

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 THESE DATES!!

15th Annual Conference

New York State Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers & New York State Alliance of Sex Offender Service Providers

Monday, May 3 - Wednesday, May 5, 2010

Turning Stone Resort & Casino - Verona, NY

Conference Highlights:

- ◆ Workshops on: treatment, supervision, assessment and management of adult and juvenile sexual abusers; sexual victimization & trauma; victim advocacy issues.
- ◆ Full-day pre-conference seminars on May 3rd.
- ◆ The Turning Stone Resort & Casino is located 35 miles east of Syracuse and is easily accessible from Interstate 90.
- ◆ Overnight room rates begin at just \$69 (up to \$129). Free valet parking for overnight guests. Over ten restaurants (in all price ranges) on-site. (See page 8 for more details.)

REQUEST FOR PRESENTERS!

The New York State Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers (NYSATSA) and the New York State Alliance of Sex Offender Service Providers (NYSASOSP) are pleased to invite you to submit a 90 minute workshop proposal for the 2010 Annual Conference. The conference will be held Monday, May 3 – Wednesday, May 5, 2010 at the Turning Stone Resort & Casino Conference Center in Verona, NY (conveniently located off Interstate 90; the resort is approximately 35 miles east of Syracuse). Continued on page 2

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

Comments, Inquiries, and Articles can be sent to:

Dominic Dispenza, LCSWR
4985 Harlem Road
Amherst, New York 14226
(716) 625-9550

Or by email to:
dadispenza@gmail.com

General inquiries can be made to:
WWW.NYSATSA.COM

Call for Presenters

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New York State Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers & New York State Alliance of Sex Offender Service Providers 2010 Annual Conference.

The NYSATSA/NYSASOSP Conference provides an opportunity for participants to examine services involving shared leadership and resources, as well as programs and practices that influence emerging best practices. The Conference enables attendees to interact and network with leaders in the field of sex offender treatment, supervision, assessment, management, and victim advocacy. We are certain that all will benefit from this opportunity to share, learn, and strategize with others dedicated to improving sex offender management services in New York State.

Appropriate workshop topics include issues related to the treatment, supervision, assessment and management of adolescents and adults who have sexually offended; sexual victimization and victim advocacy.

The conference committee *especially* invites presentations that focus on:

- Adolescent sex offense specific assessment and treatment
- How to effectively and ethically manage sexual abusers in the community
- Assessment and treatment issues related to child pornography
- Sexual victimization, trauma, and victim advocacy
- Clinical application of the latest research in assessment and managing sexual abusers.

Please see the attached guidelines and workshop information forms for more information. All workshop submissions are due on Friday, December 4, 2009. The conference committee will make all decisions by January 9, 2010 and you will be notified after that date.

If you have any questions, you may contact our Conference Planner, Janalee Orfanides, at conferenceplanner@nysatsa.com. Cont'd Pg. 4

Sex Offenders Residing in Treatment Center Indicted on Child Pornography Charges

In a story dated September 17, 2009 it was reported that residents of the State of Washington's Special Commitment Center for sex offenders have been indicted on federal charges of child pornography.

The seven indictments were unsealed in U.S. District Court in Seattle. The documents don't specify how the men allegedly obtained the child porn.

The treatment center on McNeil Island, reportedly blocks residents from the Internet. At least four other sex offenders have faced child porn charges before, and officials have said they don't know about the source. Several of the charges date to 2007, but some are more recent. The men were all committed involuntarily for treatment after they served their prison terms.

If convicted, they could be sent back to prison.

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.

The Request for Presenters article at left was submitted by Candice Cleveland, LCSWR and Catherine Diana, LCSW, Conference Co-Chairs for the 2010 Conference.

