

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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NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

Comments, Inquiries, and Articles can be sent to:

Dominic Dispenza, LCSWR
4985 Harlem Road
Amherst, New York 14226
(716) 625-9550

Or by email to:
dadispenza@gmail.com

General inquiries can be made to:
WWW.NYSATSA.COM

NYSATSA & NYSASOSP Fourteenth Annual Conference: Great Training & Well Attended

The Conference was held for the second straight year in Saratoga Springs. It was determined that this central location in the state would be the best location for the conference due to the economic downturn. Conference fees were also reduced from the previous year. The quality of the conference remained top notch due to the top level speakers who presented at the conference.

Despite the difficult economic times, the conference was well attended. Several different agencies were represented again this year, including local probation departments, several State agencies, as well as victim support groups.

The workshop for SIST service providers was overflowing with participants. Parole Officers and treatment providers alike met to learn from each other and discuss their challenges in working with the very high risk sex offenders who reside in the community. The keynote addresses provided motivation for all to continue their learning in this specialized field and not to rest on what we have already learned. New treatment paradigms and research findings were discussed. Although the "good lives" treatment paradigm was discussed, it was also noted that there is not sufficient research to validate this approach. The workshop "Understanding Treatment Models for Sexual Offenders" further elaborated on this approach as well as relapse prevention and others approaches to treatment. The workshop "Dynamic Supervision of Sexual Abusers" provided a wealth of information that can assist in making our communities safer. The presentation on "Sex Offense Court" by the Honorable James McCarthy and the Honorable Barbara Kahn brought forth information regarding how these courts operate in a fashion to promote community safety. It was a dynamic presentation that illustrated the difference in approaches between a large metropolitan county compared to a smaller more rural county. (This workshop will be further reported on by the editor later in this newsletter.)

The awards luncheon was enjoyable. (This year's awards recipient's are identified in the President's letter on page 3.) Despite the economic realities outside the conference, there was a jovial and friendly mood throughout the gathering. We look forward to our next conference in Syracuse in 2010!

Sex Offense Courts

This article was culled from the notes taken by the editor during this presentation at the 14th Annual Conference. Conference Presenters were the Honorable James McCarthy of Oswego County and the Honorable Barbara Kahn of Suffolk County. Both Judges discussed the workings of their courts and the multi-disciplinary efforts to promote community safety and the recovery process of the offenders before them.

Judge McCarthy stated that Oswego County had the first sex offender court in the state and that it is “an accountability court, not a treatment court.” The court enhances victim safety and community protection, holds the offender accountable, and enhances the coordination and communication between the court and stakeholders.

Judge McCarthy provided a handout for the audience that listed several of the issues that frequently arise in Sex Offense Courts. This handout provided references for court findings as they pertain to offenders. For example, the handout cites “People v. Whindelton” to support the court order that a sex offense defendant may not live with his mother and siblings. There may be a term of probation that the sex offender not have “sexually stimulating” media as determined by the probation officer in the case. There were 2 citations in Federal Court (2002 and in 2003) to support this finding. There were also rulings in support of prohibiting sex offenders on probation from viewing material that portrays “sexual conduct” or view nudity. One interesting citation, “people v. Brandon F.” indicated that the “Court ruled that the defendant provided no excuse for his failure to keep (write in) a journal (required as part of his treatment program) and his probation was properly revoked.” In U.S. v. McMillen, (2nd Circuit 2008), the Court approved the following terms as conditions of probation: May not frequent area where children are likely to congregate, “that he not have unsupervised contact with persons under 18 years of age” and “that he be prohibited from being on any school grounds, child care centers, playgrounds, parks, recreational facilities, or any area in which children are likely to congregate.

Second Court Ruling On Sex Offender Conditions of Probation

In 2006, a sex offender challenged his conditions of probation that imposed a mandatory polygraph testing condition, as well as a ban on direct and indirect contact with minors and a ban on using any computers with internet access. (See U.S. v. Johnson.)

In this case, the Court concluded that “polygraph testing can, and in this case does, further sentencing goals without excessive deprivation of liberty.” The court also observed the “therapeutic value of the tool.” The court also upheld the condition for no indirect or direct contact with minors.

