

Office of Sex Offender Sentencing, Monitoring, Apprehending,
Registering, and Tracking (SMART)
FY 2010 Comprehensive Approaches to Sex Offender Management Newsletter
June 2011

The FY2010 CASOM Sites

Meet your fellow *Comprehensive Approaches to Sex Offender Management* (CASOM) grant sites! A total of 13 sites from around the country were invited by the SMART Office to participate in the 2010 CASOM program. As part of this initiative, sites will be provided with ongoing technical assistance from the Center for Sex Offender Management (CSOM) in support of reaching their project goals. A brief summary of each of the sites and their intended focus is provided below.

Part A/Tribal Grantees

Part A grantees have been awarded funding in support of the demonstration program to implement the Comprehensive Approach model of managing released sex offenders. Part A of this grant is being administered in two phases. Phase I is the assessment and planning phase and Phase II is the implementation phase. Phase I is designed to examine the jurisdiction's current approach to managing sex offenders; identify existing resources and programs that can be utilized to implement the Comprehensive Approach model; and assess existing gaps and needs that must be addressed in order to implement this model. Phase II involves implementing the proposed strategy developed in Phase I to implement the Comprehensive Approach model. Phase II also includes designing and implementing a monitoring and evaluation plan to document the strategies implemented and their outcomes, as well as developing or enhancing the capacity for ongoing information collection and analysis beyond the grant period.

Quinault Indian Nation

The vision of the Quinault Indian Nation is to establish a sex offender management system that, through multidisciplinary partnerships, incorporates evidence-based practices for both juvenile and adult sex offenders. The stated goals are to:

- Empower and restore victims of sexual assault;
- Hold offenders accountable;
- Reduce recidivism and future victimization; and
- Implement a comprehensive sex offender management system.

The intent of the Quinault Indian Nation is to adopt the Comprehensive Approach to Sex Offender Management (CASOM) model.

Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians

The Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians (TMBCI) aim to educate their members about the Comprehensive Approach to Sex Offender Management, with a particular focus on the investigation, prosecution, registration, and notification processes involving sex offenders.

Part B Grantees

Part B of the CASOM grant program supports enhancements to existing approaches to managing released sex offenders. Funds under this category have been authorized to address a jurisdiction's identified need or to implement a new or innovative strategy that has implications for other communities. Under this category of funding of CASOM, applicants were asked to demonstrate that

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their current sex offender management approach is inclusive of the following principles: victim-centeredness; specialized knowledge and training; public education; monitoring and evaluation; and collaboration. Part B grantees have also been asked to implement and develop a monitoring and evaluation plan to document the strategies implemented and their outcomes.

Multnomah County, Oregon

The overarching goal of this grant project – which is focused on juvenile sex offender management – is to enhance the current policies and practices of the Juvenile Sex Offender Probation Services Unit (JSOPS) in the Juvenile Services Division of the Multnomah County Department of Adult and Community Justice. More specifically, the key objectives are to:

- Re-examine current operations within the context of the Comprehensive Approach to Sex Offender Management (CASOM) model;
- Enhance/develop written policies and procedures to promote alignment with research-supported and promising practices;
- Coordinate the design and delivery of a training plan to support and enhance specialized knowledge about juvenile sex offenders and contemporary management strategies among a range of system actors with a role in managing this population;
- Increase public education efforts by offering trainings for community members;

- Support and maintain multidisciplinary, collaborative case management practices; and
- Monitor the Division's compliance with SORNA requirements, should legislative/statutory provisions in the State of Oregon be modified to support substantial implementation of SORNA.

Delaware

The overarching goal of the project is to improve public safety by reducing recidivism and decreasing victimization in Delaware by enhancing sex offender reentry efforts. More specifically, key objectives are to:

- Provide specialized post-release case management services to equip sex offenders with skills and tools needed to support stability in the community,
- Provide specialized transitional housing opportunities for sex offenders, thus establishing a continuum of custody, care, and control for offenders; and
- Establish a more formalized protocol across agencies to promote collaborative management practices as sex offenders transition from prison to the community.

