

# THE ALLIANCE

*THE ALLIANCE* is a Quarterly publication of the New York State Alliance of Sex Offender Service Providers (NYSASOSP) and the New York State Chapter of the Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers (NYSATSA.)

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## SAVE THE DATE & CALL FOR PRESENTERS

**New York State Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers**

**and**

**New York State Alliance of Sex Offender Treatment Providers**

**12<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference**

**Intersections:**

**Research, Public Opinion, & Policy Making**

**in**

**Sex Offender Management & Treatment**

**May 3 & 4, 2007**

**Poughkeepsie Grand Hotel; Poughkeepsie, New York**

***Submission Deadline: January 31, 2007***

The conference will bring together diverse, multidisciplinary professionals who work with adult sex offenders, sexually abusive youth, and victims of sexual assault in a variety of settings. The conference theme is the exploration of the sometimes challenging intersections between research, public opinion, and local, state, and national policy initiatives, and how these intersections impact sex offender management and victim and community safety.

Professionals from a variety of disciplines including adult and juvenile treatment, victim services, probation and parole, child protective services, corrections and residential services, legal system, government, research, policy, and the media are invited to submit proposals for workshops related to the conference theme. Workshop sessions are an hour and a half or three hours in length. Presenters of workshop sessions are entitled to a waiver of one day's registration fee for the conference. (Maximum of two per workshop)

For submission information and application, please go to pages 6–7.

**Confronting Sexual Abuse in the 21st Century**

## Civil Commitment of Sexually Violent Predators

To the membership:

This issue contains an editorial “Rush to Judgment on Sex Offenders” published in the New York Times, along with a letter to the Editor of the Times “Toward Treatment for Sexual Abusers” commenting on this. Governor Spitzer has indicated that some sort of legislation involving the management of sexually violent predators is part of his agenda, and it is incumbent on the NYATSA and Alliance membership to educate and work with the Legislature and all interested parties to make such legislation as effective and cost-effective as possible. To this end we would again call upon Governor Spitzer and the Legislature to slow down and carefully examine policy options and create a law which is far more workable than those currently in existence.

Richard Kreuger, M.D., NYSATSA Vice President

### **Rush to Judgment on Sex Offenders (Copyright 2006 by the New York Times Co. Reprinted with Permission.)**

(Reprinted with permission from the New York Times editorial dated 12/10/06)  
New York may soon join the 17 states that lock people up for crimes they might commit. Among the bad ideas on Gov. George Pataki’s to-do list for this week’s special legislative session is a civil confinement bill under which imprisoned sex offenders who are deemed too dangerous to be released would be held involuntarily in hospitals after their sentences end.

Civil confinement has support across the political spectrum — who could possibly object to keeping sexual predators away from children, after all? — and so the negotiations in Albany are over details, like how much to protect inmates’ due-process rights, who forms the committees that make confinement decisions and what specific crimes and habits qualify someone as a sexual predator. The principle of confining prisoners after prison — blessed by the Supreme Court in

1997, in a 5-to-4 ruling upholding a Kansas civil confinement law is not up for discussion.

That is a shame, because civil confinement for sex offenders, tempting in principle, is deeply troubling in practice. It essentially means locking people up forever outside the criminal justice system for a regimen of “treatment” and “rehabilitation” that often involves neither. States that have tried it generally do not let people go; there is little incentive to do so, particularly when the psychiatric institutions are private, commercial concerns whose bottom lines depend on a steady supply of patients. Sexual compulsions are notoriously difficult to treat, and the fact that virtually nobody successfully completes treatment programs strongly suggests that this particular justification for civil confinement programs is a sham. This means that states are making an open-ended commitment of scarce resources to create an entirely separate prison system — costing as much as \$100,000 a year per inmate in some states — to lock down men who are a tiny subset of the sex-crime problem. Meanwhile, a far bigger universe of molesters and rapists roam free as agencies struggle for the resources to find, prosecute, monitor and treat them all.

It is possible to imagine a carefully drawn civil confinement program as a last resort for a small population of truly sick, violent predators. But by that standard, the civil confinement bill passed by the Republican controlled Senate, and favored by Mr. Pataki, fails miserably. Instead of being narrowly focused to subdue the worst of the worst, it has a ridiculously broad definition of who is a “sexually violent predator” that includes the creeps who secretly videotape women in changing rooms. It leaves all-important decisions about a person’s mental state and likelihood of committing new crimes not in the hands of mental health experts, but with a committee of prosecutors.