The Court did vacate the absolute ban on Internet access, but upheld the absolute ban with respect to Johnson because “of the characteristics of the offender and the nature of his past offenses.” Interestingly, the Court found Johnson “was in denial about his risk of reoffending, had been less than truthful with his mental health care providers and with probation, and had acted in a secretive manner concerning his sexual activity.”

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.

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

Message from the Presidents of NYSATSA and the Alliance

As many of us are making plans to attend the upcoming ATSA Conference in Dallas, Texas this October, we would like to take the opportunity to comment on the success of the NYSATSA/Alliance 14th annual conference, "**Sex Offender Management and Treatment in Financially Challenging Times**," which was held on June 10-12, 2009 in Saratoga Springs, New York. Over 200 professionals from around the state attended this year's conference. For the second year in a row, the pre-conference workshops were highly successful. We would like to take the opportunity to thank Robert McGrath, Franca Cortoni, Donna Reback, and Allison Taylor for their professional presentations that were well received by all. The keynote speakers Robin Wilson and Stephen Huot were very informative and compelling. A special thanks to Hon. James W. McCarthy (Oswego County Sex Offense Court) and the Hon. Barbara Kahn (Suffolk County Sex Offense Court) for the presentation they made on the specialized NYS Sex Offender Courts. At this year's conference, we had 26 workshops and we would also like to take the opportunity to thank all those who made workshop presentations. Without their participation we could not have had a successful conference.

Each year NYSATSA/Alliance present awards to deserving professionals around the state. This year, the **Marilyn Etcheverry Award**, which is awarded to a person or agency which has instituted an innovative, exemplary program was awarded to Richard Miraglia, LCSW, Associate Commissioner NYS Office of Mental Health, Division of Forensic Services.

The **Fay Honey Knopp Award**, which is given to that individual who has been an exemplary model for some aspect of effective sex offender management, was awarded to Parole officer Ron Garrahan, NYS Division of Parole.

The **Award of Appreciation** was presented to Luke Martland, former director of the Office of Sex Offender Management.

This year was the first year that we hired a conference coordinator. Janalee Orfanides, training Institute Director from Family Services Society did a great job in organizing and arranging the conference. She was extremely helpful to this year's conference co-chairs, Naomi Freeman and Noel Thomas. For the second year in a row Naomi and Noel did a fantastic job in running the conference. We would also like to thank the members of NYSATSA/Alliance Boards for all the work they did at the conference.

Next year, we will be holding the 15th annual conference in Syracuse. Candice Cleveland and Catherine Diana have volunteered to be the co-chairs. We look forward to seeing you all the spring of 2010.

Kenneth J. Lau, LCSW	Richard Hamill, Ph.D.
President	President
NYSATSA	NYS Alliance

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NYS Office of Sex Offender Management Announces Training Opportunities

The following information was provided by Jacqui C. Williams, Outreach and Training Director, NYS Office of Sex Offender Management, Division of Criminal Justice Services.

1. OSOM support for NEARI online training. Announcements went out in July to be considered to take one of three online courses FREE through the New England Adolescent Research Institute - Understanding Children's Sexual Behaviors – From Natural and Healthy to Disturbed by **Toni Cavanagh Johnson, Ph.D.**, Stopping Sexual Abuse Through Intervention with Sexually Abusive Youth by **Steven M. Bengis, Ed.D**, L.C.S.W. or Current Practice for Treating Adolescents Who Have Sexually Abused by **David Prescott, L.I.C.S.W.** Continuing Education credits are available and must be paid for by participants. To request more information contact osom.training@dcjs.state.ny.us or to register go to http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=qRbQHOB_2bgvAPLAHK8EcalA_3d_3d

2. **Dana Anderson, Ph.D.** will be conducting one-day Static-99 training for mental health providers and probation officers September 8 – 11. Locations were not confirmed when the newsletter went to press so contact osom.training@dcjs.state.ny.us if you have not received a notice.

3. Treatment Provider Guidelines, Survey and Directory Copies of the 2008 Treatment Provider Guidelines were mailed in September 2008, distributed at OSOM trainings in 2008 and the first quarter of 2009. As you recall, the New York State Office of Sex Offender Management worked with representatives of the New York State Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers and the NYS Alliance of Sex Offender Service Providers, the New York State Coalition Against Sexual Assault, the Division of Parole, the Division of Probation and Correctional Alternatives, the Office of Mental Health, the Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities to recommend these guidelines for mental health professionals who provide treatment to adult sex offenders.

