



# THE ALLIANCE

Volume 4, Issue 1

WINTER/SPRING 2003

## NY State Alliance of Sex Offender Services Providers & NY State Chapter of ATSA 8th Annual Training Conference May 1 and 2, 2003

The New York State  
Alliance of Sex Offender  
Service Providers  
and  
The New York State  
Chapter of the Association  
for the Treatment of  
Sexual Abusers

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President

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Editor

The 8th annual training conference of the New York State Alliance of Sex Offender Service Providers and the New York State Chapter of the Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers is scheduled for Thursday and Friday, May 1-2, 2003, at the Holiday Inn Select in Niagara Falls, NY. The Conference is co-sponsored this year by Oatka Valley Associates, and the conference organizers, Kim Rossi, ACSWR and Brent Ewell, CSWR, have arranged a diverse and exciting program.

Confronting Sexual Abuse  
in the 21st Century

We're on the Web!  
[www.nysatsa.org](http://www.nysatsa.org)

Or e-mail us at  
[nysasosp@nycap.rr.com](mailto:nysasosp@nycap.rr.com)

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On Thursday May 1st, the conference will open with Richard Hamill, Ph.D., the current president of NYSATSA, offering a welcome and opening remarks regarding the two sponsoring organizations. Robin Wilson, Ph.D., will then deliver the first of the conference's keynote addresses, "Risk, Reintegration, and Registration: A Perspective on Community Sex Offender Management." Dr. Wilson, a clinician and researcher from Toronto, Ontario, is well-known to many service providers in New York State for his wonderfully humorous presentations, has published widely, and describes his current professional interests as focused on the collaborative model of offender risk management in community settings.

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★ Work has begun on a new ★  
★ Sex Offender Service ★  
★ Provider Directory for ★  
★ New York state. Please ★  
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★ your agency is included. ★  
★ By phone (518)489-7971 ★  
★ OR By e-mail at ★  
★ [nysasosp@nycap.rr.com](mailto:nysasosp@nycap.rr.com) ★  
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In this newsletter there are many interesting articles and news items from around the State. We encourage all members of the NYS Alliance of Sex Offender Service Providers and NYSATSA to submit any news items, articles or other features that could be published in this forum. It is important for us all to keep in touch with what is happening in our State. Articles featured in this newsletter are a means of increasing our knowledge base. We are such a diverse group that we have a great deal to offer each other, so please submit whatever you can to the address in the left column.

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Following the morning keynote address there will be a buffet awards luncheon at the hotel for those who select the lunch option during registration.

On Thursday afternoon a selection of 1 1/2 hour workshops will be offered including Robin Wilson presenting twice a workshop regarding "Engaging the Community in Sex Offender Risk Management". Other selections include:

- \* "Burning Desires: The Assessment of Juveniles who Display Both Fire-setting and Sexual Behavior Problems", by David Frenzel, CSWR and Brent Ewell, CSWR
- \* "The Investigation of Internet Sex Crimes", by Special FBI Agents George Gast, Steve Forest, and Jackie Dougher
- \* "Using the Offender's Narration of Their Sexual Offense in Evaluation and Treatment", by Kenneth King, CSW, and Christine Cushing, CSW
- \* "Detecting and Countering Deception and Evasiveness in the Treatment of Adolescent Sex Offenders", by Peter Leising, CSWR
- \* "Assessment, Treatment, and Management of Mentally Ill Sex Of-

fenders", by Warren Skov, MSW and Frank Brusinski, MSW

- \* "Sexually Aggressive Youth: A Model Community Response", by Ronee Brimberg, CSW and Perry Berkowitz, Ed.D.

Following Thursday's program all conference attendees are invited to attend a networking wine and cheese reception at the hotel.

On Friday, May 2, the conference's second keynote address, "Shame and Guilt: Emotional Barometer and Moral Compass", will be given by June Tangney, Ph.D. Dr. Tangney is a Professor of Psychology at George Mason University, co-editor with Kurt W. Fischer of Self-conscious Emotions: The Psychology of Shame, Guilt, Embarrassment, and Pride, and co-author with Ronda L. Dearing of Shame and Guilt (Guild Press, 2002). Dr. Tangney is a delightfully personable presenter who has spent years researching the effect on individuals of shame and guilt based on personalities, and her work regarding the link between these emotions and interpersonal violence is particularly relevant to our work with sexual offenders.

