender management and the sex offender registry

Workshop Narrative

In 2003, Oswego County's Probation Department received a grant from the Federal Bureau of Justice Assistance in order to enhance sex offender management. In 2006, all the federal grants ended but several components continued. The Probation Department has a Sex Offenses unit; Oswego County maintains a Sex Offenses Court; and subcommittee on the topic became part of the domestic violence and sexual assault Coalition of Oswego County (DVCOC). Panel presentations, including all of the players in the Sex Offenses Court, were developed in order to educate both the adults in the community and adolescents of high school age. The proposed workshop includes how to educate both adult and adolescent audiences on sex offender management and the consequences of being convicted of a sex offense. It will address the stakeholders necessary to provide these panels, which agencies are on the panel, and what each participant discusses. The workshop will also discuss what has and has not worked in the process of conducting these panels and review some of the frequently asked questions from the audiences. The proposed workshop presentation will be from a community and victim perspective.

Currently, two types of panels have been created. The first is a Town Hall panel which is focused on what "sex offender management" means, what the sex offender registry is, and how the Registry works. The second is a panel presentation to high school students with a focus on the impact that sex offense convictions have on an adolescent through their entire lives and how a case might come to the attention of law enforcement, even if both "victim and "perp" see their activity as consensual.