

THE ALLIANCE

THE ALLIANCE is a quarterly publication of the New York State Alliance of Sex Offender Service Providers (NYSASOSP) and the New York State Chapter of the Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers (NYSATSA.)

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Notes from the Presidents of NYSATSA and the Alliance

We hope everyone had a nice Holiday Season. The last few months have been a very trying time for everyone. The economic struggles of our nation and the fiscal difficulties facing New York State, 2009 certainly will present all of us a new set of challenges. The Boards of Directors of the NYSATSA and NYSASOSP have been trying to address budgetary concerns in our planning for the 2009 Conference.

At the last conference in Saratoga, the NYSATSA and Alliance Boards had voted to hold the 2009 conference in Niagara Falls. It has been a number of years since we have held the conference in the western part of the State. At the September, 2008 Board meeting it was clear that 2009 would be a difficult year for people to travel. In addition, in order to try to maintain a reasonable cost to arrange and attend the conference, it was decided that the professionals throughout NYS would be best served if the conference was held in a central location. In addition, since much of the conference planning is centralized in Albany and because last years conference was such a success it was decided that we would again hold the conference in Saratoga. The dates of the conference will be June 10-12, 2009. We hope everyone that attended last year's conference will make an effort to attend this year's conference. We also hope to see many new faces as our work to reduce victimization and rehabilitate the offenders should continue to be a high priority.

As in the past, we rely heavily on our membership to submit workshop proposals. Shortly we will be sending out the "Call for Papers" for the 2009 conference. We continue to look for a wide range of workshop topics to offer those who attend the conference. In addition, we are presently exploring appropriate keynote speakers for the conference. If anyone has any recommendations, please feel free to contact us.

We can be reached at klau@fordham.edu or richhamill@aol.com.

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New York State Alliance of Sex Offender Service Providers Has 20th Anniversary

By; Gary Hook

Identified service providers working with juvenile sex offenders in New York State were invited to a networking meeting on October 26, 1988 at St. Anne Institute in Albany at which time The New York State Alliance of Sex Offender Service Providers (NYSASOSP) was established. The meeting was sponsored by Marilyn Etcheverry, Director of Preventive Services for St. Anne's Institute, and Gary Hook, Adolescent Sex Offender Program Specialist for the New York State Division of Youth. The 26 attendees included Richard Hamill, PhD (current President of the Alliance) from St. Anne Institute Regional Sex Offender Program, Catherine Diana, LCSW (current Board member) from the LaSalle School, Terry Tamer, Department of Correctional Services, (former Board member) representatives from Orange County and Rockland County Probation Departments, representatives from the NYS Department of Correctional Services, the NYS Division for Youth, the NYS Department of Social Services, the NYS Police, the NYS Office of Mental Health, Berkshire Farm Center, People Against Sexual Abuse and the Brooklyn Sex Crimes Prosecuting Center. Consensus was reached on the critical need for training and a committee composed of Marilyn Etcheverry, Gary Hook, Terry Tamer and Kathy Zasloff was formed to develop a proposal for a training grant through the Children's Justice and Assistance Act.

Subsequently, a grant proposal was submitted and approved for \$30,000 in which the Alliance agreed to provide a four-day training on the assessment and treatment of sex offenders in three geographic areas of the state, to develop a state-wide directory of service providers and to sponsor a national conference on juvenile sexual

offending. In 1989 regional trainings were provided by state and national experts in the field of assessment and treatment of sex offenders and a state-wide service directory was developed and distributed. The Alliance in 1990 also sponsored the Fifth National Training Conference of the National Task Force on Juvenile Sex Offending, a function of the National Adolescent Perpetrator Network. The conference drew more than 600 participants from across the United States including Alaska and Hawaii and from Canada, England and the Netherlands.

Since then, the Alliance has sponsored and co-sponsored numerous regional trainings across the state by nationally and internationally recognized experts in the field of sex offender assessment, treatment, and supervision to enhance service providers' skills. In May 1996, the Alliance sponsored the first statewide annual conference for service providers working with child, juvenile and adult sexual abusers. It has continued this tradition and in May, 2008, the Alliance hosted its 13th annual statewide conference in Saratoga Springs.

