

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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NYSATSA & NYSASOSP Thirteenth Annual Conference Deemed A Grand Success

The Conference was held in Saratoga Springs this year. The weather was sunny, bright and pleasant. The Holiday Inn Hotel that hosted the conference in the heart of this beautiful region was filled to capacity with attendees. Over 350 people attended this year's conference. The diversity of the groups in attendance was also noteworthy. Representatives from several different State and county agencies, mental health and developmental disabilities service providers, as well as victim support groups, law enforcement professionals, and polygraph administrators were in attendance.

This year, a third day was added to the conference schedule to accommodate pre-conference seminars. These seminars were attended by over 180 people. Surely it was the high caliber presenters and topics that attracted such a large number. There were full day presentations by Dr. Robert Prentky, Dr. David D'Amore, Dr. Steve Bengis and polygraph gurus Eric Holden and Bill Sheve. The **NYS Coalition Against Sexual Assault** provided a full-day of mini-workshops particularly helpful to program administrators and clinicians, focusing on topics as varied as methods for increasing funding, the effects of cyber-crime on children, and strategies for utilizing victim advocates to enhance sex offender treatment.

Assemblyman Timothy Gordon kicked off the conference on the following day and discussed his concerns related to legislation on sex offender management that is empirically based and cost effective. **Assemblyman Jeffrion Aubry**, chairperson of the Assembly Corrections Committee, presented a well received keynote address which focused on the difficulties of working with sex offenders and prefaced this by drawing comparisons with his own work with drug addicts in the 1960's and 70's. Assemblyman Aubrey's work at the state and national level to push for implementation of empirically-based strategies for sex offender management and as the co-chair of an important conference entitled *A National Briefing on Sex Offender Management Policy*, co-hosted by the Center for Sex Offender Management, as well as his support of the efforts of NYSATSA and NYSASOSP were recognized following his keynote address. Assemblyman Timothy Gordon Assemblyman Aubrey and Assemblyman Gordon were given awards by Kenneth Lau, LCSW,

Thirteenth Annual Conference Awards

Continued from Page 1

President of NYSATSA and Dr. Richard Hamill, President of NYSASOSP, for their work in the legislature and in the community to promote community safety and effective services for sex offender management.

On Wednesday, the second day of the conference, focusing specifically on New York State, **Luke Martland**, Director of the NYS Office for Sex Offender Management and **Robert Maccarone**, Executive Director of the NYS Division of Probation spoke about the current status of sex offender services, and the variety of strategies now being developed for enhancing sex offender management across the State. This was followed by a keynote address given by **Dr. J. Karl Hanson** regarding effective interventions with sexual offenders. Dr. Hanson focused on his most recent research that shows the importance of addressing criminologic factors in sex offender treatment programs. Dr. Hanson presented during the afternoon on "Researching Sexual Offenders." (It is of interest to note that Dr. Hanson was commissioned to present on Thursday under the auspices of the NYS Department of Criminal Justice Services and presented an advanced course on the use of the Static-99.)

The conference workshops addressed the most current issues and research in the field, as well as providing the fundamentals for effective risk assessment and treatment of juvenile and adult sexual offenders. The former President of ATSA, **Dr. Ray Knight** presented a workshop on his new assessment tool, the Multidimensional Inventory of Development, Sex and Aggression (MIDSA), which is garnering very positive reviews from clinicians who evaluate juvenile sexual abusers.

The Marilyn Etcheverry Award is named after one of the national pioneers of in the field of sexual offender treatment. This year, the award was presented to William Moon, MPA, Commissioner, Delaware County Department of Social Services.

Under the direction of Mr. Moon, his agency developed and implemented a program to provide therapeutic foster home services to juveniles so that they can reside in their home county yet receive residential, 24/7 sex offender - specific services.

The Fay Honey Knopp Award, which is given to that individual who has been an exemplary model for some aspect of effective sex offender management, went to Robert Maccarone, Executive Director of the Department of Probation and Correctional Alternatives. He has instituted several important changes, including a \$1300 annual subsidy for the treatment of Level 2 and Level 3 sex offenders, and \$300 annually for their polygraph testing. Mr. Maccarone was recognized for his efforts to standardize supervision and containment efforts for effective sex offender management throughout the state.

The 2008 Leadership Award was presented to Assemblyman Jeffrion Aubry, who is the Chairman of the Assembly Committee on Correction, for his consistent support of empirically-based strategies for sex offender management.

