

**MSOTA**  
**Annual Meeting Minutes**  
**May 5,6,7, 2010**  
**Chico Hot Springs, Montana**

The mission of the Montana Sex Offender Treatment Association is the promotion of community safety and education by maintaining professional standards for the evaluation and effective treatment of sexual offenders, individuals with sexually abusive behaviors and/or sexual behavior problems.

- I) Brief Introductions: Attending:
  - a. Anne Harris, Chris Nordstrom, Mike Sullivan, Sam Griffel, Bob Page, Shawn Abbott, Charmaine Nicholson, Regina Basolo, Ginny Watts, Jim Myers, Ron Silvers, Andy Hudak, Don Bell, Marla North, Jean Keiley, Bob Furu, Kevin Wyse, Karen Bauman, Gwen Farnsworth, Roger Dowty, Mike English, Sandy Heaton, Fred Lemmons, Jeffrey Scogin, Michael Scolatti, Beau Smelko
  - b. The Annual meeting will be worth 18 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> CEUs
  - c. House keeping announcements were made regarding schedule,

- II) Reading of minutes from Fall meeting: minutes were read, corrected and accepted MSP

- III) Officer election results
  - a. President: Bob Page
  - b. Vice President: Andy Hudak
  - c. Treasurer: Shawn Abbott
  - d. Secretary: Anne Harris

- IV) Officer reports:
  - a. President: President Bob Page read the President's Annual Report:

This last year has been interesting, fun, full of changes, and a host of major improvements our organization. However, our progress is slow but steady as it is in every organization, which is constructed of high caliber, busy professionals. Despite our busy calendars we have actually accomplished a great deal. Last year, we held our first annual meeting in the form of a three-day retreat.

Today, we attend our second annual retreat and again, turnout is better than any single previous quarterly meeting. I have greatly appreciated the opportunity to organize this process each spring. It is not only the organizational maintenance and development that we have gained from; but also the trainings, and the chance for all of us to mingling get

closer both personally and professionally. As a bonus, while we're here we also earn CEUs for the time spent.

I want to endorse this annual retreat process to the new officers for as we have cut out the typically unattended winter meetings we are now getting more accomplished. The retreat style meetings also enable us to reach out to and include the communities and multidisciplinary professionals we all work with.

Last year, we modified our mission statement, redefined the goals and direction of our committees, and created a new committee assigned to create flyers and other vehicles for community outreach/education. When we voted to have each member pay a small stipend to offset Andy Hudak's expenses incurred for his excellent work as a legislative committee chairman we helped to insure his dedicated work on our behalf.

Last year, our members voted to modify the evaluation standards for adults to require the STATIC-99 and the STABLE 2007 be required as the MSOTA designated instruments to assess risk and recommend tier designations. MSOTA members may still use other actuarial risk assessment instruments but the requirement of the STATIC adds a consistency to our assessments statewide. This motion was passed at a meeting where DOC professionals were in attendance and was in response to their request that we standardize our approach to recommending risk levels.

Last year, we discussed the creation of a fund raising committee or process. The idea was not adopted and instead we voted in favor of raising our annual dues. The decision was related to how busy we all are and to create an easier way to offset some of our costs related to the continuing process of improving our organization.

It has been an honor to be the president of MSOTA and I will continue to work hard to offer what I can to improve our organization in whatever manner possible. I encourage the new officers to consider continuing in the same direction by perpetuating the annual retreat each Spring, actively pursuing the process of community outreach and education, modifying and updating our bylaws to respond to current issues, and continuing to enhance communication efforts between members outside of formal meetings.

Thank you for allowing me to serve MSOTA.