Message from the Presidents of NYSATSA and the Alliance

The Boards 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 held their fall meeting in Saratoga this past September. We also spent an additional day involved in Board development. For the first time ever, the Board of Directors felt it was time to work diligently to advance the efforts of our organizations. We invited the New York Council for Nonprofits (NYCON), to submit a proposal regarding what we could do to improve Board Development and help develop a Strategic Plan for 2010. Susan Weinrich, Vice president for Organizational and Community Development at NYCON provided the leadership needed as the Boards spent the day reviewing our organizations by-laws. At the end of the day, it was apparent that we needed take a hard look at our by-laws and begin to make needed structural changes. In planning for the Board retreat, Ms. Weinrich developed a confidential Board survey that sixteen members of the Board completed prior to the retreat. The survey looked at such issues as the Mission Statements of both the NYSASOSP and NYSATSA to assess whether our missions were consistent and should there be different Mission statements for each organization. Some other issues addressed in the survey included what needed to be the future direction of the organizations in the next 3-5 years, internal strengths and weakness of each organization, what programs and services are needed, board composition and structure and community relationships. As Ms. Weinrich reviewed the results of the survey at the retreat, it became apparent to all the Board members in attendance that we had a number of critical areas to address over the coming months.

The recommendations that were made at the end of the retreat included strengthening our committee structure and adding a committee to specifically review our by-laws. The Board recognizes that we need to work to develop greater consistency in committee make-up and actions. A Board Development committee was formed to be chaired by Henry Epstein.

The committee is expected to review the by-laws of both organizations and come up with a plan to address by-law concerns. One of the major issue facing the organizations is whether to continue having two organizations (NYSASOSP and NYSATSA), with two boards, two membership organizations, two bank accounts, etc. One of the recommendations from NYCON was for the Boards to explore some form of consolidation. Over the next few months, we will look at this issue and hopefully come up with a plan that will improve membership options and provide clearer direction for professionals working in the field of sex offender treatment and management as we move in the second decade of the 21st century. We certainly know there are a number of major issues that need to be addressed, included residency laws, further development of appropriate assessment tools and the treatment needs of sexually aggressive youth.

In the past much of the activities of the Board has been focused on the annual spring conference. As in the past, this year's conference (again held in Saratoga Springs) was a huge success. Hiring a Conference Planning coordinator will allow the Board to focus on other important issues we face in the upcoming year. We hope our efforts will result in a stronger organization and more support for our members.

Next year, we will be holding the 15th annual conference at the Turning Stone Resort and Casino in Verona, New York from May 3-5, 2010. For those of use that had the opportunity to attend the national ATSA Conference in Dallas this year, I think it was a great experience and offered us an opportunity to coordinate not only with our state colleagues but national and international colleagues as well. It would be nice if we had a great turnout not only at our state conference in May but at the national conference in Phoenix in October.

Kenneth J. Lau, LCSW	Richard Hamill, Ph.D.
President	President
NYS ATSA	NYS Alliance

Request for Presenters – 2010 Annual Conference

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Guidelines for Submission

1. Please complete all pages of the application form in full.
2. Workshop proposals may be submitted by email to Janalee Orfanides at conferenceplanner@nysatsa.com. PROPOSALS MAY ALSO BE SUBMITTED BY MAIL TO: Janalee Orfanides
Attn: NYSATSA Conference
Family Service Society
280 Princeton Ave. Ext.
Corning NY 14830
3. All workshop submissions will be confirmed by email within one week of submission by Janalee Orfanides, Conference Planner. If you do not receive email confirmation within one week of submitting your proposal, please contact Janalee at conferenceplanner@nysatsa.com.

Selection Information

Proposals will be rated on their target audience, clarity, originality, and substance. The Lead Presenter will be notified of the Conference Committee's decision shortly after January 9, 2010. The Lead Presenter will be the designated contact person and will be the person receiving all conference correspondence. The Lead Presenter is responsible for conveying conference related information to each co-presenter. The Lead Presenter will receive one (1) free day of conference registration. Co-presenters are expected to pay the full Conference registration fee.

For Further Information

Please contact: Janalee Orfanides, Conference Planner, at conferenceplanner@nysatsa.com or phone (607) 962-3148 on Wednesdays and Fridays only.