We also gave an Award of Appreciation to Assemblyman Tim Gordon (108th Assembly District), who did the Welcome at the conference, and who has been strongly supportive of our model demonstration project, the Capital District Coalition for Sex Offender Management.

As one of the most important benefits, the conference offered the usual opportunities to interact with colleagues from around the state. The Tuesday evening reception featured Kevin McKrell of a local Albany Irish band, *The McKrells*, and was held in the dining area of the hotel. The Awards Luncheon was a packed house scene with folks from all over the state getting a chance to interact with old friends and new acquaintances. We hope to see you at next years conference in Niagara Falls!

Encourage your colleagues in the field to join NYSATSA 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 WWW.NYSASOSP.COM or WWW.NYSATSA.COM

Message from the President - New York State Alliance of Sex Offender Service Providers and New York State Chapter Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers

Dear Colleague:

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Noel Thomas and her committee for organizing and running a great conference this past May in Saratoga, New York. This was the first year that we included a day of pre-conference workshops. We had over 150 people attend the workshops, and those in attendance had an opportunity to spend a day with a number of nationally recognized experts, Eric Holden, MA, Robert Prenky, Ph.D., Steve Bengis, Ed.D., and David D'Amora. Over 300 professionals attended all or part of the three day conference. On Day Two, the keynote speakers, Assemblymen Tim Gordon and Jeffrion Aubry, provided critical information on the efforts of the NYS Legislators related to sex offender laws in NYS. On Day Three, Luke Martland, Director of Office of Sex Offender Management and Robert Maccarone, Director of the Division of Probation and Correctional Alternatives, provided the welcoming presentations. Luke discussed the efforts of the OSOM and the latest endeavor to develop credentials' guidelines for sex offender treatment providers in NYS. Bob outlined his office's efforts to provide local funding for high risk sex offenders. The keynote speaker on Day Three was Karl Hanson, Ph.D. Karl's topic, "What Works: Effective Interventions with Sex Offenders" was thought provoking and timely.

The first five months of 2008 has seen a major increase in training opportunities for treatment providers, polygraphers and management personnel especially related to the adult sex offenders. The present efforts of the Office of Sex Offender Management in conjunction with the NYSATSA to develop statewide credentialing guidelines is a major step in providing quality and consistent treatment to sex offenders throughout New York State. In addition, NYS Office of Mental Health has also been working closely with NYSATSA/Alliance on identifying and improving services for the sex offenders under Strict and Intensive Supervision and Treatment (SIST) as part of Article 10.

Recently, the Governor signed into law the Electronic Security and Targeting of Online Predators Act which requires sex offenders to register internet accounts and service providers. It is important that all our members provide feedback as to whether laws like this are effective or not in minimizing future risk and protecting out children. At the present time, there has not been solid research completed that looks at whether laws related to community notification, etc. are effective ways to protect children. We all need to provide feedback on the impact these laws have on the sex offenders we are managing and treating. We need to continue to ask ourselves, are these efforts by our state representatives the most effective way to protect children or are there efforts that would do more to reduce victimization at the same time as being more cost effective. It is the opinion of many experts that public policy and education should focus on prevention and effective treatment because that has shown to be the most effective way to reduce recidivism.

Again, it is time to review the tools used to assess future risk. It has been clear that SORA Risk Assessment Instrument is not the most reliable tool in determining future risk.

In the months ahead, the challenge for NYSATSA will be maintaining active communication among the Office of Sex Offender Management., our legislators and members of both NYSATSA and the Alliance. It is critical that we all stay abreast of the issues facing us.

If we can be of help and support at any time, please feel free to contact us at klau@fordham.edu or RichHamill@aol.com

Hope everyone is planning to go to the National ATSA Conference this October in Atlanta.

Best wishes,

Kenneth J. Lau, LCSW
NYSATSA President

Richard Hamill, Ph.D.
Alliance, President

Sex offender From New York State Released after Civil Commitment Trial Arrested for Kidnapping and Rape in Georgia

According to an article by Don Lehman of Post-Star.com, an Albany, NY man who was freed after a civil commitment trial was subsequently arrested in Georgia on charges of kidnapping and rape. It was reported that, "Douglas P. Junco was the first person to be tried under New York's civil confinement law when his case went to trial last July and August. The jury found he should not be confined further and that there was not sufficient evidence he suffered from a "mental abnormality" that made him likely to re-offend." Because Junco had already served his full sentence in a NY State prison for his sex offense, he had to be freed following the verdict at his civil commitment trial. Approximately six months after his release, Junco was arrested on the above charges.