Sincerely, Robert N. Page.  
President

- i. Report was read, Moved, Seconded, and Accepted by membership
- b. Vice President: No Report
- c. Treasurer
  - Savings: \$5,626.29
  - Checking: \$1,594.86

- d. Secretary:
  - i. Thanks for all who returned ballots for election of officers
  - ii. Web Site: Members who would like more information regarding their practice to be available via the web site have two options:
    - 1. Send Anne a link to your existing web page, and the link will be added to your name on the web-based Membership List and will be added to the printable list
    - 2. OR send Anne a Page of information on you practice and Anne will add it as a link to your name on the web-based Membership directory

V) Committee Meetings/Reports

a. Ethics

- i. Chair: Bob Page; Members: Mike English, Sandy Heaton, Nina Wendt, Jim Meyers; Jeffrey Scogin
- ii. Mission: Provide consultation services, investigations and resolutions, surrounding ethical issues and complaints involving MSOTA members
- iii. Report: No complaints at this time
  - 1. Committee reviewed the complaint procedure
  - 2. MSOTA members are advised to first contact the member with whom they have an issue before filing a complaint to see if the issue can be resolved without formal complaint.
  - 3. Discussion of HIPPA and APA confidentiality releases for mental health

b. Legislative

- i. Chair: Andy Hudak; Members: Chris Nordstrom, Karen Baumann, Sam Griffel, Mike Sullivan
- ii. Mission: To improve community safety through education and legislation by coordinating with state government and other stake holders to influence public policy
- iii. Report: Not much activity since the last meeting
  - 1. Decided to look at the goals since the last meeting and set priorities
  - 2. Mike Sullivan connected with Rep. Essman (Billings) who put up the residential legislation to restrict locations, loitering, residence with family prohibition.
  - 3. Committee will present action plans at the summer meeting after review of potential issues from DOJ, and Legislators,
  - 4. Committee may contact members who know legislators to provide legislative education
  - 5. Andy will be making formal request for a meeting with Mike Ferriter, Pam Bunke, and other DOJ stakeholders.
  - 6. Mike will engage Rep. Shokley (Bitterroot) to try to determine his perception of what MSOTA can do to incorporate his opinions about treatment
  - 7. Some legislators have had personal experience with offenders and the

system not working

8. Andy asked that MSOTA members who have personal knowledge of a legislators or other stakeholders reasons for involvement in SO legislation communicate that information to Andy to be included in the work of the Legislative Committee
9. Don Bell gave appreciation for Mike Sullivan's legislative work last session
10. Statutory Rape issue:
  - a. Some counties are using plea down to criminal endangerments in reaction to increased penalties
  - b. Effort to be placed on the 18-25 yr olds based on brain research and effectiveness of treatment and behavior change
11. Discussion of Lobbyist

c. Membership

- i. Chair: Charmaine Nicholson; Members: Fred Lemons, Chris Quigley, Shawn Abbott, Gayle Wash, Lindsay Clodfelter
- ii. Mission: To assess the competency of applicants for Clinical and Associate memberships according to MSOTA membership criteria
- iii. Report:
  1. Lindsay brought to the membership a reminder of the organizations founding members from 1986:
    - a. Pete Bruno
    - b. Lindsay Clodfelter
    - c. Dennis Duncan
    - d. Lon Eliason
    - e. Andy Hudak
    - f. Maxine Jacobson
    - g. Fred Lemons
    - h. Mike Scolatti
  2. Committee is waiting to process Tracy Vaughn's testing for Clinical Membership
  3. Introduction of Howard Davis moved to VA Behavioral Health Unit in Helena from New Mexico, Certification from National Association of Forensic Counselors

d. Education/Public Affairs

- i. Chair: Marla North, Ron Silvers, Don Bell, Blair Hopkins, Ann Headley
- ii. Marla: upcoming Sex Files training will include state of the art presentation from Scolatti and Sullivan on assessment procedures.
- iii. Report:
  1. Barb Bottomly: contacted school systems regarding use of cell phones, sexting (text messages with sexual content)
  2. Blair: Pam Bunke looking at issues for community treatment