Georgia

Georgia is entering into a collaborative partnership with non-profit organizations to provide treatment, employment assistance, and case management and housing services to approximately 60 sex offenders over a two-

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year period. Training will also be provided to sex offender mentors who will be involved in the project. The grant will focus specifically on sex offenders who have been granted parole but remain in prison because they do not have an approved home plan. Offenders will be evaluated using the COMPAS Risk and Needs Assessment tool prior to being placed in the program. A final report outlining the impact of the program will ultimately be generated.

Indiana

The stated goals of this grant project are to increase victim and community safety by improving the public's access to and understanding of sex offender management information, increasing awareness of community, victim, and parenting resources, and providing information to children to increase awareness and promote prevention. To that end, the following key objectives have been outlined:

- Educational initiatives focused on adults will be accomplished through the development and implementation of a twelve-part series of community-based information/discussion forums led by local subject matter experts; and
- For children, a local victim advocacy non-profit organization will be contracted with to provide elementary and junior high students with evidence-based sexual violence awareness and prevention programming.

The project expects to reach 1,200 adults and 2,400 children.

Montgomery County, Pennsylvania

The overarching goals of this initiative are to enhance reentry and victim-centeredness in the sex offender management system in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania.

Examples of key objectives are to:

- Increase the use of specialized assessments to guide case management decisions at multiple points in the system;
- Reduce the number of violations and technical revocations of sex offenders released to the community;
- Decrease the number of parole delays for sex offenders that result from the lack of suitable housing options;
- Decrease delays in accessing sex offender-specific treatment following release to the community;
- Increase opportunities for victims to have a voice in parole processes and case management practices with sex offenders; and
- Increase the engagement of victim advocates and service providers in training and educational events pertaining to contemporary, research-supported and promising sex offender management approaches, and to support a common foundation of specialized awareness/knowledge among the range of system actors.

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Nebraska

The overarching goals of this grant project are to develop a comprehensive, evidence-based, multidisciplinary collaborative sex offender management system in the State of Nebraska; maintain accountability through appropriate assessment, evidence-based treatment, enhanced monitoring and supervision; and enhance community safety. Examples of specific objectives for the project include the following:

- Establishing a multi-disciplinary sex offender management team;
- Incorporating the use of polygraph examinations;
- Developing a graduated or “step-down” approach for supervision and management (i.e., a more assessment-driven approach);
- Incorporating a more victim-centered approach; and
- Providing specialized training for clinical and non-clinical staff and community service providers on contemporary sex offender management practices, with a particular focus on offender reentry issues.

New York

The overarching goal of this grant project is to assess, enhance, and implement best practices in New York State regarding the community supervision of juveniles who sexually offend. To that end, the following primary objectives have been established:

- Assess and examine existing juvenile sex offender management practices in probation departments across New York State through a formal survey and focus group discussions;
- Develop, in collaboration with local probation departments, a comprehensive practitioner guidance resource manual for probation supervision of juvenile sex offenders; and
- Provide juvenile sex offender management skill-building trainings in three topic areas to probation officers statewide.

Palm Beach County, Florida

The Palm Beach County Sheriff’s Office is currently managing 890 sex offenders, both juvenile and adult, in their Sexual Predator and Offender Tracking (SPOT) Unit. The overarching goal of this grant project is to promote a more comprehensive, multi-disciplinary, and effective approach to sex offender management. To that end, key objectives for the project include:

- Establishing a multidisciplinary sex offender management team in Palm Beach County;
- Classifying sex offenders based on assessed level of risk and adopting a risk-based approach to supervision and monitoring;
- Training additional road patrol deputies as liaisons on sex offender registration laws;
- Engaging additional law enforcement agencies to standardize registration protocols;

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- Linking sex offenders to reentry services and treatment programming to enhance the reintegration of offenders into the community post-release from incarceration; and
- Conducting public education events, and developing an informational brochure for public education purposes.

Rhode Island

The goal of this grant project is to enhance policies and practices for a special population of sex offenders – the subset of adolescents/young adults (age 16-25) who are currently under probation and parole supervision in the adult correctional/criminal justice system in Rhode Island. More specifically, the objectives are to:

- Improve information-sharing and communication between the juvenile and adult systems with respect to these cases;
- Enhance knowledge and skills of probation and parole officers regarding the effective supervision of this population;
- Identify and adopt an appropriate specialized risk/needs tool(s) to be used to guide case management decisions;
- Facilitate the provision of treatment tailored to this target population and their families;
- Enhance advocacy and support services to the families of these offenders, particularly in those cases where the victim is a family member or otherwise living in the home; and

- Create a resource guide regarding key management issues and strategies for this population.