Dennis Yusko, Staff Writer for the Albany Times Union, reported that "Junco, 40, finished serving nearly 15 years in a New York prison last year after a jury convicted him of attempted first-degree rape. In that 1992 case, Junco attacked a woman who offered to drive him home from a bar in Albany. Two men heard her screaming in a Madison Avenue lot and stopped the attack." Junco also had a conviction for Attempted Burglary in New York in 1987.

In the current case, a female relative complained that Junco held her against her will and sexually assaulted her. The victim's complaint to police led to Junco's arrest by Savannah-Chatham Metro Police. Junco was arrested on February 4, 2008 on felony charges of rape, kidnapping and incest. Lehman quoted Savannah-Chatham Police Sgt. Mike Wilson saying, "This is pretty heinous," Chisolm said, "The victim was injured" and "There probably will be more charges," He would not disclose the extent of her injuries.

Readers of this newsletter may recall the debates surrounding enactment of the Civil Commitment Law in New York. A law enforcement official in Georgia handling the Junco case questioned the effectiveness of New York's civil commitment program.

Underage Sex Linked To Media

A recent study, published in the Journal of Adolescent Health found that films, TV programs, music and magazines viewed by children usually portrayed sex as "risk-free." The study also found that there is a direct relationship between the amount of sexual content a child sees in these media and their level of sexual activity or their intentions to have sex in the near future.

A large list of media was presented to more than 1,000 American children aged between 12 and 15 who were asked to identify the kinds of media they were exposed to regularly from that list. They also answered questions about their health and levels of sexual activity, including whether they went on dates, kissed, had oral sex or intercourse. Researchers then examined the sexual content of 264 items on the list, which included teen magazines, teen movies and TV programs.

Examination of these media found that the sex portrayed was usually between unmarried couples and examples of using condoms or other contraception were "extremely rare". The study concluded: "The strong relationship between media and adolescents' sexual expression may be due to the media's role as an important source of sexual socialization for teenagers."

The researchers said the media may serve as a kind of "sexual super peer" for teenagers seeking information about sex. The average age of the children was 13.7 years, with about one third thought to come from poorer backgrounds, receiving free or reduced price school meals.

In another study entitled, "Music Videos, Pro Wrestling, and Acceptance of Date Rape among Middle School Males and Females: An Exploratory Analysis" it was found that "Exposure to televised music videos and pro wrestling were associated with rape acceptance (lower levels of agreeing with the statement "forcing a partner to have sex is never OK") among males, but not females, in a sample of 904 middle school students (controlling for overall television exposure, parenting style, and demographics)."

OJP Sex Offender Management Discretionary Grant Program

The Office of Justice Programs (OJP), operated by the United States Justice Department, provides grant money to states to study issues related to sex offender management and to develop strategies to address the problems identified. The New York State Department of Corrections received an OJP Grant. Information disseminated by OJP regarding the DOCS grant provides for some interesting data regarding recidivism rates in our state. Presenters at the most recent NYSATSA and NY-SASOSP conference shared information about how the vision behind this grant application has been coming to fruition by developing a coordinated statewide response to sexual offender management. The following paragraph pertains to the OJP grant.

“Currently, 6,163 sex offenders are incarcerated in New York State prisons, representing 9.5% of the total under-custody population (64,878). During 2003, 1,140 sex offenders were released to the community from Department of Correctional Services (DOCS) facilities. A recent DOCS study found that approximately 35% of released sex offenders were returned to prison within three years of release. The NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services received a grant to support a collaborative effort that will engage in a comprehensive assessment of the state's sex offender management system and work towards identifying gaps in that system. The collaborative team has identified several targets for improvement in New York's sex offender management system. These targets include developing a statewide, cross-system sex offender management model and piloting the model in selected counties; improving the rates of victim impact statement completion and victim notification registration; removing barriers to availability of support for survivors of sexual assault; strengthening the validity of the classification system employed by the Board of Examiners of Sex Offenders;

improving the interagency flow of information relevant to sex offender classification, treatment, and containment; and assessing the public safety impact of community notification for registered sex offenders. These efforts will focus the most attention on the transition from prison to parole for adult sex offenders.”