## Civil Commitment of Sexually Violent Predators

Continued

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The Assembly bill accepts the inevitability of civil confinement and tries to ameliorate its flaws with greater due-process protections, a specific focus on truly violent offenders and a greater reliance on psychiatric diagnosis by experts. But the better solution over all would be to adopt an approach like that used in Texas, where inmates are released into outpatient therapy programs, with teams of mental health and law enforcement professionals keeping close tabs on them. The conditions of release are extremely strict, and those who violate them end up back in jail. That approach, combined with a greater emphasis on treating inmates behind bars and the imposition of far longer prison sentences on violent repeat offenders, could form the basis of a sensible policy. Mr. Pataki, who is mindful of his legacy, should remember how similar moments of cultural anxiety tend to create bad legislation — like the Rockefeller-era drug laws — that are regretted for generations. A rushed, shabby civil confinement law would be a lasting blot on his record.

To the Editor (of the NY Times) :

Thank you for your editorial about New York State's sexual violent predator legislation ("Rush to Judgment on Sex Offenders," Dec. 10). The Senate's bill was a "lock-'em-up and throw away the key" plan and the Assembly's a defensive reaction to this. Either bill would have resulted in a financial disaster that would have had no impact on most sexual violence. The New York State Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers and the Alliance, representing

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professionals who manage sex offenders, for a year have suggested that the governor form a commission to thoroughly evaluate the experience of other states and countries with this legislation. Clearly, the Legislature began its deliberations with a very narrow focus; Eliot Spitzer, the governor-elect, should form a commission that could step back and broadly and creatively examine the problem and the large variety of options available in order to develop cost-effective legislation.

Richard B. Krueger, M.D.  
New York

The writer, a psychiatrist, is vice president, New York State Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers.

### NYSATSA/NYS Alliance Mission

- To reduce the level of sexual victimization.
  - To promote the increase, uniformity, and quality of assessment and treatment services for juvenile and adult sexual offenders.
  - To promote the development of a fully integrated continuum of services for sexual offenders.
  - To promote legislation on issues and funding for programs impacting sex offenders and survivors.
  - To promote offender accountability through restitution, mediation, treatment, supervision and incarceration; and
- To promote community safety through the confinement of sex offenders not amenable to community-based treatment services.

## More Civil Commitment Opposition in New York State

### **SEX OFFENDER MANAGEMENT: WHAT MAKES SENSE?**

A multi-million dollar false security blanket, or cost-effective funds for coordinated, local victim-centered safety planning?

**To the members of the Assembly and Senate:** If the proposed civil commitment legislation was passed during the December 13<sup>th</sup> special session, it would have had disastrous consequences. If implemented. It would create a long term drain on NYS resources, and – most importantly – this bill would do very little to make our communities safer. Instead, funding for civil commitment would drain much needed resources away from programs and strategies that have proven effective in preventing sex offenses.

#### **Please consider the following questions:**

**What's the rush?** All year experts in the field have been saying "New York needs a comprehensive plan" for sex offender management and victim services, not a narrow, one-shot fix that misses the mark.

**Did you know?** The Division for Criminal Justice Services is the lead on a multi-agency Department of Justice funded Center for Sex Offender Management (CSOM) grant. The state-wide multidisciplinary grant Steering Committee is about to release the results of a comprehensive 18 month assessment of the state's current policies and practices with recommendations for effective implementations at the state and local level.

**Don't you agree?** It's wasteful and misguided practice to develop and implement policy with serious consequences for the state without such valuable information!

**Have you noticed?** Three of the fifteen states who enacted civil commitment laws have "frozen" their implementation process and are re-examining the efficacy of these ineffective and financially burdensome measures.

**Who will take the lead?** Propose the immediate establishment of a Sex Offender Management task force to review the DCJS CSOM grant steering committee recommendations and start 2007 with clarity and a real plan to address sexual violence in New York!

The public needs to see that elected officials get the facts – the population of potential civil commitments is not where the primary danger lies; more than 80% of sexual victimizations are committed by friends, acquaintances, neighbors, everyday folks who get away with it because we are all looking the other way!

