



**ILLINOIS  
CRIMINAL JUSTICE  
INFORMATION AUTHORITY**

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300 W. Adams Street • Suite 200 • Chicago, Illinois 60606 • (312) 793-8550

**MINUTES**

**Sex Offenses and Sex Offender Registration Task Force**

March 10, 2017

9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

**I. Call to Order and Roll Call**

The Sex Offenses and Sex Offender Registration Task Force met on Friday, March 10, 2016, via Video-conference:

- Chicago - Thompson Center, 100 W Randolph St, Room 16-504
- Springfield – Capitol City Training Center, 130 W Mason St., Room 104
- Marion – HFS, 3419 Professional Park Drive

Task Force Chair Elgie Sims called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. Roll call was taken and the following members were present:

- Mary Boland, Cook County Assistant State's Attorney (Chicago)
- Jacqueline Bullard, Deputy Defender, 4th Judicial Circuit (Springfield)
- Jason Chambers, State's Attorney, McLean County (teleconference)
- Mike Fogel, Associate Professor, Chicago School of Professional Psychology (Chicago)
- Jennifer Gonzalez, Cook County Assistant State's Attorney, Supervisor of the Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Division (Chicago)
- Lisa Jacobs, Vice Chair, Illinois Juvenile Justice Commission (Chicago)
- Maria Jacobson, Chicago Police Department for Superintendent Eddie Johnson
- Beth Johnson, Director of Legal Problems at Cabrini Legal Aid (Chicago)
- Lynne Johnson, Policy Director at Chicago Alliance Against Sexual Exploitation (Chicago)
- Gary Lemmon, License Clinical Social Worker (Marion)
- Director John Maki, Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority (Chicago)
- Elaine Nekritz, Illinois State Representative of 57<sup>th</sup> District (Chicago)
- Tracie Newton, Offender Registration Unit, Illinois State Police, for Director Leo Schmitz (Springfield)
- Becky Palmer, Training, Consultation and Treatment (Chicago)
- Shara Robinson, Prisoner and Family Ministry for Mike Davis (Marion)
- Co-chair Representative Elgie Sims, Jr., 34<sup>th</sup> District (Chicago and later via teleconference)
- Beth Tarzia, Cook County Public Defender's Office for Amy Campanelli (Chicago)

- Hon. George Timberlake, Illinois Juvenile Justice Commission (Chicago)
- Rob Vickery, Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice (for Heidi Mueller) (Chicago)
- Darla Wexstten, Clinical Social Worker (via teleconference)
- Alyssa Williams Schafer, Public Services Administrator, Illinois Department of Corrections for John Baldwin (Springfield)
- Ed Wojcicki, Executive Director, Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police (via teleconference)

Also in attendance were:

- Megan Alderden, Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority (Chicago)
- John Amdor, Legislative Director, State Representative Elaine Nekritz (Chicago)
- Barbara Barrend-Paschall, Public Policy student working with Rep. Nekritz's office (Chicago)
- Caitlin DeLong, Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority (Chicago)
- Erin Johnson, Associate General Counsel, Office of Governor Bruce Rauner (Chicago)
- Stephanie Kollmann, Children and Family Justice Center at Northwestern Pritzker School of Law (via teleconference)
- Mary Ratliff, Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority (Springfield)
- Laurie Jo Reynolds, University of Illinois Chicago (Chicago)
- Erin Sheridan, Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority (Chicago)
- Gwyneth Troyer, John Howard Association of Illinois (via teleconference)
- Angie Weis, Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority (Chicago)

## **II. Welcome, Introductions, and Opening Remarks**

Director Maki welcomed everyone. Mary Ratliff called role of Task Force members. Attendees in Chicago, Springfield and Marion introduced themselves.

## **III. Recidivism of Adult Sex Offender - Roger Przybylski**

Director Maki introduced Roger Przybylski, founder of RKC Group out of Lakewood, Colorado, as the guest speaker for the meeting. Roger is veteran of ICJIA and a leading expert on recidivism in sexual offending. Roger presented the attached PowerPoint presentation on Recidivism of Adult Sex Offenders and Effectiveness of Treatment for Adult Sex Offenders: A Review of the Evidence from Scientific Research via teleconference.

Angie Weis and Rep. Sims thanked Roger for the presentation asked the group for any specific questions about the information Roger's presented.

