

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

Introduction

This edition of the newsletter for CASOM grantees features:

- An overview of current OJP sex offender management efforts;
- A review of the jurisdictions that have implemented SORNA;
- A description of important resources available from the Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers (ATSA), Stop It Now!, and CSOM;
- Some of the latest news from the field, including the FBI's efforts to redefine rape; and
- Highlights of and links to new research, documents, tools, and conference offerings.

OJP Sex Offender Management Initiatives

The Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice is currently funding a number of sex offender related initiatives. A brief description and summary of each of these efforts is provided below.

SMART Office: FY 2011 Adam Walsh Act Implementation Grants

\$8.1 million will be used to develop or enhance sex offender registration programs; improve law enforcement and other justice agency information sharing as it relates to sex offender registration and notification; and implement other efforts aimed at furthering the objectives of Title I

of the Adam Walsh Act, the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act (SORNA).

SMART Office and Bureau of Justice Assistance Second Chance Act Funding Related to Sex Offenders

The SMART Office and the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) provided funding to two states (Colorado and Vermont) in FY 2010 to focus specifically on developing Circles of Support and Accountability (COSA) for sex offenders. The SMART Office provided supplemental funding in FY 2011 to support these sites through technical assistance. These awards will allow the two sites to build and enhance their implementation of a COSA model and to build their capacity to document implementation in an effort to inform future initiatives in other communities. For more information on how Circles of Support and Accountability have been implemented in Canada, visit <http://www.csc-scc.gc.ca/text/prgrm/chap/circ/proj-guid/index-eng.shtml>, <http://www.robinjwilson.com/presentations/2011COSACo.pdf>, or CSOM's *Twenty Strategies to Enhance Sex Offender Management in Your Jurisdiction* (p.33) at http://www.csom.org/pubs/twenty_strategies.pdf.

SMART Office FY 2011 Comprehensive Approaches to Sex Offender Management Training and Technical Assistance Grant

\$1.8 million has been awarded to the National Judicial College to support training and technical assistance to courts for the purposes of educating judicial personnel on

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sex offender management issues in order to better inform sentencing of sex offenders. Targeted, onsite technical assistance will also be provided to qualifying multi disciplinary teams with a focus on the role of the courts in sex offender management. The National Judicial College and CSOM are pleased to serve as project partners on this initiative, in conjunction with the National Center for State Courts, the Center for Court Innovation, the American Probation and Parole Association, Fox Valley Technical College, and the National Center for Family and Juvenile Court Judges.

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) Program for Youth with Sexual Behavior Problems: Improving Community-Based Management for Youth, Victims, and Families

OJJDP and the SMART Office have partnered to support this two-part initiative which is designed to pilot comprehensive, coordinated community-based interventions to service youth with sexual behavior problems (children aged 10-14), and their child victims and families. Three implementation sites (WISE Families Program of Paramus, New Jersey; Children's Institute, Inc., of Los Angeles, California; and Lutheran Family Services and Project Harmony of Omaha, Nebraska) have been funded in support of this effort. Cognitive-behavioral focused teams work with youth with sexual behavior problems and their families using evidence-based approaches to reduce recidivism with this population (including treatment for trauma victims, cognitive-behavioral treatment that includes a strong emphasis on behavior

parent training, and multisystemic therapy (MST)). The University of Oklahoma Health Science Center's National Center on the Sexual Behavior of Youth (NCSBY) provides training and technical assistance to the grantee sites under this initiative. This project will also update the web site of the NCSBY (to be completed by 2013) and develop and disseminate information and curricula on adolescent sex offenders and children with sexual behavior problems for multiple disciplines and the public (to be completed in 2012). NCSBY has already developed two fact sheets for parents and caregivers of children between two and twelve years. The fact sheets (see <http://ncsby.org/Publications.asp>) address issues including:

- Sexual development
- Common sexual behaviors
- Understanding problematic sexual behavior
- What is known and how to help children with sexual behavior problems
- How to handle sexual behavior problems among siblings

For more information about this initiative, contact the NCSBY directly.

National Institute of Justice – Review of Civil Commitment in New Jersey

The National Institute of Justice (NIJ) has funded an initiative to provide normative data on a large (3,190) sample of sex offenders in New Jersey in which the characteristics of those offenders who were not civilly committed as Sexually Violent

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Predators (SVPs) (n=2692), those that were referred for SVP civil commitment, but who ultimately were not committed (n=124), and those that were committed as SVPs (n=374) are examined. The factors that predicted SVP commitment in this sample are discussed and recidivism rates of those who were “nearly” committed are compared with those of the sex offenders who were not committed. Overall the authors found that those who were committed were more likely to have had stranger victims, adult victims, male victims, be more criminalized, have a history of mental health treatment, and scored significantly higher on actuarial risk measures than those who were not committed. Those considered but not committed resembled those who were ultimately committed. Furthermore, those who were “nearly” committed were significantly more likely to recidivate both generally and sexually than those who were not considered for SVP commitment. These findings will be detailed in the forthcoming report entitled “Sex Offender Management, Treatment, and Civil Commitment: An Evidence Based Analysis Aimed at Reducing Sexual Violence.”