On Friday afternoon a marvelous selection of 3 hour workshops has been arranged, including one presented by Dr. Tangney, for those who wish to stay with her for the entire day. At the time of this writing the

specific focus of Dr. Tangney's afternoon presentation had not been finalized. Other Friday afternoon selections include:

- \* "Facilitated Dialogue: A Healing Path for Victims and Offenders of Sexual Abuse", by Mark Yantzi and Jennifer Weicker from Community Justice Initiatives in Kitchner, Ontario
- \* "A Panel of Adult Male Sex Offenders Discuss Their Experiences with Supervision and Treatment Services", moderated by Kim Rossi, ACSWR
- \* "Adolescent Males as Sexual Victims of Female Perpetrators", by Sahli Cavallaro, Ph.D.
- \* "Community Supervision of Sex Offenders on Probation or Parole", by Dominic Dispenza, CSWR

The conference hotel, the Holiday Inn Select, is currently the largest hotel in Niagara Falls, NY and is located directly across the street from the recently opened Seneca Nation Casino. Conference registration forms have recently gone out in the mail. If you would like a conference brochure, or additional information regarding the conference, please contact Brent Ewell at (585) 344-1563 or by e-mail at [bcewell@localnet.com](mailto:bcewell@localnet.com)

## **ALLEGANY COUNTY SEX OFFENDER TREATMENT PROGRAM: A Collaborative Approach**

By: Denise Regan, Senior Probation Officer and Robert Starks, Probation Supervisor, Allegany County Probation Department

### **History of the program**

In the late 1980's, Probation Officers employed by Allegany County Probation Department began to recognize that an increasing number of sex offenders were being added to community based supervision caseloads. Unfortunately, such perpetrators were routinely being sentenced with generic conditions similar to those of a burglar or a shoplifter. Thinking there needed to be more specialized supervision of such a population, Senior Probation Officer Robert Starks and Probation Officer Denise Regan began to attend any available training in this field. Trainer after trainer emphasized the importance of group treatment for the sexual offending population. Groups were being run in Chautauqua County by a team consisting of a specially trained probation officer and a mental health professional. Desired results were being accomplished as the sex offender was being held accountable once a week, not only to fellow group members, but to his probation officer, the mental health community and the community at large.

As avenues were being investigated to start a treatment program, a licensed mental health professional offered his services in a private capacity. This clinician also engaged in several specialized trainings for the treatment of sex offenders. Although there were no budgeted monies for said program, the Allegany County Sex Offender Treatment Program began under the auspices of the Probation

Department in January of 1991. Around the time of the program's inception in the early 1990's, the mental health clinician and Regan attended a week long intensive training sponsored by the U.S. Department of Justice and the National Institute of Corrections in Colorado. The clinician would complete the specialized Offender Psycho-Diagnostic Evaluations, along with co-leading the group with Officer Denise Regan. Within a year or so another group was added. Senior Probation Officer Robert Starks co-facilitated that group with the clinician.

### **Current Status of the Program**

Since beginning 12 years ago, additional groups have been added. There are currently four adult groups and one psycho-education group. There has been a juvenile group, on and off, depending on the need.

In late 2000, the clinician resigned his position with the Sex Offender Treatment Program to take a position with the New York State Office of Mental Health. Sam Cali, who was a probation officer for several years and currently owns his own private counseling practice has taken over the mental health professional role in the various groups. Co-facilitators continue in yearly training, both in and out of New York state. In the summer of 2001, Regan, Starks, and former Probation Officer Heidi Burdick, attended Ohio University's Sexual Offender Treatment Specialist Certification Program and were certified by said program several months later.

The Allegany County Probation Department, through funds secured from a grant, was able to purchase the ABEL Screening Instrument from Dr. Gene Abel in the fall of 2000. This instrument, for those who are unfamiliar with it, allows practitioners to assess and learn about sex offenders' deviant sexual behaviors and prefer-

ences. The Department started giving these assessments in 2001. Thirty-eight (38) offenders have been assessed to date. The Department was able to purchase some tests with the grant money but the majority of the offenders pay for these assessments themselves. This does take more time to get an assessment, but it adds to the sex offender's contribution back to the community.

In 2002, the CHOICES Sex Offender Treatment Program referred the Allegany County Probation Department to Mike Schank, a polygraphist who works with that Program in Steuben County. The Probation Department began discussions with him and this led ultimately to use of the polygraph with the sex offender to verify their deviant sexual offending history. Thirteen (13) offenders submitted to a polygraph test in 2002. Eight (8) of them passed the test with the other five (5) failing. Those who failed it, with the exception of one offender, all admitted they had left information out in hopes that they could beat the polygraph test. Some of these offenders have re-taken the test and have passed it the second time, after divulging the information they were hiding. The offenders have to pay for each polygraph test they have to take. We have met with resistance from some of the offenders because polygraph testing was not initially part of their treatment conditions. We have attempted to counter this by offering an early discharge from treatment if the offender successfully passes his polygraph test. We don't yet have confidence that our Courts will back us if we request a modification of the probation order to include polygraph testing. All offenders who have entered the treatment program since the middle of 2002 now have polygraph testing as a part of the treatment program. It is very beneficial to the treatment providers