The NYSASOSP identified its mission as: to reduce the level of victimization; to promote the increase, uniformity, and quality of assessment and treatment services for juvenile and adult sex offenders; to promote the development of a fully integrated continuum of services to sexual offenders; to promote legislation on issues and funding for programs impacting sex offenders and survivors; to promote offender accountability through restitution, mediation, treatment, supervision and incarceration; and to promote community safety through confinement of sex offenders not amenable to community-based services.

Continued on Page 3

Encourage your colleagues in the field to join NYSATSA or the NYS Alliance of Sex Offender Service Providers. Membership dues provide for a discount on conference fees and enables individuals to receive this publication. Inquiries can be made to www.nysatsa.com

NYSASOSP Celebrates 20th Anniversary

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Alliance members actively participated in the development of the Governor's Task Force on Rape, Sexual Assault and Child Sexual Abuse report submitted to Governor Mario Cuomo in April, 1990.

The Certificate of Incorporation for the New York State Alliance of Sex Offender Service Providers was filed on October 1, 1997. The Alliance supported the establishment of the New York State Chapter of the Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers.

Along with the NYS Chapter of ATSA, the Alliance supported the Capital District Center for Sex Offender Management planning grant through the Center for Sex Offender Management. In accord with its mission to support community safety, the Alliance has issued a number of position papers and has actively worked with the New York State legislature to educate legislators on the issues of sexual offender assessment, treatment and supervision. For example, Alliance and NYSATSA Board Members joined together to lobby the state legislature and Governor's Office when the Civil Commitment Laws were being considered. The Alliance continues to develop position papers on issues that affect children with sexual behavior problems, juvenile sexual abusers and sex offenders and victims of sexual abuse and sexual assault and to engage in additional activities that promote its mission.

The New York State Alliance of Sex Offender Service Providers celebrated its 20th anniversary in 2008. Happy Anniversary!

The U.S. Department of Justice announced improvements to the Dru Sjodin National Sex Offender Public Web site (NSOPW) and a new internet domain name, www.nsopw.gov. NSOPW is administered by the Office of Justice Programs' (OJP) Office of Sex Offender Sentencing, Monitoring, Apprehending, Registering, and Tracking (SMART). These changes were announced on the fifth anniversary of the disappearance of Dru Sjodin, a University student who was never seen again after she left her job.

DIVISION OF PROBATION AND CORRECTIONAL ALTERNATIVES ISSUES DRAFT SEX OFFENDER HOUSING GUIDELINES

Revisions to the Sex Offender Management Act resulted in a new chapter of the law that will go into effect on January 23, 2009. Part 365 states "Sex Offender Housing Procedural Guidelines" The DPCA draft lists Pre-Plea or Pre-Sentence Procedures; Supervision Procedures; and Interstate Transfer Procedures. In this draft, probation departments completing pre-sentence investigations are charged with investigating the defendant's residence or proposed residence for individuals charged with a "sexual assault" or otherwise deemed level 2 or level 3 sex offenders. Investigating officers are asked to consider if any known victims or potential victims (presence of persons under 18 years old) reside near or with the offender, as well as proximity to schools and entities with "vulnerable populations." "The probation department should summarize its findings and make a recommendation to the court as to the appropriateness of defendant's residence or proposed residence..."

This draft was sent to Probation Directors in New York State for comment. DPCA "will be working with probation departments in developing our emergency regulation in this area to ensure that they are fair and reasonable and consistent with the law's intended goal."

NYS ATSA/NYS Alliance Mission Statement

- To reduce the level of sexual victimization
- To promote the increase, uniformity, and quality of assessment and treatment services for juvenile and adult sexual offenders
- To promote the development of a fully integrated continuum of services for sexual offenders
- To promote legislation on issues and funding for programs impacting sex offenders and survivors
- To promote offender accountability through restitution, mediation, treatment, supervision and incarceration
- To promote community safety through the confinement of sex offenders not amenable to community-based treatment services.

Sex Offender Courts In New York State

By: Dominic Dispenza, LCSW-R

Seven counties in New York State have specialized Sex Offender Courts. (Erie, Kings, Oswego, Orange, Westchester, Nassau and Suffolk counties.) These courts were developed to provide optimal supervision and court response to sexual offenders. This process includes numerous stakeholders with a primary purpose of ensuring that sex offenders abide by the conditions of their probation as well as watching out for community safety. One of the benefits of such a specialized court is the development of standardized conditions of probation that sex offenders are expected to follow as a means to help themselves keep from committing another sexual offense.

