

VENTURA COUNTY SEX OFFENDER MANAGEMENT TEAM



Michelle Steinberger
Supervising Deputy Probation
Officer



CSOM ASSISTANCE

- October 2006 - 2 day symposium
 - Probation - adults and juveniles
 - Judges
 - Law Enforcement
 - Victim Advocate
 - Treatment Providers
 - District Attorney
 - Public Defender



RECOMMENDATION / OUTCOMES

- Develop a Sex Offender Council or Oversight Committee involving all of the stakeholders
 - Did not have the support from key people in positions to facilitate the development of the committee



RECOMMENDATION / OUTCOMES

- Involve a wider variety of stakeholders
 - Schools
 - Law Enforcement
 - Parole
 - Federal Probation
 - Safe Harbor
 - CONREP



RECOMMENDATION / OUTCOMES

- Developed 2 separate Ventura County Sex Offender Management Teams
 - Adults
 - Juveniles



Ventura County Juvenile Sex Offender Management Team

- Probation
- Behavioral Health
 - Currently there are no private providers
- Staff cases, develop procedures, trouble shoot



Ventura County Adult Sex Offender Management Team

- Probation
- Treatment Providers (7 approved)
- District Attorney
- Public Defender
- Defense Bar representative
- Victim Advocate
- 290 PC coordinators from LEAs



Adult Team continued...

- Staff cases
- Develop procedures
- Discuss victim and community issues
- Collaborative case management



BEST PRACTICES

- Probation
 - Specialized caseloads or officers (5)
 - Specialized training
 - Utilizing GPS for “high” risk and transient offenders
 - Modifying terms and conditions to be more “appropriate”



BEST PRACTICES cont' d...

- Treatment Providers
 - Collaborative approach
 - Use of the polygraph
 - Meet CCOSO standards



BEST PRACTICES cont' d...

- District Attorney
 - Specialized attorneys
 - Vertical prosecution
 - Increased communication

- Public Defender / Defense Attorney
 - Increased knowledge and cooperation



OBSTACLES AND ISSUES:

- Polygraph
- Resistance
 - Stepping out of the “traditional” roles
 - Establishing teamwork and trust
- Qualification of Providers
- Spanish speaking providers
- Lack of Judicial involvement
- Lack of training



Outcomes

- Increased communication and collaboration among the stakeholders
- Learning how the Containment Approach works within the interdisciplinary team and within the community
- Agreement on the polygraph term and procedures



Polygraph term:

The defendant shall participate in a recognized treatment program designated specifically to deal with sex offenders as approved by the probation officer, which shall include polygraph examinations, and shall participate as extensively and for as long as directed by the probation officer. The defendant shall authorize the submission of progress reports to the probation officer upon request. Polygraph questions are limited to those relating to the successful completion of the sex offender treatment program.



Issues and Needs?

- Statutorily mandated polygraph
- Minimum qualifications for treatment providers
- Standardized approval for treatment providers (similar to Domestic Violence)
- Standardized terms
- Pornography?



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