TITLE OF WORKSHOP (*please limit title to 14 words or less)

STRUCTURE OF PRESENTATION:

____ Workshop ____ Panel

TARGET SKILL/EXPERIENCE LEVEL:

____ Introductory ____ Intermediate ____ Advanced

WORKSHOP PERTAINS TO: ____ Adult Topic

____ Adolescent Topic ____ Victimization/

Advocacy

PRESENTATION DAY & TIME: Please indicate your preference, although NYSATSA & NY-SASOSP reserves the right for final workshop placement due to scheduling circumstances.

____ Tuesday, May 4, 2010

____ Wednesday, May 5, 2010

AUDIO/VISUAL REQUEST

We request, whenever possible, that you bring your own AV equipment (laptop & projector). This eliminates any potential incompatible equipment issues that may occur. If that is impossible, please let us know what equipment you will need:

____ LCD Projector ____ Laptop

____ Other _____

____ I will bring my own equipment.

Please provide the following information on separate pages. Label each response with the appropriate question number.

1. Detailed workshop description (you may provide as much information as you want – there is no word limit)

2. Two learning objectives or goals to be addressed in your workshop

3. Brief summary of workshop—75 words or less.

New Federal Law Affects Privacy of Electronic Information

By: Dominic Dispenza, LCSWR

The Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act (HITECH Act) was recently passed as part of the federal stimulus package. There are numerous regulations in the HITECH Act that will impact many of the readers of this newsletter.

Many of the regulations and provisions contained in this new law pertain to and increase the security and privacy provisions contained in the Health Information Portability Act (HIPAA) that was passed in 1996. Another aspect of this law is how it encourages the development and use of electronic health records. Physicians can receive economic stimulus funds for “meaningful use” of electronic medical records.

The HITECH Act also sets parameters for encrypting personal health information, within the network, on the laptop, removable memory, and PHI sent via the internet. The Act delineates action to be taken if there is a breach of PHI and what actions must be taken according to the severity of the breach.

In particular, section 13402 of the Act “requires HIPAA covered entities to notify affected individuals, and requires business associates to notify covered entities, following the discovery of a breach of unsecured protected health information (PHI). The Act at section 13402(h) defines “unsecured protected health information” to mean PHI that is not secured through the use of a technology or methodology specified by the Secretary in this guidance.” If PHI is rendered unusable, unreadable, or indecipherable to unauthorized individuals by one or more of the methods identified in this Act, then such information is not “unsecured” PHI. The Act also indicates that breach notification requirements apply only to breaches of unsecured PHI.

“The breach notification provisions of section 13402 apply to HIPAA covered entities and their business associates that access, maintain, retain, modify, record, store, destroy, or otherwise hold, use, or disclose unsecured PHI (sections 13402(a) and (b)).”

The rules and regulations in the Federal Register (vol. 74, No. 79) states, “Data comprising PHI can be vulnerable to a breach in any of the commonly recognized data states: “data in motion” (*i.e.*, data that is moving through a network, including wireless transmission ; “data at rest” (*i.e.*, data that resides in databases, file systems, and other structured storage methods); “data in use” (*i.e.*, data in the process of being created, retrieved, updated, or deleted); or “data disposed” (*e.g.*, discarded paper records or recycled electronic media). PHI in each of these data states (with the possible exception of “data in use”) may be secured using one or more methods. In consultation with information security experts at NIST, we have identified two methods for rendering PHI unusable, unreadable, or indecipherable to unauthorized individuals: encryption and destruction. Both of these methods are discussed below. Encryption is one method of rendering electronic PHI unusable, unreadable, or indecipherable to unauthorized persons. The successful use of encryption depends upon two main features: The strength of the encryption algorithm and the security of the decryption key or process. The specification of encryption methods in this guidance includes the condition that the processes or keys that might enable decryption have not been breached.”

Destruction of data is addressed in this Act, both in paper and electronic form. “Paper, film, or other hard copy media have been shredded or destroyed such that the PHI cannot be read or otherwise cannot be reconstructed. Electronic media have been cleared, purged, or destroyed such that the PHI cannot be retrieved.”