The Sex Offender Courts were not developed with the intention of being similar to drug courts or other such treatment courts. For example, the Erie County Sex Offender Court (as well as others) has compliance hearings for individuals who have been found to be in violation of probation, but remain in the community. Some of these individuals may have had a brief incarceration or the addition of electronic home monitoring to their supervision by Probation as a result of the violation. Following their sentencing on the violation, these offenders remain in treatment, but under closer scrutiny of the Court via the compliance hearings. The court determines the frequency of these hearings and if any additional supervision and/or treatment interventions are necessary to help keep the offender from committing another offense.

Other individuals and agencies are brought into the supervision and recovery process for these offenders through the specialized sex offender courts. For example, treatment providers play an integral role in providing information about the offenders risk for offending, if and how he is lapsing in treatment, as well as recommendations that contribute to providing for community safety. Information from others, such as victim services providers, lawyers, polygraph examiners, and other criminal justice agencies can also be obtained by the Court for the purpose of sex offender oversight.

According to Alisa Klien of ATSA, "The Center for Court Innovation has been working for a few years now with New York State to develop and expand its network of county-based sex offender courts." She also noted that further information about this concept and the development of such courts, is available on line, such as those listed below.

Establishing a Model Court: A Case Study of the Oswego Sex Offense Court - By Juli Ana Grant - An in-depth look at the establishment of the first designated sex offense court in New York State. In partnership with the New York State Office of Court Administration, the Center for Court Innovation helped design the specialized sex offense court model to enhance the oversight of offenders and the provision of services to victims. http://www.courtinnovation.org/uploads/documents/a_case_study2.pdf

Sex Offense Courts: The Next Step in Community Management? - A close look at the development of the Sex Offense Court Model in New York State which promotes justice by providing a comprehensive approach to case resolution, increasing sex offender accountability, enhancing community safety and ensuring victim safety while protecting the rights of all litigants. http://www.courtinnovation.org/uploads/documents/Sexual_Assault_Report.pdf

And see the website of the Center for Court Innovation at:

<http://www.courtinnovation.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=page.viewPage&pageID=645&documentToPicID=40>

Ms Klien reported, "There are a number of other locations throughout the U.S. and Canada that have developed similar models of specialized sex offender courts." Possibly the newest one to come on board in New York State is in Tompkins County. This court is scheduled to open in 2009, according to an article by the Gannet News Service.

New York State Office of Sex Offender Management Survey of Sex Offender Assessment and Treatment Services

Ms. Jacqui C. Williams, Outreach and Training Director for the NY State Office of Sex Offender Management, Division of Criminal Justice Services reports that there is currently an important survey underway in New York State. Ms. Williams forwarded the following information.

The Office of Sex Offender Management at the NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services is collecting information on sex offender assessment and treatment services in New York State. We are now using an instrument on www.surveymonkey.com to gather and analyze information more easily. (Ms. Williams noted that the following link Does take people directly to the start page:

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=NQvT_2b9nSn1Lkt_2fpFglcHtw_3d_3d)

The information collected will be used to;

1. Create and maintain a NYS sex offender treatment provider directory for use by sex offender management and treatment related professionals. The information you provide will not be shared with the general public in any format.
2. Create a resource inventory for research purposes within OSOM. Data will only be presented in aggregate form.

You can choose to be included in the inventory for research purposes only or to be listed in the directory by clicking the related box on the survey.

We may contact you periodically for updates, but please feel free to contact us when information changes. We look forward to receiving your completed survey by January 15, 2009 and including you on the list of sex offender treatment providers in New York State.

Sue Martin
Research and Policy Unit
Office of Sex Offender Management

Osom.training@dcjs.state.ny.us

On-Line Training Opportunities

Ms. Williams also supplied the editor with valuable information for the readers of this publication to increase and enhance their awareness of offending issues and assessment modalities.

A new sexual violence applied research document has been posted to the VAWnet website: The Relationship Between Alcohol Consumption and Sexual Victimization by Jeanette Norris, VAWnet: The National Online Resource Center on Violence Against Women (December 2008) This Applied Research paper examines the relationship between alcohol and sexual victimization. The paper focuses on victims' experiences, including resistance during and psychological effects subsequent to alcohol-involved sexual assault incidents.