National Institute of Justice – Efficacy of Sex Offender Residency Restrictions: Voices from the Field

18 states have passed legislation that restricts where sex offenders can live. This project, managed by Beth M. Huebner, Ph.D. and Timothy S. Bynum, Ph.D. , explores the efficacy of sex offender residency and boundary restrictions in Michigan and Missouri. Part of this study

centered on a series of qualitative interviews conducted with a subsample of sexual and non-sexual offenders. The research findings highlight the consequences of residency restrictions on self-reported criminality, treatment procurement, housing outcomes, and social support networks. This research broadens our understanding of the long-term effects of residency restriction legislation. A final report detailing the full findings of this initiative is expected in 2012.

National Institute of Justice – A Model of Sex Offender Risk Assessment

The purpose of this recently concluded effort was to test models of combining static and dynamic risk measures that might predict sexual recidivism among adult male sex offenders better than any one type of measure alone. Study participants were 759 adult male sex offenders under correctional supervision in Vermont who were enrolled in community sex offender treatment between 2001 and 2007. These offenders were assessed once using static measures (Static-99R, Static-2002R and VASOR) based on participants’ history at the date of placement in the community. A 22-item dynamic risk measure (SOTNPS) was used multiple times to assess participants, shortly after their entry into community treatment and approximately every six months thereafter. Analyses of SOTNPS scores resulted in the development of a new 16-item dynamic risk measure, the Sex Offender Treatment Intervention and Progress Scale (SOTIPS). At fixed one- and three-year follow-up periods from participants’ initial, second, and third

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dynamic risk assessments, the SOTIPS and Static-99R, the static risk measure selected for further analysis in the present study, each independently showed moderate ability to rank order risk for sexual, violent, and any criminal recidivism and return to prison. A logistic regression model that combined SOTIPS and Static-99R consistently predicted recidivism and outperformed either instrument alone when both instruments had similar predictive power. Participants who demonstrated treatment progress, as reflected by reductions in SOTIPS scores, showed lower rates of recidivism than those who did not. To read the full findings of this study, see

<https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/236217.pdf>.

Symposium Reminder: The 2012 National Symposium on Sex Offender Management and Accountability

The 2012 National Symposium on Sex Offender Management and Accountability will be held at the Hyatt Regency in New Orleans, Louisiana, August 7th - 9th, 2012. Please check the SMART Web site at www.ojp.usdoj.gov/smart for more details about the event.

Jurisdictions that have Substantially Implemented SORNA

34 jurisdictions (15 states, 17 tribes and two territories) have substantially implemented SORNA's requirements. The States of Alabama, Delaware, Florida, Kansas, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Nevada, Ohio, South Carolina,

South Dakota, Tennessee, and Wyoming; as well as Comanche Nation, the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation, Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians, Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma, Kootenai Tribe of Idaho, Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians, Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida, Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi, Ohkay Owingeh, Osage Nation, Pascua Yaqui Tribe, Poarch Band of Creek Indians, Pueblo of Isleta, Tohono O'odham Nation, Upper Skagit Indian Tribe; and the United States territories of Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands have been found by the SMART Office to have substantially implemented SORNA.

The Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers (ATSA) Makes Conference Presentation Handouts Available

The Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers (ATSA) has made available a number of presentations from prior year conferences (see <http://www.atsa.com/select-atsa-conference-handouts>). The presentations span a variety of topics, including:

- Individualizing Justice for Sexual Assault
- What Works or What's in Style: Directions in Treatment Practices with Sexual Offenders
- Internet Safety 3.0: Keeping Youth Safe on the Living Internet

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- The Self-Regulation Model of Sexual Offending:
Relationship to Risk, Criminal Diversity, Treatment Change, and Good Lives
- What Works in Reducing Youth Violence
- Framing Public Policy and Prevention of Sexual Violence
Doing What Works: The Place of Acceptance, Mindfulness, & Values in the Treatment of Sexual Abusers
- "A Picture Is Worth A Thousand Words":
What Do We Know About Child Pornography Offenders?
- What's Non-Deviant Sex: An Overview of Sexual Development and Adult Sexual Behavior
- Rebooting: Incorporating Healthy Sexuality Programming in Sex Offender Treatment

The organization's Web site (www.atsa.com) also allows for free downloading of podcasts and select conference plenary sessions.

Resources Available from Stop It Now!

Stop It Now! (www.stopitnow.org) offers a number of resources for use by members of the public and practitioners on preventing child sexual abuse. The following resources are now available:

Tip Sheet for Parents on Screening Activities

Choosing a school or program is one of the most complicated decisions a parent must make. The specific activities, the schedule, the costs, how it matches your child's needs and interests all play a role in these decisions. Stop It Now! is also working to

encourage parents to factor the organization's sexual abuse prevention policy into consideration. To download the tip sheet "Questions Parents Need to Ask When Selecting a Program for their Child" visit <http://www.stopitnow.org/9questions>.

Call for Papers from the National Adolescent Perpetration Network (NAPN)

The National Adolescent Perpetration Network (NAPN) annual meeting will be convened in Atlantic City, NJ from April 30-May 2, 2012. NAPN is currently holding a call for papers. For more information, visit <http://csom.org/news/index.html>.

Estimate of Risk of Adolescent Sexual Offense Recidivism (ERASOR) Now Available Online

The Estimate of Risk of Adolescent Sexual Offense Recidivism (The ERASOR: Worling & Curwen, 2001) is an empirically-guided checklist to assist evaluators to estimate the short-term risk of a sexual reoffense for youth aged 12-18. The ERASOR is currently in widespread use throughout Canada and the U.S. and it is also being used in a number of other countries. To download the ERASOR manual and materials, visit the CSOM Web site or [click here](#).

Education Materials for the Public and Legislators Available from CSOM

Frequently Asked Questions

The public has a great deal of concern about sex offenders and sex offender

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management. Please visit the Frequently Asked Questions section of the CSOM Web site at <http://www.csom.org/faq/index.html> for an easy to use resource for members of the community. This document addresses a variety of issues, ranging from general information about sex offenders and victims of sexual assault, the management of sex offenders, an overview of the issues related to sex offender residency requirements, registration and notification, and sexual assault prevention, and is designed specifically for public education purposes.

Legislative Toolkit

If you are interested in educating your legislature about sex offender management, visit <http://www.csom.org/pubs/Managing%20Sex%20Offenders-%20A%20Toolkit%20for%20Legislators.pdf> to access CSOM's toolkit for legislators. The kit is downloadable, or you may request a limited number for your lawmakers by contacting Leilah Gilligan at lgilligan@cepp.com.

Specialized Services for Sexual Assault Survivors

The following organizations offer tailored advice to African American, Latino and Jewish sexual abuse survivors. Please follow the links below to visit the organizations' individual Web sites.

Black Sexual Abuse Survivors (BSAS)

BSAS is an online support group with active message boards for black adult males and

females who were sexually abused as children.

Inocencia Interrumpida

This site is filled with information, resources and inspiration for Spanish-speaking victims of sexual abuse.

JSafe

JSafe: The Jewish Institute Supporting an Abuse-Free Environment features a certification program for Jewish schools, camps, organizations, congregations and more in order to create a universal standard for training and policies that prevent abuse and ensure that survivors are treated supportively.

Survivors For Justice

SFJ is an advocacy, educational and support organization for survivors of sexual abuse and their families from the Orthodox world.

FBI Moves to Redefine Rape

The FBI announced that the Uniform Crime Report (UCR) Subcommittee of their Criminal Justice Information Services Division Advisory Policy Board (APB) met on October 18, 2011 to discuss proposed revisions to the definition of forcible rape. See the following link: <http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/advisory-policy-board> for more information about this initiative to broaden the current definition of forcible rape.

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An International Perspective on Sex Offender Management: Post-Release Controls for Sex Offenders in the U.S. and UK

In recent years, both the United States and United Kingdom have developed numerous innovations in legal efforts to protect society from sex offenders. Both governments have turned to other crime control measures such as polygraphy testing, electronic monitoring, and civil protection orders as a means to prevent further sexual violence. The two countries have adopted policies with similar goals, but the selected strategies have important differences. Click here <http://www.wsipp.wa.gov/pub.asp?docid=11-06-1101> to read the report in its entirety.

Brain Research & Pedophilia: What it Means for Assessment, Treatment, and Policy

James Cantor, editor of *Sexual Abuse: A Journal of Research and Treatment*, has shared his research and presentation materials on brain chemistry and sex offending. Dr. Cantor highlights a number of key findings:

- Overall features suggest early (pre-natal) origins;
- Pedophilic brain structure is slightly different from typical;

- Brain differences are not consistent with what changes with therapy, surgery, or current stem cell research;
- Pedophilic brain “lights up” in same pattern as non-pedophiles; and
- Pedophiles respond to stimuli of children rather than adults.

To view the presentation in its entirety, visit the following link:

http://individual.utoronto.ca/james_cantor.

Next Newsletter

The next newsletter for CASOM grantees will be published in early 2012.



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