

California Sex Offender Management Board
February 19, 2009, 9:00 AM
California State University, Sacramento

Minutes:

Board Member Check-in

- Present (Quorum present)
 - Robert Ambroselli
 - Gerry Blasingame
 - Catherine Duggan
 - Judge Peter Espinoza
 - Dave Gerard
 - Michael Johnson
 - Scott Kernan
 - Pamela King
 - Sophia McBeth-Childs
 - Janet Neeley
 - Nancy O'Malley
 - Angela Thompson
 - Tom Tobin (Vice-chair)
- Absent
 - Suzanne Brown-McBride (Chair)
 - Jerry Powers
 - Diane Webb

Minutes

- Tom Tobin moves to accept January minutes as amended, Michael Johnson seconds, and motion is approved by Board.
- Board discusses how to approach the recidivism data, determining that the Steering Committee should decide how to proceed.

State Updates

- Robert Ambroselli reports that the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation will be subject to a sunset date of 60 days for supplementing transitional housing for all parolees and after that, funds will be allocated on a case-by-case basis.
- Transitional Housing Memorandum: prohibits homeless PC 290 registrants from staying in a place for more than two hours; intended to prevent habitual "couch-surfing."
- Board discusses GPS, mentioning that it aids in tracking and supervision but its rehabilitative qualities remain undetermined.
- Crime victims will now be presented with their 17 constitutional rights upon meeting with law enforcement.
- The number of transient registered sex offenders fell this month by 25.
- The State Authorized Risk Assessment Tool for Sex Offenders (SARATSO) Committee is working on establishing training for the administration of its juvenile sex offender assessment tool (J-SORAT).

Committee Structures (First Listed is Chair):

- Investigation, Prosecution, Adjudication and Disposition: Nancy O'Malley, Peter Espinoza, Sophie McBeth-Childs. Angela Thompson.
- Victim Safety: Catherine Duggan, Nancy O'Malley.
- Re-entry, Supervision, and Housing: Robert Ambroselli, Michael Johnson, Scott Kernan, Jerry Powers.
- Treatment: Gerry Blasingame, David Gerard.
- SVP/Special Populations: Pamela King, David Gerard.

- Registration, Notification and Post-Supervision: Janet Neeley, Diane Webb.
- Community Education: Sophie McBeth-Childs, Jack Wallace.

How Does the Board Envision the Final Report?

- Form
 - Succinct bullets
 - Highlight key recommendations
 - Supporting information
 - Make note of costs
 - Refer to other reports
 - Include Vision and Mission
- Content
 - Should support efforts to gather bipartisan support in order to more effectively manage sex offenders and to draft a 2010 bill to revise sex offender management policies and laws.
 - Address policy costs, cost-effectiveness, and possible savings.
 - Philosophy: evidence and research, based on risk-assessment.
 - The bind created by mandated policies that are one-size-fits-all.
 - The power and limits of technology, such as GPS mapping.

***Board breaks into Committees to discuss what work they wish to do and whether they have the resources to accomplish it.**

Robert Ambroselli gives a Re-entry/Supervision presentation showing the location of paroled sex offenders and unsupervised registered sex offenders.

Committee Discussions

- Victim Safety:
 - Multi-disciplinary interview centers
- Investigation, Prosecution, Adjudication and Disposition:
 - Vertical prosecution
 - 80 hr course for Law Enforcement, advocates
 - Victims' wellbeing as the primary goal
 - Multidisciplinary collaboration
 - Judicial Education
- Treatment:
 - Important because it reduces danger
 - Credentialing
 - Containment model, collaboration
- Registration, Notification and Post-Supervision:
 - Duration related to risk
 - Compliance check resources
 - Megan's site and degree of risk
- Community Education:
 - Education link on CASOMB website
- SVP/Special Populations:

- Related to survey results

Public Comment

- Bob Miller, from Auburn, is the father of a 37-year-old paroled sex offender who pled guilty to indecent exposure and resides in San Francisco. Mr. Miller relates his son's difficulties in complying with the requirements of Jessica's Law, stating that he has been unable to comply with law and is registered transient, sleeping under a bridge as there is no compliant housing available to paroled sex offenders in San Francisco.
- Alicia Hinton, from Fresno, is a law student that will soon take the Bar Exam. Ms. Hinton discussed what is happening in Fresno concerning an ordinance to that will be passed which requires lifetime GPS for sex offenders based on offense classification. She does not agree with this ordinance and believes that there is no clear evidence that shows a decrease in recidivism rates. Ms. Hinton is afraid that the political nature of this ordinance will not make the community safer and that the Fresno leadership needs to be educated on sex offender management policies.
- Jennifer Jennings, an attorney who defends parolees, stated that CDCR policies regarding the management of paroled sex offenders are neither rehabilitative nor constitutional, and that many of her clients are afraid to speak publically on the matter for fear of retaliation from their parole agents. Ms. Jennings expressed her criticisms of CDCR's interpretation of Jessica's Law. She believes that CDCR is the only entity that maintains that Jessica's Law applies to any 290 registrant who has been incarcerated since November 2006, regardless of the reason for the incarceration. With that interpretation, including parolees whose sex offense occurred decades ago, CDCR is vastly increasing the universe of homeless sex offenders. She expressed concern for the parolees with stable residences are being forced to leave their homes for the streets. She believes that with the residency policies and the GPS charging requirements, CDCR is setting up 290 parolees for failure.

The next meeting will take place March 26, 2009.