For more information, readers can access the Department of Health and Human Services Federal Register Report (vol. 74, No. 162) “45 CFR Parts 160 and 164 Breach Notification for Unsecured Protected Health Information; Interim Final Rule” at

<http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2009/pdf/E9-20169.pdf>.

Free Services Provide Encryption of PHI and Email Information

This is not an advertisement for a service, but rather an informative piece that can help clinicians maintain the privacy of information that is stored on their computer and/or sent via the internet. One of the new mandates contained in the HITECH Act reviewed earlier in this newsletter make encrypting email that contains patient health information a priority.

Traditional email services such as Yahoo and AOL do not provide sufficient security for PHI or other sensitive information being sent via email. Such non-encrypted email is like a post card. It can be read by anybody who handles it. Alliance readers may want to try using "Hushmail.com" to send confidential information. Hushmail offers private, secure free email accounts. Email is encrypted and spam/virus scanned.

It is advertised as the "most secure web-based free email service in the world." There is a free account service as well as an upgrade that is a paid service.

Individuals who receive your encrypted emails from **Hushmail.com** need only answer a simple question from the sender to remove the encryption and make the email readable.

According to the website, Hushmail has been in operation since 1999.

Readers might want to also check out "TRUE CRYPT." This is a free open-source disk encryption software for Windows 7/Vista/XP, Mac OS X, and Linux that will encrypt your PHI. The newest release came out on 10/21/09 and can be found at <http://www.truecrypt.org/>

"Storage Crypt" will encrypt and password protect usb flash drives and external hard drives. It can be downloaded from www.magic2003.net/scrypt/download.htm?tag=middle

Please note that these are only suggestions for compliance with HITECH. The editor is NOT responsible for any problems readers might experience in installing, trying or using these or similar services.

Changes at Office of Sex Offender Management

Ms. Jacqui C. Williams, Outreach and Training Director, Office of Sex Offender Management has proudly served the State of New York and the NYSATSA Board of Directors for several years. She began her work with the NYSATSA Board when she was working with NYCASA. Ms. Williams then took her position at the Office of Sex Offender Management (OSOM.)

Ms. Williams reported that her final day at OSOM will be Wednesday, October 28th. It is important to note that Ms. Williams has been part of the work to create collaborative networks between the Office of Sex Offender Management at NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services and other state agencies, offices, treatment providers, community organizations, advocates, supervision and monitoring professionals, local government, colleges, and more to enhance the skills of professionals and to broaden understanding of sex offender issues. Many professionals from varying backgrounds attended trainings throughout New York State that were facilitated by Ms. Williams and her department. In a message to her colleagues, Ms. Williams wrote, "Please continue to check the public and eJusticeNY websites for updates in legislation, information that can be downloaded and distributed and for training opportunities." Ms. Williams remains dedicated to working to stop sexual assault in our communities. We wish her the very best in her new endeavors.

OSOM Supervising Counsel, Natasha Harvin will be adding training to her responsibilities. She can be reached at the general OSOM number (518) 457-5628.

The mandate of OSOM is quite broad and includes leading inter-agency initiatives to improve sex offender management, advising the Governor and Legislature on sex offender issues, training professionals, conducting community outreach and education and dealing with public awareness to prevent sex crimes. In addition, OSOM conducts research and oversees the New York State Sex Offender Registry.

Meet Your NYSATSA and NYSASOSP Board of Directors

Editor's Note: During the March 2009 meeting of the boards of directors for NYSATSA and NYSASOSP decided that we would randomly pick two board members to do a biography on. The editor randomly picked two names for this newsletter. This is a continuation of the series that began with the Spring newsletter.