Washington County, Oregon

The overarching goal of this grant project is to facilitate the successful transition of sex offenders from correctional facilities to the community through an innovative and novel transition program in Washington County, Oregon. The project builds upon an existing model program in Washington County that is designed to support reentry for a specialized target population of incarcerated individuals in recovery.

Through the expansion of the model to serve a defined population of sex offenders, mentors (who are sex offenders themselves) will support the transition and stabilization of sex offenders in the Washington County Community Corrections Center by facilitating linkages to housing, employment, and treatment resources;; helping to facilitate/identify appropriate leisure activities; having a “chaperone” role; and serving as a member of the case management team. Other objectives include:

- Maintaining and potentially expanding the existing multidisciplinary sex offender management team;
- Critically analyzing the existing transition program for recovering offenders to identify areas that need to be modified to address sex offender specific issues;

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- Establishing criteria to identify appropriate mentor candidates;
- Delivering and documenting mentoring and support services; and
- Identifying methods for assessing the impact of the program.

Washington

This grant project was developed in partnership between the Washington State Office of Crime Victim Advocacy (OCVA) and the King County Sexual Assault Resource Center (KCSARC). The overarching goal of the project is to enhance sex offender management, particularly with respect to sex offender housing and reentry efforts, by implementing proactive public education and primary prevention strategies in targeted communities in King County, Washington. More specifically, the key objectives and activities are to:

- Establish, within the existing King County Sex Offender Management Team (SOM), a multidisciplinary Community Education Team to design and execute the public education strategies;
- Create a 90-minute interactive community education presentation that includes information about sexual assault, the comprehensive system that is in place to respond to victims and manage sex offenders, and steps that can be taken to prevent sexual victimization;
- Deliver the presentation to approximately 30 groups throughout

King County and solicit reactions and additional information needs from participants;

- Explore with law enforcement the potential impact of these public education efforts;
- Partner with the Prevention Resource Center of the Washington Coalition of Sexual Assault to review the materials and resources developed through the project and identify dissemination methods; and
- Develop a curriculum on organizing and implementing Community Education Teams and share this resource at local, statewide, and national levels.

Announcing A New Resource for the Field: *Female Sex Offenders: Theory, Assessment and Treatment*

Featuring a collection of essays by leading experts, *Female Sexual Offenders: Theory, Assessment and Treatment* is the first book to bring together current research, clinical assessment, and treatment techniques of female sexual offenders into one accessible volume. This publication:

- Describes the most recent research regarding female sexual offenders, covering such issues as female-perpetrated sexual abuse prevalence and juvenile offenders
- Includes an assessment of the risk of recidivism, international treatment initiatives, and a discussion on the use of the polygraph with female sexual offenders

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- Features practitioner-focused essays which evaluate current assessment strategies, treatment needs, effectiveness, and processes for female sexual offenders

'The research and treatment literature regarding sexual offending has long focused on the misdeeds of men. However, as the scientific and popular focus on sexual offending has increased, so too has the realization that we have underestimated the extent of (and, accordingly, failed to appreciate the effects of) sexually inappropriate behavior in women. In *Female Sexual Offenders: Theory, Assessment and Treatment*, Drs. Theresa Gannon and Franca Cortoni present a collection of chapters by clinicians and researchers knowledgeable about sexual violence in women. This unique and timely volume quite nicely combines theoretical perspectives with suggestions for effective interventions, as well as some thoughts regarding future directions—all geared specifically to women. A long time coming...this book was well worth the wait.'
—Dr. Robin J. Wilson, Clinical Director,
Florida Civil Commitment Center

Sex Offender Housing Challenges

Securing appropriate housing remains a considerable hurdle for sex offenders returning to the community. Sex offender residency restrictions and zoning laws, the cost and availability of appropriate housing, and resistance from landlords and the community to accept sex offenders into their neighborhoods all present formidable challenges. The following documents and articles provide a sampling of some key sex offender housing related issues.