A question was asked about the accuracy of 5 year studies on sex offender treatment effectiveness. Are there studies that go longer than 5 years? Are there studies that look at the lasting effects of treatment longer than 5 years? Roger responded by stating that there is a valid criticism and limitation to studies that last only 5 years. He maintained that his opinion is that treatment effectiveness is well established in the research and is not a

suppression intervention that is only effective for a certain number of years and result in recidivism in the long term. He stated that this question is a key debate as to whether there should be lifetime supervision of sex offenders. Roger's opinion is that there are sex offenders who participate, engage in, get things from treatment and will not recidivate. However, he stated, that some offenders will recidivate after some time. He maintained that it is important to understand who will recidivate and who will not. Unfortunately, there needs to be more research in this area. He stated that the longer they do not recidivate, the more likely they will not recidivate.

A member commented that research studying treatment from 25 to 30 years ago may be different from treatment today due to the evolving nature of the field in research and treatment. It was asked how we study and predict the long term effects of current treatment. Roger agreed that current sex offender treatment is far more effective than it was 25 to 30 years ago. He stated that the long term studies that began many years ago are estimates of modeling techniques, therefore we are not waiting to track recidivism rates. We are looking at the impact of the research done years ago. He asserted that our research methods will only get better in the future which will translate to our treatment and management practices improving. There is no definitive answer about the lifetime propensity to reoffend.

A member asked about how much of the general recidivism data such as arrest and conviction information is linked to public notification and registration, more specifically poverty related offenses, drug offenses, and other non-violent offenses. Roger stated that specific research related to those offenses does not exist, however there is a body of research that is relatively new related to registration and notification as well as residence restrictions. He stated that generally the research maintains that residency restrictions do not work and may produce harmful effects. Registration and notification research has no definitive conclusion on the impact and effectiveness of the approach. Roger said that he is not an expert on this research, but he would be happy to connect people with information and resources on that subject.

A member asked if the studies presented looked at the trauma histories of the offenders and what, if anything, was learned from that. Roger replied that the studies did not look at trauma histories of offenders. He stated that there is contemporary research being done on the relationship between abuse and neglect in childhood and future sexual offending as well as resiliency factors that lead abused children to grow up and not offend, however it does not focus on treatment of offenders.

A question was asked about why there is a negative impact of treatment on low risk offenders. Roger stated that this is relevant to the criminal population overall. He stated that he is not able to explain the trend in its entirety. He asserted that the low risk offender who has intensive treatment has many hoops to jump over and can be so removed from pro-social behavior. This can result in recidivism. The research is very strong that low risk offenders need to be kept out of high intensive treatment and supervision. Sex offenders are more likely to recidivate with a non-sex crime than a sex crime.

A member asked if there is research about recidivism and treatment of sex offenders with developmental disabilities such as autism and low IQ. Roger answered that he was not aware of any research done in this area.

It was asked if the studies conducted every take the number of victims an offender might have into consideration when looking at recidivism and treatment. Roger replied that the studies are based on an event

such as an arrest or conviction and do not take the number of victims into account. He stated that there are studies that focus on these issues, but it is not reflected in the recidivism and treatment research.

A member asked if it was accurate to say that most offenders are low risk and have one or two victims and there are fewer offenders who are high risk with many victims. Roger stated that he is apprehensive to generalize about low and high risk, but he would agree with the notion that there is extreme variation in the risk levels

#### **IV. Recidivism in Illinois – Erin Sheridan**

Erin Sheridan presented a PowerPoint on recidivism in Illinois – see attached. She stated that ICJIA will be conducting a study on recidivism in Illinois looking at all persons on the sex offender registry in the state. The study will review all offenders on the sex offender registry starting on February 1, 2017 looking back at their initial offense and track their entire recidivism rate to present. This study will attempt to categorize offenses into subtypes while analyzing the recidivism rates among these groups. Additionally, the study will attempt to evaluate differences in compliant and non-compliant offenders, lifetime registrants versus non-lifetime registrants, male and female registrants, and juvenile and adult registrants. The location of the offense by arresting agency will also be studied to find trends in jurisdictions. One of the purposes of the study is to understand gaps in the data available in Illinois and limitations of the data in order to make recommendations for further studies and data collection.

There was a discussion about available data. National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) is an incident-based reporting system used by law enforcement agencies in the United States for collecting and reporting data on crimes. Local, state and federal agencies generate NIBRS data from their records management systems.

Concern was expressed about understanding sexual violence with arrest and conviction data in that it is a failure to understand the problem. A member suggested that the data is overlay with prevalence data to see what is happening in our communities and how the criminal justice system is responding. Director Maki suggested that the research and understanding of the data that we have can assist in recommending and educating policy makers about what the data means and what data is missing and needed.

Director Maki proposed that the task force agree on facts from the research represented:

- The sex offender population is not a homogenous group that should be treated in the same way,
- We need to be careful and qualified in how we use recidivism data.