<http://new.vawnet.org/category/Documents.php?docid=1630>

PDF: http://new.vawnet.org/Assoc_Files_VAWnet/AR_AlcVictimization.pdf

HTML: http://new.vawnet.org/category/Main_Doc.php?docid=1630

Visit the new Static-99 website at <http://www.static99.org/training.html> to view the August 1, 2008 training on **Sex Offender Risk Assessment; Practical Application in *Community and Institutional Settings** with R. Karl Hanson, Ph.D and David Thornton, Ph.D. Drs. Hanson and Thornton are co-developers of the Static-99 and internationally known researchers on risk assessment and treatment of sex offenders.

Parts I and II featuring Drs. Hanson and Thornton cover the following segments;

- Emerging research in sex offender risk assessment
- Static-2002 research and how it differs from the Static-99
- Understanding why actuarial instruments don't all give the same results

Part III on Practical Application in Institutional Settings with Dr. Thornton covers;

- General Principles for Effective Treatment
- Choosing Treatment Targets

CALL FOR PRESENTERS 2009 Annual NYSATSA/NYSASOSP Conference

This year, the 2009 Annual NYSATSA/NYSASOSP Conference will be in Saratoga Springs, New York, June 10-12, 2009. This year's conference theme is: Sex Offender Management and Treatment in Financially Challenging Times.

The 2009 Annual Conference, hosted by New York State Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers (NYSATSA) and the New York State Alliance of Sex Offender Service Providers (NYSASOSP), is being held in Saratoga Springs, NY. The NYSATSA/NYSASOSP Conference provides an opportunity for participants to examine services involving shared leadership and resources, as well as programs and practices that influence emerging best practices. The Conference enables attendees to interact and network with leaders in the field of sex offender treatment, supervision, assessment, management, and victim advocacy. We are certain that all will benefit from this opportunity to share, learn, and strategize with others dedicated to improving sex offender management services in New York State.

We are now accepting presentation proposals that focus on services and practices that are innovative and creative. Guidelines: If you are interested in presenting a 90 minute workshop, please send the following information: (1) a narrative of 250 words or less describing your proposed workshop (indicate if your workshop is a panel presentation); (2) workshop title – 12 words or less; (3) a workshop summary of 75 words or less indicating at least two learning objectives or goals that will be addressed by your proposed workshop; (4) indicate whether topic is pertaining to adults, adolescents or a combination; (5) indicate workshop level – beginner, intermediate or advanced; (6) complete contact information for all proposed presenters (no more than 5 presenters in a panel presentation), including name, degree, title, department/affiliation, full address, phone, fax and email. Please note that the deadline for proposals is February 2, 2009.

Send completed proposals to Janalee Orfanides, NYSATSA/NYSASOSP Conference Planner, at janalee@stny.rr.com,

or by mail to:
Janalee Orfanides
Family Service Society, Inc.
280 Princeton Ave. Ext.
Corning NY 14830

Presenters will receive a notification of acceptance by February 27, 2009. NYSATSA/NYSASOSP offers a free registration fee to those chosen to present workshops. If you are submitting a proposal for a panel presentation, please indicate the lead presenter. The lead presenter will receive a free registration.

The Conference will be held at the Holiday Inn in Saratoga Springs, New York.

Conference brochure and registration information will be distributed soon. Information will also be available on www.nysatsa.com. Please direct conference-related questions to Janalee Orfanides at janalee@stny.rr.com.

New Juvenile Residential Program Opens

The Youth Services Academy (YES) has announced the opening of their "Open Staff-Secure Residential Facility." The program is located in western Pennsylvania in Mercer. The facility is equipped with sixteen individual rooms suitable to house male juvenile fire starters and sex offenders who are in need of rehabilitation. The program is based on cognitive strategies and incorporates a sociologic model. All of the employees partake in training relating to Normative Systems, Group Dynamics, Safe Medication Administration, and Behavioral Intervention. The staff consists of Counselors, Case Managers, and a Registered Nurse. The program also utilize the services of Psychiatrists and Psychologists.