Richard M. Hamill, Ph.D. is a clinical psychologist with some twenty-seven years of experience in the evaluation and treatment of adolescent and adult sex offenders. His graduate degrees from Harvard University and the University of Albany (SUNYA), and his clinical work in the field of chemical dependence, provided the academic and experiential basis from which Dr. Hamill started his work in sex offender treatment in 1979. Now in his twenty-sixth year at St. Anne Institute in Albany, Dr. Hamill helped create the first community-based treatment program in New York State for adolescent sex abusers. His private practice group, Forensic Mental Health Associates, now in its twenty-fifth year, currently provides treatment services to approximately one hundred sixty sex offenders referred from local probation departments, Family Court, the New York State Division of Parole and the United States Probation Department.

His professional work with sex offenders is informed by his on-going clinical experience with victims of sexual abuse. Dr. Hamill regularly provides evaluations and treatment services to child and adult victims of sexual assault. He serves currently as the President of the Board of Directors of the START Children's Center, the child advocacy center serving Rensselaer County, where he has been a member of the multi-disciplinary team for more than twenty years.

As the Project Director of the Capital District Coalition for Sex Offender Management, Dr. Hamill developed this model regional project using a \$250,000 implementation grant from the U.S. Department of Justice (Bureau of Justice Assistance) Center for Sex Offender Management, as well as State and local county fund-

-ing. The goal of this innovative project is to enhance the investigation, prosecution, community supervision and treatment of sex offenders in a victim-centered model, within the five counties of the Capital District. Also, Dr. Hamill is Consultant to the Catskill Region Coalition for Sex Offender Management, a similar four county project focusing on adolescent sexual abusers, also funded by the U.S. Department of Justice.

Dr. Hamill served for ten years as the first President of the New York State chapter of the Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers (1995-2005). Since 1994, he has served as President of the New York State Alliance of Sex Offender Services Providers. In New York State, these are the two largest professional organizations in the field of sex offender management.

Dr. Hamill has published recent articles on sex offender management in **Criminal Justice** (2002), a journal of the American Bar Association, and in **Empire State Prosecutor** (2003), the journal of the New York Prosecutor's Training Institute. He is a co-author of the **Guidelines for the Forensic Interviewing of Children** (2003), a state-of-the-art manual for the investigation of child abuse cases in New York State which is currently being distributed through the New York State Office of Children and Family Services. Also, in 2003, he and Daniel Saunders authored a monograph for the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) entitled, "**Offender Interventions to End Violence Against Women: A Research Synthesis for Practitioners**," which presented an overview of interventions for sex offenders and batterers.

Dr. Hamill has presented training workshops and professional consultation to organizations including: the American Bar Association, the United States Attorney's Office, the New York State Office of Court Administration, the New York State Department of Health Office of Professional Medical Conduct, and the New York State Children's Justice Task Force.

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**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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**Monday, May 3 -
Wednesday, May 5, 2010**

Turning Stone Resort &
Casino - Verona, NY

15th Annual Conference

Registration Information:

The complete conference brochure and registration information will be available by the end of January 2010. Also, check our website at www.nysatsa.com for conference updates. If you have questions, please contact our Conference Planner, Janalee Orfanides, at 607-962-3148 or email: conferenceplanner@nysatsa.com.

**NCJJ Releases Three New
Snapshots on Juvenile Sex Of-
fender Registration Laws**

The National Center for Juvenile Justice (NCJJ) today released three new snapshots of juvenile sex offender provisions under Megan's Law:

1. [**Megan's Law: Juvenile Sex Offender Registration \(2009 update\)**](#)
2. [**Megan's Law: Juvenile Sex Offender Registration Lower Age Limits \(2009 update\)**](#)
3. [**Megan's Law: Termination of Registration Requirements \(2009 update\)**](#)

These can be accessed at: <http://www.ncjjservicehttp.org/NCJJWebsite/>

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Dr. Hamill has also worked actively to develop services for child and adult victims of sexual assault, including the child advocacy center in Rensselaer County (the START Children's Center), and the New York State Child Advocacy Resource and Consultation Center. For his work in advocating for children's justice reform, Dr. Hamill is the 2007 recipient of the Jane Barker and Leah Harrison Child Advocacy Award, given by the New York State Office of Children and Family Services.

Dr. Hamill has been a strong lobbyist for victim's rights as well as sex offender treatment.