Telephone Problems

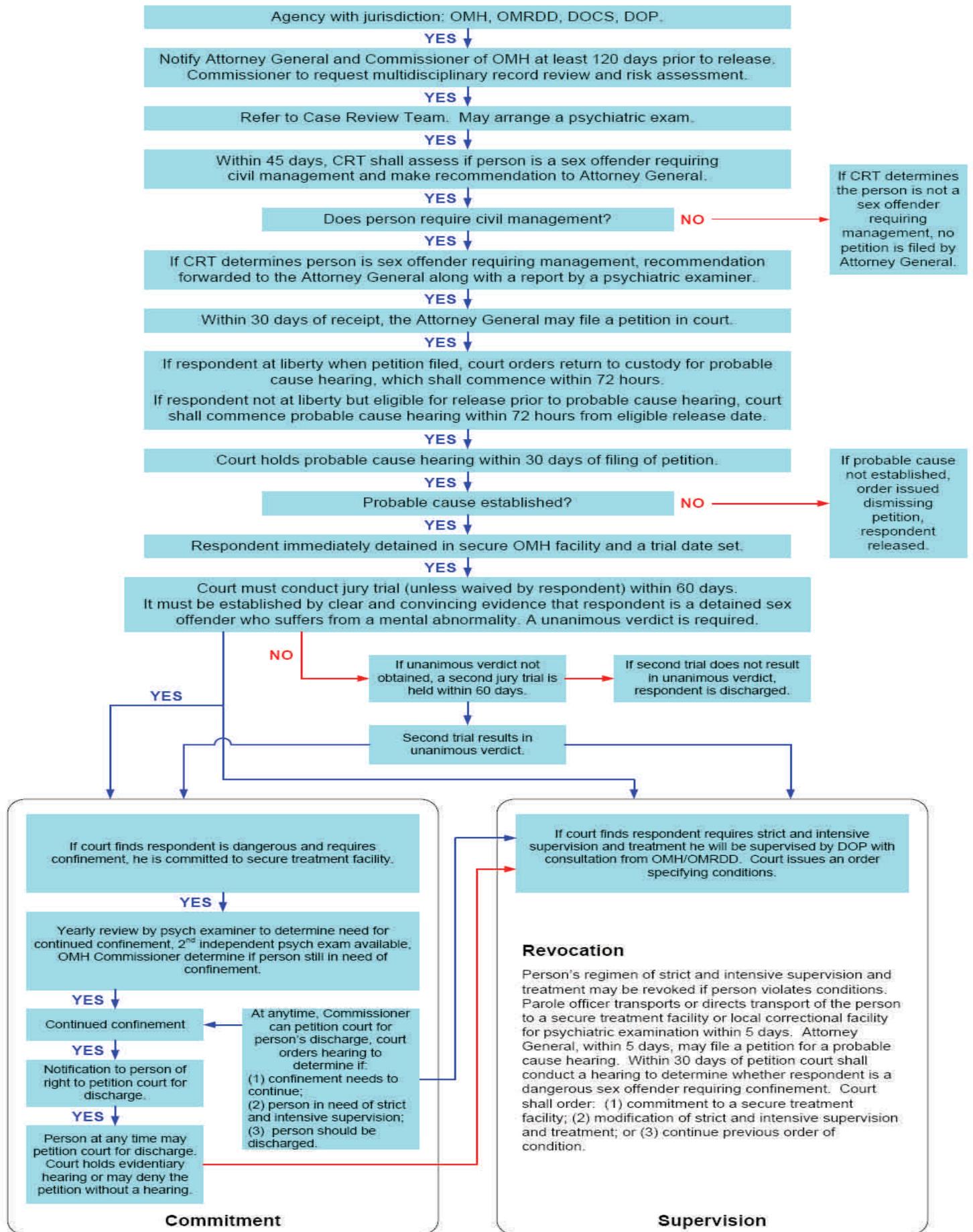
Several news outlets carried the story of a 37 year old Japanese man who was arrested on charges for making at least 2,600 calls (and possibly more than 10, 000) to Directory Assistance operators. Mr. Fujinuma is reported to have stated that he “would go into ecstasy” when the female operators would “scold” him.

Editor's Note: The table on page 6 of this edition of the newsletter is taken from the NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services, Office of Sex Offender Management Website. It is intended to provide a snapshot of the Civil Commitment Law currently in effect in our state.

NYS ATSA/NYS Alliance Mission Statement

- 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
- To promote community safety through the confinement of sex offenders not amenable to community-based treatment services

Sex Offender Management and Treatment Act



Victim Centered Sex Offender Treatment

By; Dominic Dispenza, LCSWR

Who are the clients we serve and why do we serve them? Whether we are in law enforcement, a prosecuting attorney, probation/parole officer, polygraph examiner, mental health provider, or victim advocate, those of us who work with juveniles and adults who have committed sexual offenses have a common goal of helping these individuals so they do not commit any more such crimes. The next logical reasoning is that we do this work because we do not want others to be hurt in such a manner.