While not binding, nor a formal licensing or credentialing procedure, or intended to limit the discretion to select a treatment provider, they were developed to provide the courts, law enforcement, supervision agencies, and other treatment providers with minimum standards concerning education, experience and other relevant information in determining whether a provider is qualified to treat adult sex offenders or not.

Please see http://www.criminaljustice.state.ny.us/nsor/som_providerguidelines.htm for the three tiers of provider statuses and the general qualifications to attain them.

4. Two forms of surveys have been used to gather information on treatment providers around New York State for research purposes and to create a treatment provider directory. Some providers completed a hard copy form or telephone interview during 2008 while most responded to an online instrument at http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=F3QG08h3SDabY0e7SfVaq_3d_3d.

It takes ten to thirty minutes to complete the online survey depending on whether you are an individual practitioner or part of a large organization. It is strictly your decision to choose whether to make information provided available for courts, supervisory agencies and other treatment providers or to limit it for research purposes. Nothing will be posted online or published for the general public. The first posting was in June and a number of conference attendees provided information to be included plus alerted us to other practitioners in the area. A second updated version was posted to the eJusticeNY website in July and will be updated again in the fall. If you have questions about the survey in general or how to respond to certain questions, please contact (518) 457-5628 and ask for Jacqui C. Williams or Sue Martin.

Jacqui C. Williams, Outreach and Training Director
jacqui.williams@dcjs.state.ny.us
 518.485-7718

Efficacy of Sex Offender Treatment: A Brief Review

By; Dominic DiSpenza, LCSWR

During the 14th Annual Conference, there were workshops and discussions regarding treatment interventions with sex offenders. The strengths and limitations of these treatment strategies were also identified. This article is intended to provide information and references regarding this topic.

The starting point for this discussion rests with Janice Marques, California Department of Mental Health, who found that there is a "diversity of clients and programs in this field, outcome data are from a wide range of treatment programs that vary in approach, setting, intensity, and types of offenders treated."¹ Each study on the efficacy of treatment must be viewed within the framework of where are the subjects from (jail or community based programs), the differences between groups of offenders (eg: pedophiles and non-pedophile child molesters) how is recidivism defined, etc. These also vary in the different studies completed.

The Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers also weighs in on this subject. The ATSA publication "Facts About Sex Offenders" states that "sex offenders cannot be cured." An analogy is offered as follows: When adults get married, they do not stop being attracted to other people. They do stop acting on that attraction, because the way they think about the commitment of marriage helps them to control behavior." It is further stated that, "Recent, statistically sophisticated studies with extremely large combined samples have found that contemporary cognitive-behavioral treatment does help to reduce rates of sexual reoffending by as much as 40% (Hanson, Gordon, Harris, Marques, Murphy, Quinsey, & Seto, 2002)."

James Seager, et.al, found that treatment "Non-completers, those who refused treatment or dropped out, had 6 times the rate of sexual and violent reoffending relative to completers. Among those who completed the program, however, positive evaluations of treatment change, such as **quality of disclosure and enhanced victim empathy**, found in post treatment assessments did not correlate with recidivism." It is notable

that "completers did not differ in their rates of recidivism from pretreatment rates predicted by the Static 99."²

In 2008, Bourgon and Hanson³ reported on a meta-analysis of sex offender treatment programs. The authors pointed out the diversity of programs, study methodologies, and biases that contributed to "inconsistent" results. Of the 120 studies of sexual offender treatment, 23 were found to meet the minimal standard of quality of research design as identified in the CODC Guidelines.⁴ Regarding these 23 studies, the authors report, "Treatment quality was defined as the extent to which the treatments adhered to the principles of Risk, Need and Responsivity. In the accepted studies, there was a strong relationship between treatment quality and reductions in sexual recidivism among treated sexual offenders."

Looman, et.al.⁵, found that "...data reported on 89 sexual offenders treated at the Regional Treatment Centre (Ontario) and 89 untreated sexual offenders matched for pretreatment risk. The average time at risk was 9.9 years. It was found that the treated group had a sexual recidivism rate of 23.6%, whereas the untreated group had a sexual recidivism rate of 51.7% ($p < .0001$). The groups also differed significantly on nonsexual recidivism."