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## CEOS Mission

Created in 1987, the Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section (CEOS) prosecutes those who possess, manufacture, or distribute child pornography; those who sell, buy, or transport women and children interstate or internationally to engage in sexually explicit conduct; those who travel interstate or internationally to sexually abuse children; those who abuse children on federal and Indian lands; those who do not pay certain court ordered child support payments; those who transport obscene materials in interstate or foreign commerce; and international parental abduction. CEOS attorneys assist the 93 United States Attorney Offices (USAOs) in investigations, trials, and appeals related to these offenses.

## How to Report Child Pornography

### Citizen Reporting

Report the site address for child pornography found on the Internet to your Internet Service Provider and your local or state FBI or Customs office listed in your telephone directory. Also, you can easily report child pornography online by forwarding the site address to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) at <http://www.cybertipline.com>. NCMEC will forward your report to the appropriate investigative agency for follow-up.

### Reporting Child Pornography Found in the U.S. Mails

If you have information regarding the use of the U.S. Mails to send child pornography, contact the U.S. Postal Inspection Service listed in the white pages of your local telephone directory. For more information, click onto the U.S. Postal Inspection Agency web page.

## Reporting by Electronic-Service Providers

The Protection of Children from Sexual Predators Act amends the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990 by requiring online service providers to report evidence of child pornography offenses to law enforcement agencies. The Act also amends 18 U.S.C. ' 2702(b) of the Electronic Communications Privacy Act of 1986 to create an exception to the general statutory bar against a public provider's voluntary disclosure of customer communications to third parties. The online industry is encouraged to familiarize itself with the Electronic Communications Privacy Act of 1996, 18 U.S.C. '2701, et seq

The reporting section, 42 U.S.C. ' 13032, which is similar to 42 U.S.C. ' 13031, Child Abuse Reporting, requires anyone who is engaged in providing an electronic communication service to the public, and obtains knowledge of a violation of the child exploitation statutes, to report such violation to a law enforcement agency or agencies. The Attorney General is in the process of designating a federal law enforcement agency which will be responsible for receiving such reports by electronic service providers. A failure to report is subject to a civil fine of up to \$50,000 in the first instance and \$100,000 for any subsequent failure. No service provider may be held civilly liable for any action taken in good faith to comply with the reporting requirement.

The online industry is also encouraged to familiarize itself with 47 U.S.C. '230. This "Good Samaritan" blocking and screening statute states that: "no provider ... shall be held liable on account of any action voluntarily taken in good faith to restrict access to or availability of material that the provider ... considers to be obscene, lewd, lascivious, filthy, excessively violent, harassing, or otherwise objectionable, whether or not such material is constitutionally protected...."

## Sex Offender Registration C

According to an article in the publication entitled AChild Protection Report@ (The Independent News Service for Professionals working with Children and Youth,) The Departments of Justice (DOJ) and Education (ED) have released guidelines for dealing with registered sex offenders under the Campus Sex Crimes and Prevention Act (CSCPA.) The article further reports that AED=s regulation (OCT 31 FR, p. 66519) requires colleges and universities to inform members of the campus community Aof the means by which they can obtain information about registered sex offenders who may be present on campus. The DOJ regulations (OCT. 25 FR, p. 65598) require that registrant information is Apromptly made available to the campus police department or law enforcement agency.@ The DOJ regulations went into effect Oct. 25. Contact David Bergeron, ED, (202) 502-7815; Camille Cain, DOJ (202) 514-6278, [cain@ojp.usdoj.gov](mailto:cain@ojp.usdoj.gov) .@

The editor would like to thank the following for their contributions to this edition of the newsletter: Gary Hook, NYS Office of Mental Health; Brent Ewell, Oatka Valley Associates; and Denise Regan and Robert Starks of the Allegany County Probation Department. The editor would also like to thank David Sirianni, Director, of the Allegany County Probation Department for his tireless support of the sexual offender treatment program, especially during those early years when such collaborative approaches were not common place.

## Otsego County to Create a New Court for Sex Offenders

Oswego County may become the first jurisdiction in the country to use a court-mandated program to help treat convicted sex offenders.

The program would require probationers to go to court more frequently and allow a judge to keep closer tabs on the convicted offenders. It also would expedite the court process whenever a person is accused of violating probation.

A team of court, law enforcement and probation officers have been meeting for the last several months to develop a program known as the Sex Offender Review Court.