Contact information: YES Academy, 740 Greenville Rd.; PO BOX 108, Mercer, PA 16137 1-866-648-9372. Email: yes4u@zoominternet.net

TREATMENT AND REENTRY PRACTICES FOR SEX OFFENDERS

The following text is quoted from Reagan Daly. *Treatment and Reentry Practices for Sex Offenders: An Overview of States*. New York: Vera Institute of Justice, 2008.

“Over the past 15 years, the response of the criminal justice system to people who have been convicted of a sex offense has become increasingly punitive, relying heavily on incarceration. Yet, a consequent increase in criminal justice costs has led some states to reconsider their response to sex offenders. Concerns about public safety and the protection of victims remain the primary focus, but many states have also invested in treatment and reentry programs as alternatives to incarceration for some people. Although the content and structure of treatment and reentry programs vary considerably from one jurisdiction to another, few if any resources provide criminal justice officials and policymakers an overview of these programs or a comparative assessment of their effectiveness. This report attempts to address these issues by providing an overview and analysis of existing treatment and reentry practices for sex offenders who are involved with the criminal justice system. It focuses, specifically, on four broad areas of practice: treatment in prison, treatment under community supervision, reentry programming, and community supervision. Interviews with state officials and treatment providers from 37 states that responded to our survey revealed several findings:

- In both prison and community settings, the treatment of sex offenders is generally grounded in evidence-based practices, especially cognitive-behavioral therapy. In general, treatment is much more available in the community than in institutional settings.
- In most of the participating states, community-based treatment for sex offenders is supported, at least in part, by collecting fees from those in treatment—a circumstance that may limit access to these programs.

- Standardized risk assessment tools such as the STATIC-99 are now widely used nationally in both prison and community-based treatment programs. Needs assessment tools, especially the ACUTE, are becoming more prevalent in community supervision.
- No reentry initiatives were found that specifically target sex offenders. Although eligible for general reentry programming in most states, people convicted of a sexual offense have few, if any, options for reentry programming that addresses their unique needs.
- Correctional institutions and community supervision agencies in most states share information about the case histories and treatment plans of sex offenders who are returning to the community from prison. Research suggests that this type of inter-agency communication can help reduce recidivism.
- In general, community supervision agencies manage risk and provide services. Research suggests that this is an effective approach to reducing recidivism.
- A limited number of states are conducting research on their own treatment, reentry, and supervision initiatives. Almost no studies have examined these programs from a cost-benefit perspective.”

This work contains an overview of the different Prison-Based and Community-Based Sex Offender Treatment Programs, as well as Reentry Programs. The Appendixes contain “State Overview Tables Of Community Supervision Practices” and “Individual State Templates.” “Recent Trends in Treatment, Reentry, and Community Supervision Practices” are also discussed.

The document in its entirety can be viewed online at:

http://www.vera.org/publication_pdf/treatment-reentry-appendices.pdf

**New York State Alliance of
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Note from the Editor :

Springer Publishing Company is pleased to announce the publication of: **Mandated Reporting of Child Abuse and Neglect: A Practical Guide for Social Workers by Kenneth Lau, LCSW; Kathryn Krase, JD, LCSW; and Richard H. Morse, LMSW**".

The book is described as "‘must have’ resource for practicing professionals and an invaluable teaching tool for social work students" by Keva M. Miller, PhD, LCSW, School of Social Work, Portland State University. Kudos to our NYSATSA President for this noteworthy accomplishment.

Wolverine Human Services, a COA accredited social service agency, has several clinical positions available in both the Saginaw and Vassar area. Interested applicants must have a Master's degree in a related field; psychology, counseling/therapy, MSW preferred. A minimum of two years experience working with youth offenders is preferred. An Equal Opportunity Employer.

Send resume to P.O. Box 188, Vassar, MI 48768
or
fax to 989-823-9235
or
email in MS Word format to thompsony@wolverinehs.org.

Building Connections: The Sexual Assault and Mental Health Project is " a collaboration between NY State Coalition Against Sexual Assault and the Mental Health Association of NY State."

The group recently published their newsletter with website recommendations. These include the following:

CMHS's National Center for Trauma-Informed Care (NCTIC) is a technical assistance center dedicated to building awareness of trauma-informed care and promoting the implementation of trauma-informed practices in programs and services. <http://mentalhealth.samhsa.gov/nctic>
Also: www.traumahealing.com
<http://www.theannainstitute.org>