One treatment approach that was found to be effective is the "Risk-Need-Responsivity Model for Offender Assessment and Rehabilitation." (Bonta and Andrews, 2007.) According to these authors, the intervention is based on three principles: "1) the *risk principle* asserts that criminal behavior can be reliably predicted and that treatment should focus on the higher risk offenders; 2) the *need principle* highlights the importance of criminogenic needs in the design and delivery of treatment; and 3) the *responsivity principle* describes how the treatment can maximize the offender's ability to learn from a rehabilitative intervention by providing cognitive behavioral treatment and tailoring the intervention to the learning style, motivation, abilities and strengths of the offender." Continued on Pg 3 References

Professionals May Be Able to Identify High-Risk Adolescents

Editor's Note: The following is an abstract for the above referenced work by David Prescott, LICSW. (A nationally recognized expert in the field of sexual abuse assessment, treatment, management, and prevention, Mr. Prescott has published numerous articles and authored, edited, and co-edited books on risk assessment, interviewing, and providing residential treatment to youth. He is the President of ATSA and is currently the Clinical Director at the Minnesota Sex Offender Program in Moose Lake, Minnesota.)

This study looked at 12 juveniles in Wisconsin who were recommended by experts for commitment under Chapter 980, known as the Sexually Violent Person Commitments Act, but who ultimately were not committed. The purpose was to determine the accuracy of these assessments and risk for sexual re-offending for juvenile sexual offenders. The results found a rate of 42% sexual recidivism among these individuals, with a 5-year at-risk period. This figure is in contrast to the low rates of sexual recidivism reported in the general juvenile sexual research. This provides evidence that the capability to assess the risk in juvenile sexual re-offending may at times be higher than previously estimated. Implications of these unusual results are discussed.

Implications for Professionals

This study highlights a number of potential indicators of increased risk despite the absence. These indicators of risk include:

- Persistent sexual aggression (often despite detection),
- Persistent behavior problems, and
- An inability to complete treatment.

These simple "anchor points" can provide a foundation of questions that a risk-assessment can further explore.

Although the majority of adolescents who sexually abuse do not re-offend, some do. It is important that we continue to learn about the indicators of risk without assuming that these apply to most or all adolescents.

NEARI Academic Certificate Training

The Academic Certificate Program offers a ten-day training and certification to professionals working with sexually abusive children and youth.

A Collaborative Approach to Stop Sexual Harm by Youth

Joann Schladale, MS, LMFT
October 19 - October 30, 2009
Western Massachusetts

This Academic Certificate Program is committed to providing practical approaches based upon cutting-edge research and organized through the following assumptions and beliefs:

Successful community response requires a comprehensive, competency-based continuum of care that includes correctional facilities, residential treatment centers, group homes, alternative living settings, day treatment programs, outpatient and intensive home-based services.

New research findings and treatment techniques should guide diagnoses and treatment of sexually abusive youth.

Treatment requires an interdisciplinary approach that integrates the contributions of all affiliated professions and follows guidelines outlined in both the National Task Force Report on Juvenile Sexual Offending and by the Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers (ATSA).

The Academic Certificate Program provides intensive course work equivalent to a university curricula. In addition to 60 direct contact hours of training, the curriculum provides a competency-based process for evaluating clinical skills and abilities. Participants use textbooks representing current research in the field to facilitate their learning process.

For information, look on the NEARI website at www.neari.com/trainingcenter.

To register for this important program:
Contact Diane Langelier, NEARI Training Center Coordinator,
at 413-540-0712 x14 or e-mail to DCLinMA@aol.com.

Meet Your NYSATSA and NYSASOSP Board of Directors

Editor's Note: During the March 2009 meeting of the boards of directors for NYSATSA and NYSASOSP decided that we would randomly pick a board member to do a biography on. The editor randomly picked two names for this newsletter. This is a continuation of the series that began with the last newsletter.

Candace Cleveland, LCSW, CCCJS is the Choice/ACT Program Director which is operated by the Family Service Society, Inc. in Corning, New York. The Choice Program is a specialized sexual abuse treatment program that provides treatment for children who have been sexually abused, their family members, and adolescent and adult sex offenders. Ms. Cleveland is also the ACT Program Director. The ACT Program provides psycho educational services to men who are domestically violent to their partners.