The group hopes to begin the program by late spring or early summer, said David Guyer, who is helping develop the program.

The Review Court would be a condition of probation, but it would not substitute for jail time, Guyer said. "We'll have to look at safety issues, but I think it's going to make the community a safer place because convicted sex offenders will be more closely supervised and they will be getting treatment."

The county probation department started treating convicted sex offenders in December after it hired a treatment and program coordinator to run its new sex offender management program. The positions are temporary and funded through a state grant.

The state gave the probation de-

partment to implement the sex offender management program two years ago. The probation department was one of 21 agencies to receive such money.

## New York State Assembly Passes Video Voyeurism Legislation

On 3/17/03, the State Assembly approved legislation that cracks down on video voyeurism, making it a Class E felony to secretly photograph or video tape individuals in private circumstances without their consent. The legislation also makes it a felony for a photographer or an accomplice to distribute these photographs or video tapes, and bans anyone from knowingly disseminating such unlawful images. According to the bill's lead sponsors, Assemblyman Robin Schimminger and Codes Committee Chair Joseph Lentol, the tough criminal penalties contained in this legislation will strongly deter video voyeurism by making felons subject to up to four years in prison for violating New York State privacy laws, with penalties of up to seven years for repeat offenders.

"More than four years ago, a woman and her children living in my Assembly district found a video camera apparently hidden by their landlord in an air vent in the family's rented apartment. This outrageous incident prompted me to introduce legislation against electronic 'Peeping Toms.' My bill unanimously passed the Assembly on June 15, 2000. Ever since, we have repeatedly met with the Senate in an effort to finalize legisla-

tion to crack down on these heinous acts," said Schimminger (D-Kenmore).

"The amended bill we passed today creates four new crimes, including three felonies, and allows police to seize and destroy unlawfully obtained images. The Assembly bill is intelligent, precise, and enforceable. I call on the state Senate to pass the measure and put a tough law against video voyeurism on the books," Schimminger said. "This legislation is directed at solving the problem of video voyeurism. With the stronger felony penalties, offenders will find themselves in prison for up to seven years," said Joseph Lentol (D-Brooklyn), noting that the "straightforward language of the bill will allow law enforcement and prosecutors to move more swiftly against video voyeurs.

## NYS Coalition Against Sexual Abuse (NYSCASA) Invites NYSATSA and NYSASOSP to Participate in Legislative Day Tuesday April 29th

The NYS Coalition Against Sexual Assault is a highly effective force for legislative reform regarding sex offense issues. NYSCASA Executive Director Ann Liske, who is a Board Member of the NYSASOSP, has again invited NYSATSA and Alliance members to participate in a day of workshops and visits to legislators.

Call (518) 482-4222, or visit [www.NYSCASA.ORG](http://www.NYSCASA.ORG) for more information. Come help our legislators learn about needed changes.

New York State Alliance of  
Sex Offender Service Providers

New York State Association for the  
Treatment of Sexual Offenders

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Albany, New York 12203-3115

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as it does free the offenders from hiding issues and gets them over this hurdle allowing them to move forward in treatment at a quicker pace. Currently, the Allegany County Probation Department's Sex Offender Treatment Program incorporates relapse prevention, cognitive restructuring, and victim empathy components. We have included many more written assignments and homework for our offenders over the past few years. We work with mixed (both pedophiles and rapists) offenders in our groups. We do allow developmentally disabled offenders to participate in our groups. These offenders typically will identify someone else to help them prepare the written assignments or we do allow the use of tape recorders to complete assignments. We have utilized Victim Impact Panel

meetings for the past five years in an effort to help promote a sense of victim empathy on the part of the offenders.

The additional new technologies coupled with present group techniques has resulted in more effective treatment. Better treatment lowers risk to re-offend, and ideally accomplishes the primary goal of **no more victims**.

**SAVE THE DATE**  
**October 8-11, 2003**  
**St. Louis, Mo**

***Gateway to Knowledge: Steps to Effective Treatment***  
**The 22nd Annual Research and Treatment Conference of the Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers**  
Contact: [www.ATSA.com](http://www.ATSA.com)

**Solicitation for Information  
for 2003 Treatment  
Program Directory**

NYSATSA and the Alliance are preparing an updated Directory of Sex Offender Service Providers. The Directory helps us make appropriate referrals. We are asking all programs to contact our office and to complete a one page form. The form can be requested by phoning our office at (518) 489-7971, or by sending an e-mail to: [NYSASOSP@NYCAP.RR.COM](mailto:NYSASOSP@NYCAP.RR.COM). We are planning to post the Directory on-line on our website, and to distribute copies at the Niagara Falls conference.

**Please ensure we have your current program information!**