

COMMUNITY MANAGEMENT

Providing Clinical Input to Support Criminal Justice Community Management of Complex Sexual Offenders– the Edinburgh Serious Offender Liaison Service (SOLS)

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The Serious Offender Liaison Service (SOLS) provides clinical consultation, assessment, management advice, clinical supervision, treatment and training to help criminal justice agencies in South East Scotland (primarily criminal justice social work – the Scottish equivalent of probation – and the police) manage violent and sexual offenders in the community. The service works very closely with partner agencies and its main focus is cases that are challenging or problematic. Most of the cases have personality disorders and/or paraphilias. Traditionally criminal justice agencies got no helpful input from clinical services for such cases. We have used our model successfully with sexual offenders for 6 years, and have recently expanded to other types of violence. This paper will focus on the work the service has undertaken with sexual offenders. In this session we will outline the development of the service and its model of integrating clinical input with criminal justice services; we will describe how the service operates and the cases we see; we will present data on the forensic and clinical characteristics of the sexual offenders referred to the service; we will outline the challenges faced and solutions found in developing the service; and we will present an evaluation of the views of criminal justice agencies who refer cases. The overall aim is to describe and discuss a successful model of integrated working between criminal justice and mental health services.

Making Better Programs by Establishing a Sexual Re-Offense Review Process

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This presentation will describe a process of evaluating the causes of sexual reoffenses in order to build a better program. It will include the motivation, implementation and effects of establishing an organized Sexual Reoffense Review Process in order to offer program development feedback for an established community-based sexual offender treatment program.

The context:

The Community/Parole Supervision for Life Program is one of four statewide service delivery programs operated by the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey. It is funded by the NJ State Parole Board and provides ongoing treatment services to about 650 individuals. Started in

2006, we have had 36 instances where individuals in treatment have been charged with sexual offenses that occurred while the individual was involved with our services.

In order to provide feedback to the program, we developed a review process so that after each reoffense, treatment staff and parole supervision staff met to discuss the specifics of the case in order to determine what improvements could be added to our program. Risk level (measured by the Static-99 or Static-99R), the offender's living circumstances, the offender's status in the treatment process and any prior indicators of difficulty in the community were noted.

This presentation will highlight what was learned through these meetings and how this information was "fed back" into the treatment program in order to increase treatment effectiveness. It will also feature some of the problems that this process elicits (guilt on the part of therapists and parole officers, fears of adverse consequences – for the staff).

Anytime we can learn from our mistakes, we are able to do better in all area of our lives. In the CSL/PSL Program, we believe that this difficult self-examination results in better programming and fewer reoffenses over time. The purposes of this presentation are to share what we have learned by examining our "failures", illustrate the changes that have been incorporated into the program as a result of this learning and motivate other program to incorporate similar self-examination processes.