A member suggested that we have learned that the effectiveness in treatment has varying level depending on the types of offenders and types of treatment, but we do not know how that affects the registry in Illinois. There was support for the response-need-responsibility, RNR, model of treatment and the idea that the one-size-fits-all approach doesn't work.

Rep. Sims discussed the need for recommendations to be made about the registry, treatment and sex offenses in order to educate the legislature about bills that are presented.

Members emphasize the need to contextualize data to understand how the criminal justice system as an institution responds rather than individuals. It is not necessarily something wrong with individuals or groups of

people, but more so a problem with the response of the institution. The institution is failing to resolve sexual violence. It is important for legislation be made from facts instead of fear, misinformation and kneejerk reactions. Additionally, consideration and attention needs to be focused on the disproportionate number of minority presence as arrest, convicted and registered offenders. Another member suggested that public safety and victim safety is the purpose of sex offense law and registry. Some research presented suggests that current practices of intervention can create recidivism and more victims.

Director Maki suggested we look at how state agencies report data from an outcome perspective and a training perspective. Additionally, it was suggested that government agencies evaluate their treatment in order to promote and establish evidence informed practices.

ICJIA staff discussed the need to understand treatment for sex offenders in Illinois through both Department of Corrections and probation departments. Probation information is very difficult to obtain in Illinois. There are 102 counties that provide different treatments and approaches. ICJIA staff talked to Kane County Probation about their policies and practices. They stated that it is their goal, but not a mandate by statute, to get probationers into treatment. They only refer to treatment facilities that have been certified by the State of Illinois. These treatment providers are the same providers that Department of Correction uses for their sex offender parolees. Parole mandates by statute that persons convicted of a sex offense go through treatment. Not all probation departments in all counties use this policy and practice.

Alyssa Williams-Schafer with the Illinois Department of Corrections discussed the Sex Offender Management Board (SOMB) and the history of its role and duties. SOMB no longer approves treatment providers for sex offenders on parole. The Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation (IDFPR) now approves providers. SOMB still adapts and creates standards and provides training for practitioners in the field and treatment providers. New standards were adapted by SOMB recently. These new standards were rewritten and mirrored by the standards from the Association of Treatment for Sexual Abusers. All treatment standards are based on the risk-need-responsivity, RNR, approach/model.

A member asked if the outcomes of the treatments provided are recorded. She clarified by asking if there are any treatment providers that have identified as having exceptional outcomes. Ms. Williams-Schafer stated that the information about treatment outcomes is not available to SOMB nor IDFPR. A member asked if there is information available regarding waiting lists for treatment or lack of treatment providers in certain areas of Illinois. She also asked if payment is required by the people receiving treatment. Ms. Williams-Schafer stated that there are areas of Illinois, specifically Southern Illinois that do not have treatment providers. Most of the parolees have to pay for their own treatment. Probation differs on whether or not offenders pay for treatment. Statute mandate parole to have treatment. Probation does not require treatment, but it can be a part of the offender's sentence. Members discussed the possible need for assessments to determine if offenders need treatment.

Megan Alderdan asked if parole has encountered any issues with treatment providers having problems with the ethics of not being able to treat both offenders and victims. Ms. Williams-Schafer stated that most treatment providers solely treat the perpetrators and not the victims, therefore it is not a problem. Members discussed the need for family reintegration and therapy may require for the provider to treat both offender and victim.

Confidentiality may play a part of the reluctance to treat both parties. A member stated that collateral information is important when assessing the offender.

Director Maki summarized points discussed:

- Offenders are not a homogenous group. Response to offenders should be tailored to individual needs as much as possible.
- We are evaluating the institutional response to offenders.
- The way institutions are operationalized require outcomes.

Director Maki stated that each meeting and the information discussed will turn into a section in the final report. The Juvenile Justice Commission found it helpful to identify factual findings. The focus of the report is about effective responses to sexual violence by institutions.

#### **VI. Public Comment**

A member of the public discussed treatment stating that no treatment is provided in prisons. The mandated treatment is paid for by the parole and can be very expensive. She emphasized that due process is a subject that the task force should consider, especially when related to the sex offender registry. An effective reentry into society should be a goal in our policies related to sex offenders. Additionally, she discussed how there is data that disproves the presumptions and assumptions that the public holds about sex offenses and sex offenders. She stated that information and data about internet-based, non-contact crimes should be reviewed as it is a growing trend.

#### **VII. Future Meetings**

ICJIA staff will post meeting agendas and minutes to a website as well as resources and materials for future meetings. The next meeting is April 19, 2017 from 1:00 – 5:00 p.m. The subject matter of the next meeting is risk assessment.

#### **VIII. Adjourn**

Rep. Sims thanked everyone for their participation and adjourned the meeting.