**WE NEED A STRATEGIC PLAN TO ADDRESS  
SEXUAL VIOLENCE NOT CIVIL COMMITMENT**  
**New York State Coalition Against Sexual  
Assault**

(518) 482-4222 [www.nyscasa.org](http://www.nyscasa.org)

### **Viewing Child Pornography and Sexual Abuse of Children**

According to a recent article by Candace Kim, Staff Attorney, American Prosecutors Research Institute, National Center for Prosecution of Child Abuse, "recent studies demonstrate that those who collect and disseminate child pornography are likely to molest an actual child." Ms. Kim reported the United States Postal Inspection Service found that "at least 80% of purchasers of child pornography are active abusers and nearly 40% of the child pornographers investigated over the past several years have sexually molested children in the past." Ms. Kim also reported on the use of child pornography in the grooming process of victims. Ms. Kim concludes that "The notion that viewing pornographic depictions of children has no relation to child molestation is without basis."

This article can be read in its entirety at [http://www.ndaa-apri.org/publications/newsletters/child\\_sexual\\_exploitation\\_update\\_volume\\_1\\_number\\_3\\_2004.html](http://www.ndaa-apri.org/publications/newsletters/child_sexual_exploitation_update_volume_1_number_3_2004.html).

# Notes from the President

## New York State Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers

Dear Colleague:

The year two thousand and six has been a very interesting and demanding time for all of us who have been working with sex offenders in New York State. The work is demanding enough, but when you need to focus so much time on the political as well as the treatment issues, it can at times become overwhelming. The media has spent many hours covering issues ranging from civil commitment to local residence laws. Those of us who have been working in this field for more than twenty years can attest to the fact that a decade ago the feeling was not enough attention was being given to sexual violence. Today the pendulum has swung and more and more people are recognizing that sexual violence is a serious social problem. It is clear that we need to do a better job understanding community safety needs while at the same time supporting research that will give us a better understanding about what are the best ways to protect our children. Last May, Jill S. Levenson, Ph.D. wrote an article entitled, 'Sex Offender Residence Restriction', in the Sex Offender Law Report where she made the point that recent social policies that are designed to prevent sexual abuse by where sex offenders can live are becoming more and more popular. She made an excellent point when she wrote, "As these social policies become more popular, lawmakers and citizens should question whether such policies are evidence based in their development and implementation, and whether such policies are cost-effective and effective in reaching their stated goals".

As clinicians, we will need to become more and more involved in the political process. We cannot lose track of the main goal to reduce sexual victimization in our state. Are these new local and state laws effective in reaching our stated goal or do they increase the risks in our society? This years' NYSATSA/Alliance Conference planned for May, 2007 in Poughkeepsie will focus much of the attention on these issues. I challenge all clinicians, probation, parole, law enforcement agencies, and politicians to look at these local and state policies and laws to assure, as Jill Levenson stated, that they are evidence based, cost-effective and meeting our stated goals of protecting children in NYS.

I would continue to encourage all of you who are working with sex offenders in NYS to stay abreast of the issues related to community notification, registrations and civil commitment. Let me know if there is any further the NYSATSA/Alliance can do to support your efforts. We are always looking for members to become more active in the state organization. Let me know if you are interested. Please remember to join for 2007.

Best wishes,

Kenneth J. Lau, LCSW ([klau@fordham.edu](mailto:klau@fordham.edu))  
NYSATSA President

**Encourage your colleagues in the field to join NYS ATSA or the NYS Alliance of Sex Offender Service Providers. Membership dues provide for a discount on conference fees and enables individuals to receive this publication. Inquiries can be made to [NYSASOSP@nycap.rr.com](mailto:NYSASOSP@nycap.rr.com)**

**NYS Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers  
NYS Alliance of Sex Offender Providers  
CALL FOR PAPERS**

**Proposals due by January 31, 2007**

**PLEASE COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION**

**Designated Contact Person for Workshop:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Attach for each Presenter:**

**Name/ Degree:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Title:**  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Agency:**  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Address:**  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Title of Workshop:**  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Length of Workshop:** 1.5 hours: \_\_\_\_\_  
3 Hours: \_\_\_\_\_

**Workshop type:** research \_\_\_\_\_ practice \_\_\_\_\_  
policy \_\_\_\_\_  
Other \_\_\_\_\_ (please describe):

**Workshop designed to address issues regarding:** adult offenders: \_\_\_ adolescent/youthful offenders: \_\_\_\_\_  
combined: \_\_\_\_\_

**Level of Workshop:** Beginner: \_\_\_ Intermediate: \_\_\_ Advanced: \_\_\_\_\_  
All: \_\_\_\_\_

**Brief Description of workshop as it would appear in brochure:**

**Goals for Participants (Learning Objectives):**

**Audio-Visual Requirements:**

*Please attach the following:*

A one-paragraph biography for each presenter  
Resume/C.V. for each presenter

**Deadline for proposals is January 31, 2007. Notification of proposal selections will be made by February 21, 2007.**

Send completed forms to:

Sharon Doane, Director of Forensic Services,  
Family Services, Inc.