The Center for Sex Offender Management (CSOM) has long held that a victim centered philosophy is central to the "Containment Approach." The safety of victims and potential victims is the primary goal of this approach. Furthermore, from a systems viewpoint, victims can provide information central to evaluation and treatment about a specific offender.

So how do we make this approach work in our day to day tasks related to providing services to offenders? The starting point is to not simply pay lip service to this approach, but rather make a real and meaningful effort to make the victim our primary client. Whether or not the victims of our clients ever receive feedback about how our offenders are doing in supervision and treatment, we must always think and act as if they will. Effective supervision and treatment works with the offender to enable him to also think in this manner.

Awareness of victim impact issues is essential to keeping the victim as our primary client. If a service provider has not been trained to work with victims of sexual assault, it is imperative to get some intellectual and emotional understanding of victim impact issues. Having a victim advocate as part of the team working with the offender is important regardless of whether or not the other sex offender service providers on the team have experience working with and/or knowledge about victims. These advocates can provide information regarding the offenders from the victim's point of view, as well as giving needed information back to the victim.

The advocate can also remind the other service providers of more general information that everyone needs to keep in mind while working toward our common goal. This also helps guide decision making on individual, treatment/supervision, programmatic, and systems wide levels to consider victim impact issues.

The victim centered approach is central to effective sex offender supervision and treatment on the individual level for each offender in treatment. Studies show that effective treatment addresses criminologic factors including a lack of empathy. Sexual offenders can benefit from learning the effects of sexual abuse on victims. For example, providing instruction on victims' feelings of anger and guilt, disruption of relationships, bio-psychological reactions such as PTSD and disruptions to sexual functioning and well being are valuable topics to be discussed. Instruction is enhanced when utilizing media to convey this information. For example, having offenders listen to Maya Angelou read from her book (on tape) I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings about her own childhood rape provides a powerful emotional description of how a victim is hurt physically, emotionally, psychologically and spiritually. The most effective method of conveying an intellectual as well as emotional understanding of victim impact issues is having survivors of sexual abuse speak to groups of offenders about how they have been affected and what they want from offenders who are in treatment. (This intervention requires a great deal of planning, and experience in the field to assure that there is no trauma to the presenters in these situations.)

I once heard William Pithers say that we should conduct our sex offender treatment as if the victims are in the room with us. As a system, a program, a service agency or provider or individual sexual offender, it is important for everyone doing this work to ask the following questions: What would be best for the victim in this situation? What would she think if I responded in this way? I have witnessed greatly improved judgment and decision making at all levels when these questions are used as guiding principles.

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

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

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**ATSA's 27th Annual
Conference
"Teamwork in Trying Times:
Improving Our Response to
Sexual Abuse"**

The Conference will be held on
October 22 – 25, 2008 in
Atlanta, Georgia.

This conference will provide
information and training relating
to issues in both victim and
perpetrator research and treatment.
Conference brochures will be
mailed out in July. Further infor-
mation can be obtained at:
[http://www.atsa.com/
confinforeq.html](http://www.atsa.com/confinforeq.html)

Conference Announcement!

NYS OSOM is working out a
contract with Judith Becker to
bring her to New York for three
days of training, in NYC, Al-
bany and Buffalo. It looks like
the dates are August 18, 19
and 20. It will be free of charge,
and obviously, very high qual-
ity.

Employment Opportunity

OCFS is hoping to hire two
masters-level therapists to
work with juvenile sex offend-
ers at their Highland Residen-
tial Center in Highland, New
York, across the Hudson river
from Kingston. For more infor-
mation, potential applicants can
contact:

[Anne.Pascale@ocfs.state.ny.u
s.](mailto:Anne.Pascale@ocfs.state.ny.us)

NEW WEBSITE

NYSATSA and NYSASOSP are
pleased to announce that our new
website is up and running. The site
features a home page that will carry
important announcements. There
are several links on the home page.
These include links for
"Membership" (applications),
"Resources," and "CDSOM." Soon,
we will have information regarding
the history of our sister organiza-
tions and employment opportuni-
ties. The editor's favorite is the link
to past newsletters. (Some of the
older newsletters are in simple
document format and we hope to
improve on that.)
You can access the new site by go-
ing to:
www.nysatsa.com or
www.nysasosp.com