Ms. Cleveland is a licensed clinical social worker who has been working in New York State since 1988. Ms. Cleveland has specialized in the assessment and treatment of adolescent and adult sexual offenders since 1989 and provides clinical supervision to program therapists who provide treatment to victims and their families. Her experience includes consultation with other counties/agencies to help them develop treatment programs and multi-disciplinary teams that focus on the investigation of sexual abuse. I am a member of the Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers (ATSA) and a Certified Clinical Criminal Justice Specialist (CCCJS) under the National Association of Forensic Counselors.

Ms. Cleveland has already taken the lead in the past for putting on a wonderful NYSATSA and NYSASOSP Conference in Corning in the past. She is already hard at work (with Catherine Diana, another board member) planning our next conference, which will be in Syracuse, NY.

Ms. Candace Cleveland, LCSW, CCCJS
Family Service Society Inc.
Corning, NY 14830
607-962-3148

Jennifer A. McCarthy, is the Assistant Director and Coordinator of the Sex Offender Treatment Program at The New York Center for Neuropsychology & Forensic Behavioral Science ("New York Forensic"). She has a Masters Degree in Forensic Psychology from John Jay College of Criminal Justice, is currently completing her Ph.D. at John Jay and is also an adjunct professor at John Jay.

Ms. McCarthy has evaluated and treated sex offenders for the past twelve years (both in prison and in the community). She has conducted training workshops in the management of sex offenders for various criminal justice agencies on both Federal and State levels and has also presented nationally and internationally on the issue of sex offenders/sex offending from both a psychological and criminological perspective. Moreover, Ms. McCarthy has published multiple articles on sex offenders and their behavior (with particular focus on Internet sex offenders), as well as the legislative/criminal justice response to this class of offender.

Ms. McCarthy's research in the field of sex offenders has focused on various issues including the impact of SSRI's on sex offending behavior; the development of the Sexual Aggression Severity Inventory-Rater Form (SASI-R), a scale used to classify sexually aggressive deviancy along a continuum of severity and examination of the cognitive-behavioral dimensions associated with the sex offender (in conjunction with Allegheny University); and the nature and scope of child sexual abuse in the Catholic Church (in conjunction with John Jay College).

Jennifer A. McCarthy, M.A., LMHC
Assistant Director
New York Forensic
26 Court Street
Suite 912
Brooklyn, NY 11242
Tel: 347-661-9002
Email: jmccarthy@jjay.cuny.edu

**New York State Alliance of
Sex Offender Service Providers**

**New York State Association for the
Treatment of Sexual Offenders**

**P.O. Box 3115
Albany, New York 12203-3115**

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Training Video Available

The video of **Sex Offender Risk Assessment; Practical Application in Community and Institutional Settings** with R. Karl Hanson, Ph.D and David Thornton, Ph.D. is still available on the Static 99 website www.static99.org. It may have to be removed the end of August since it is not closed captioned. if you would like electronic copies of the presentation and/or resources, contact

osom.training@dcjs.state.ny.us

OSOM Training News

Spring training update: During March 2009, 8 trainings were held in 7 different locations around New York State reaching nearly 700 attendees. Georgia Cumming addressed primarily probation officers on Managing Sex Offenders in the Community in New York City and Hudson while David Prescott, LICSW and Steven Bengis, Ed. D. addressed mostly treatment providers and others who work with Juveniles who Sexually Offend in Owego, Lockport, New York City and Poughkeepsie. If you were not able to attend these sessions and would like to see and/or download the presentation slides and resources, go to www.criminaljustice.state.ny.us/nsor/training/march09.htm.

ATSA's 28th Annual Research and Treatment Conference

**Preventing Sexual Abuse:
New Frontiers in the Management and Treatment of Sexual Abusers**

September 30 – October 3, 2009
Hilton Anatole
Dallas, Texas

ADOLESCENT and ADULT
Tracks

[Adolescent Track \(12 hours total\)](#)
[Adult Track \(12 hours total\)](#)

For more information and to Register:
<http://www.atsa.com/conf.html>