

STATE MANDATED STANDARDS

Understanding and Evaluating Family Services among Youth who Sexually Abuse

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Families are frequently identified as a risk for supporting and perpetuating sexually abusive behavior among youth (Ryan, 2010; Worling & Langstrom, 2006). Traditionally, the field has focused on deficits of families rather than considering them as a resource to promote change (DeFraín & Asay, 2007). Although emerging literature strongly argues the need to target family in the healing process, treatment initiatives rarely follow suite (Ryan, 2010; Burton, Smith-Darden, & Frankel, 2006), and research has failed to accurately document the effectiveness of family-inclusive treatment (Rich & Longo, 2003). Knowing there are several gaps in literature, the current study was conducted to emphasize family as a strength, to investigate the process of involvement in treatment, and to uncover positive outcomes associated with family involvement. An embedded mixed methods design was carried out in collaboration with the Colorado Sex Offender Management Board. Quantitative data was collected from probation files of adjudicated youth ($n= 88$) in three different Colorado jurisdictions, and qualitative data was collected from approved Colorado treatment providers ($n=19$). Rigorous data analyses techniques were employed, including structural and pattern coding schemas to analyze qualitative data and logistical regression models to analyze quantitative data. Qualitative results revealed the high level of stress of families and underscored the importance of the therapeutic relationship with families, particularly as it pertains to helping restructure and unite families. Quantitative logistical regression models demonstrated that youth who received one or more forms of family service involvement (measured by family therapy, multi-family group, family MDT involvement, informed supervision, or family reunification) were three times more likely to successfully complete treatment than those that didn't receive any family services. These results from this study suggest the need to not only incorporate families into treatment, but to educate families and providers on strategies for achievement in this endeavor. Implications and future directions for the field are considered.

References

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An Outcome Study of a Collaborative, Multi-Disciplinary Approach with Juveniles Who Sexually Offend

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The Colorado Sex Offender Management Board (SOMB) is statutorily mandated to create Standards for the treatment and supervision of juveniles who commit sexual offenses. In addition, the SOMB is also required to study outcomes related to the implemented systemic model. The SOMB Standards require a collaborative, multi-disciplinary team approach to addressing juvenile sexual offending that includes an individualized treatment approach provided by an approved provider, specialized supervision specific to the juvenile's risk and risk factors, use of monitoring tools such as polygraph where appropriate, and development of a school safety plan, among other things.

The SOMB recently completed an outcome study of the effectiveness of the Juvenile Standards in 2013. Utilizing both quantitative and qualitative data, this study reviews short- and long-term outcomes on a number of measures, including recidivism, for juveniles both subject to the Standards and a comparison group of those who were provided services prior to the implementation of the Standards. The findings have implications for the provision of services to the juvenile population utilizing such a collaborative, multi-disciplinary approach. This presentation will review the Juvenile Standards approach, the outcome study, and the implications for future study and practice.