- *Examining the Impact of Sex Offender Residence Restrictions on Housing Availability*

<http://cjp.sagepub.com/cgi/content/abstract/20/1/91>

- *The Impact of Residency Restrictions on Sex Offenders and Correctional Management Practices: A Literature Review*¹

<http://www.library.ca.gov/crb/06/08/06-008.pdf>

- *Report on Safety Issues Raised by Living Arrangements for Location of Sex Offenders in the Community*
- *Living Arrangements Guidelines for Sex Offenders in the Community*
- *White Paper on the Use of Residency Restrictions as a Sex Offender Management Strategy*

http://dcj.state.co.us/odvsom/sex_offender/reports.html

- *California Sex Offender Management Board: Recommendations Report (see in particular pages 37-50)*

http://www.casomb.org/docs/CASOMB%20Report%20Jan%202010_Final%20Report.pdf

- *The Impact of Sex Offender Residence Restrictions: 1,000 Feet From Danger or One Step From Absurd?*

¹ Pages 41-47 of this report focus specifically on sex offender housing issues. Please note that this report's recommendations regarding SORNA are not aligned with federal SORNA requirements.

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[http://www.nacdl.org/sl_docs.nsf/issues/sex_offender_attachments/\\$FILE/Levenson-1000feet_rule.pdf](http://www.nacdl.org/sl_docs.nsf/issues/sex_offender_attachments/$FILE/Levenson-1000feet_rule.pdf)

- *Twenty Strategies for Advancing Sex Offender Management in Your Jurisdiction (See "Ensure Appropriate, Sustainable Housing Options")*

http://www.csom.org/pubs/twenty_strategies.pdf

- *Lack of Housing Forcing High Volume of Sex Offenders into Metro Neighborhoods*

<http://minnesota.publicradio.org/display/web/2011/02/21/sex-offenders/>

The Characteristics of Online Sex Offenders: A Meta-Analysis

This meta-analysis reports that the number of sex offenders who have used the Internet in their crimes has increased significantly in the last five years. Kelly M. Babchishin, R. Karl Hanson, and Chantal A. Hermann have recently published "The Characteristics of Online Sex Offenders: A Meta-Analysis" in the *Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers: a Journal of Research and Treatment*. This article addresses questions of whether online offenders are "the same" as the general population of sex offenders, or whether online offenders are sex offenders who are using computers to carry out their crimes. Some of the key findings of this new research reveal that online offenders:

- Are more likely to be Caucasian, single, younger, and unemployed than offline offenders;
- Displayed more empathy compared to offline offenders; and
- Exhibited more sexual deviancy than offline offenders.

The authors suggest that "many of the observed differences can be explained by assuming that online offenders, compared with offline offenders, have greater self-control and more psychological barriers to acting on their deviant interests."

For more information about this groundbreaking article, or to read the publication in full, Sage subscribers can visit: <http://sax.sagepub.com/content/early/2010/07/23/1079063210370708>.

Upcoming Webinar Series

Over the next eighteen months, CSOM, on behalf of the SMART Office, will be convening a series of three webinars available at no cost to CASOM grantees, and we would like your input on future webinar topics. Please send your ideas about your team's greatest information needs to CSOM at lgilligan@cepp.com by Friday, June 17th. The first webinar will be convened in late June, 2011 and will focus on victim-centered responses to sex offender management. Exact times and dates for the remainder of the webinar series will be announced after your feedback is received. Thank you in advance for your input!

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The Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) Releases the Sexual Assault Response Teams Toolkit

The SART Toolkit is a collection of resources for communities that are considering building a SART team or those that want to improve their existing coordinated response to victims of sexual assault. Effective SARTs leverage the knowledge that each component of the multidisciplinary team brings to the response. By using the tools in this resource, and by working with the strengths of each agency, SARTs are able to provide a coordinated response to ensure the needs of victims are met. To access this new resource, visit <http://ovc.ncjrs.gov/sartkit/>.

Next Newsletter

The next newsletter for CASOM grantees will be published in late Summer 2011. Visit www.csom.org for updates.



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