By mail: 29 North Hamilton Street,  
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601  
By fax: (845) 452-3722  
By email: sdoane@familyservicesny.com

## NYSATSA & NYSASOSP 12th Annual Conference

### CALL FOR PAPERS

#### SUBMISSION INFORMATION

Complete and return attached proposal form.  
All information requested must be included for your proposal to be considered.

**Proposal deadline is January 31, 2007.**

Notification of proposal selections will be made by February 21, 2007.

Workshop sessions are an hour and a half or three hours in length.

The following are potential topics for the conference. You may present other topics than those listed.

- Increasing dialog about “best practices” between the legal system, treatment providers, and Probation/Parole
- Information for Judges to assist in sentencing decisions
- Specialized supervision techniques of sex offenders in community: what works and what doesn't
- Evidenced-based treatment techniques for adult and adolescent sex offenders
- Best practice models that provide for after care treatment and management
- Workshops related to Criminal Laws (ex: Penal Law, Megan's Laws, Civil Confinement, etc.)
- The impact of recent legislation (national and NY State)
- Internet use by sex offenders
- Funding for sex offender programs
- Housing for sex offenders
- Developing coordination among legal and treatment agencies.
- Using polygraphs in treatment
- Handling family reunification in sex offender cases
- Impact of media coverage of sex offender

- Effective community education regarding sex offender management
- Collaboration between victim services and offender treatment providers
- Sexual assault on college campuses
- Building effective collaborations between law enforcement and victim advocates
- Secondary trauma for offender treatment providers

Please see the proceeding page for submission application form.

***22<sup>nd</sup> Annual NAPN Conference:  
February 25, 26, 27, 2007  
National Adolescent Perpetration Network***

**NAPN 2007  
Sheraton Albuquerque Uptown;  
Albuquerque, New Mexico**

**\*\* Countering the  
Counterproductive \*\*  
Moderating the Unintended Effects of  
Intervention  
with Youth who have Sexually Offended**

Please Register for the conference *on line* after January 12<sup>th</sup> at [www.kempe.org/napn](http://www.kempe.org/napn)

Website registration provided courtesy of the Kempe Foundation. Register on-line with credit card, or choose to mail a check with a copy of your on-line confirmation. Questions? Contact: [Ryan.Gail@tchden.org](mailto:Ryan.Gail@tchden.org) or 303-864-5192

If you would like to present news about your region, please be sure to contact Dominic Dispenza, at [dadcon1959@yahoo.com](mailto:dadcon1959@yahoo.com).  
The editor will be happy to report on events and news items from all areas of the state.

**New York State Alliance of  
Sex Offender Service Providers**

**New York State Association for the  
Treatment of Sexual Offenders**

**P.O. Box 3115  
Albany, New York 12203-3115**

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**A Message From OJJDP**

The validity of research findings often depends on the quality of the available data. The redesign of the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting system has resulted in the National IncidentBased Report come a helpful tool in efforts to control the dissemination and sale of pornography depicting juveniles. By Collecting data on pornography/obscene material offenses from law enforcement jurisdictions, NIBRS enables researchers to draw conclusions about the number, locations, and characteristics of these crimes.

NIBRS data suggest that approximately 2,900 crime incidents of pornography with juvenile involvement were known to state and local police in 2000; these offenses most often were committed by a lone adult male offender, occurred in a residence, and did not involve a computer. Data from two major investigators of Internet crime, the FBI and the U.S. Postal Service, are not included in the NIBRS database. Thus, evidence from NIBRS may be skewed toward family abuse pornography.

**NoMoreAbuse.net**

Announces the release of **Protecting & Parenting Sexually Abused Children: Tools for Parents and Caregivers** by Rick Morris.

**Protecting & Parenting Sexually Abused Children: Tools for Parents and Caregivers**

**NoMoreAbuse.net**

Rick Morris

email:  
[info@nomoreabuse.net](mailto:info@nomoreabuse.net)