- a. Judges sometimes leave out tier levels when sentencing defendants
- b. MSOTA reports don't always use Tier language but use Low to High risk levels (Static-99 scales for example) and judges would appreciate recommendations of specific tier levels.
- 3. Marla emailed Marcia Hurd regarding Safe Childhood Program
- 4. Exploring setting up training with P&PO for media assessment
- 5. Marla would like to combine or coordinate the work of the Education and Legislative Committees
- 6. Marla will do final on draft on the MSOTA brochure

e. Standards

- 1. Co-Chairs: Ginny Watts and Mike Scolatti; Members: Regina Basolo, Anne Harris, Kevin Wyse, Jean Keiley, Gwen Farnsworth, Don Bell, Drew Schoening
- 2. Mission: Establish and update standards for evaluation and treatment to promote the professional and effective delivery of services to sexual offenders and the community.
- 3. Report:
  - a. Added 2 new members
  - b. Work on standards:
  - c. Reworking the Study Guide and Test
    - i. About 2/3 complete
  - d. Revised Adult standards incorporating the CSOM report that will be presented to the Summer Meeting
  - e. Correction: SORAG does not require plethysmograph and
  - f. Evaluators Should be using:
    - i. empirically validated risk assessment instruments and
    - ii. using static and dynamic measures
    - iii. Should be making Tier recommendations

VI) Old Business

- a. Updates on By-Laws was addressed and tabled until summer meeting for further clarification and synchronization with prior drafts/

VII) New Business

- a. Review of bi-laws and proposed amendments
  - i. At Wednesday's meeting copies of the current By-Laws were passed out for review by the membership in preparation for discussion Thursday.
  - ii.
- b. Discussion of Montana Sex Offender Management Symposium,
- c. Changes to Dues from \$100 to \$200.00
- d. **A motion to amend the Mission Statement was M,S,P to read: The mission of the**

**Montana Sex Offender Treatment Association is the promotion of community safety and education by maintaining professional standards for the evaluation and effective treatment of sexual offenders, individuals with sexually abusive behaviors and/or sexual behavior problems.**

VIII) Presentations:

a. **Case Reviews/Peer Feedback**

- i. Roger Dowty initiated a discussion based on a letter to the membership written earlier this year regarding the potential harm to juvenile clients by labeling them as offenders while they are still youth and capable of change significant enough to not present a future risk for sexual offense. This was a lengthy and intense discussion, one that may continue at future meetings and be a subject for the Standards Committee and all members to give thought to.
- ii. Individual members to present case summaries for peer review and discussion as to treatment approaches, etc.

b. Discussion of Roger's letter to members

c. **PPG and VRT:** What are they, what's the difference, how do we use them in assessment and intervention with Sexually abusive Adults and Adolescents

- i. Penile Plethysmography (PPG) and Visual Response Time (VRT) instruments are tools commonly utilized for the purposes of evaluating and treating those who have been sexually abusive. In this presentation the Monarch 21 PPG system and the Affinity 2.5 Test of Sexual Interest will be reviewed in depth. How each tool works; the pros and cons of each; uses for assessment and treatment; and combining results will be discussed. Also exploring the use of each tool with Juvenile, Adult, DD, and Spanish Speaking clients will be addressed.

d. **The STATIC-99, STABLE 2007 and ACUTE 2007:** An Empirically Validated system of monitoring and intervening with Adult and older Juvenile Offenders

- i. Until recently, supervision and intervention of Sexual Offenders has been conducted on best judgment or long-term dynamic risk variables. Research suggests variables which predict immediate risk vary from long-term dynamic variables. The use of the ACUTE 2007 monitoring system has provided a method by which Adults and older Juvenile Sexual offenders can be judged on empirically validated behavioral patterns. This system has allowed supervising officers and treatment providers the opportunity to become more focused with

regards to community safety issues, intervene in swift and effective ways, and if needed have a collection of data for revocation purposes. The 7 relevant Acute factors, the Static-99 factors, and the Stable 2007 factors are reviewed and the presenters provide hands on experience to assist in scoring consistency among participants. This sectional reinforced the recently adopted standard that requires all clinical members of MSOTA to use the Static-99 and Stable 2007 as in evaluations.

- IX) Next meeting time and location
  - a. July 30<sup>th</sup>, Lakeside (Flathead) location TBA
  - b. October 15<sup>th</sup>, Missoula proposed for the Montana Technology Center, East Broadway
  - c. May 4,5,6 Location TBA Considering Quinn's Hot Springs
  
- X) Adjournment: