

SOMB Meeting Minutes

The regular meeting of the Sex Offender Management Board was called to order on February 8, 2012. Illinois State Police District Headquarters, Pontiac, Illinois. Chairperson Alyssa Schafer called the meeting to order.

PRESENT:

Member(s):

Alyssa Schafer, Amy Campanelli, Sheryl Essenburg, Steve Goytia, Verlin Meinz, Tracie Newton, Dustin Sutton, Abdi Tinwalla, Dick Winkler

Via Phone: Michael Bednarz, Annette Milleville, Mickie Owens

Non-Member(s):

Alesia Crockett (Attorney General's Office), Mary Morrissey (Attorney General's Office), Jessica O'Leary (Attorney General's Office), Robin McGinnis, Harry Reed

ABSENT:

Member(s):

Excused: Cara Smith, Lisa Stephens

Unexcused: Pat Delphino, Carol Corgan

A. Welcome/Roll Call

B. Discussion: Legislative Proposal

Mary Morrissey, Attorney General's Office (AGO) Policy and Legislative Affairs, provided an overview of the main goals of the proposed legislation which incorporates the work of the SOMB's Legislative Committee. The main goals are to:

- I. Amend the Act to require that as of January 1, 2014, all sex offender evaluation and treatment services be provided by a professional licensed under the Sex Offender Evaluation and Treatment Provider Act (SOETP Act)
- II. Amend the duties of the Board to (1) eliminate the duties of the Board which have been deemed unfulfilled by the Audits, (2) eliminate the process of reimbursing counties for evaluations for indigent offenders and (3) add an expanded training element.
- III. Amend membership of the Board from 20 to 22 by removing the two judicial appointments, adding a Department of Juvenile Justice representative, adding the Director of AOIC, and reinstating the president of the Illinois Polygraph Society and the president of the Illinois Chapter of ATSA.

Jessica O'Leary, AGO's Policy Division, explained the proposed changes which include the SOETP Act. This Act:

- I. *Creates three new professional licenses to be issued and regulated by the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulations (IDFPR). The licenses are (1) Sex offender evaluator, (2) Sex offender treatment provider and (3) Associate sex offender provider.*

- II. *Proscribes qualifications necessary for each licensure including the requirement of an underlying professional license.*
- III. *Creates a licensing and disciplinary advisory board to IDFPFR to include three evaluation/treatment providers, one representative of each the Department of Corrections, the Department of Human Services and Administrative Offices of Illinois Courts (representing the interest of probations services) and one member of the public (Sec 20). The advisory board will address any issues and complaints.*
- IV. *Requires 20 hours of approved sex offender specific continuing education per licensure renewal period. (Sec. 75)*
- V. *Allows IDFPFR to set application and renewal fees for the administration and enforcement of this Act. (Sec. 50)*
- VI. *Effective Date: IDFPFR is to begin issuing licenses on July 1, 2013.*

The Board had some concerns with the SOETP Act. Dr. Abdi Tinwalla inquired if anyone has spoken with IDFPFR regarding accepting the approved providers list/process. Mary stated that there have been conversations with IDFPFR and they appear to be receptive to the idea. Sheryl Essenburg asked if this would leave rural areas without approved providers? Per Alyssa Schafer the response is no because most counties have more than one provider.

The Board was concerned that the SOETP Act does not include or address juvenile providers. Mary stated there is still time to introduce/amend this language.

Jessica described the amendments to the Sex Offender Management Board Act (20 ILCS 4026)

- I. *Amends the Act to require that as of January 1, 2014, all sex offender evaluation and treatment services be provided by a professional licensed under the Sex Offender Evaluation and Treatment Provider Act (SOETP Act).*
- II. *Amends the duties of the Sex Offender Management Board.*
 - *Eliminates the duties of the Board which have been deemed unfulfilled by the Audits.*
 - *Eliminates the process of reimbursing counties for evaluations for indigent offenders.*
 - *Adds an expanded training element.*
- III. *Amends the membership of the Sex Offender Management Board.*
 - *Increases the Board's membership from 20 to 22 by removing the two judicial appointments, adding a Department of Juvenile Justice representative, adding the Director of AOIC, and reinstating the president of the Illinois Polygraph Society and the president of the Illinois Chapter of ATSA.*
 - *On effective date of the Amendatory Act, transfers all but \$5,000 of the balance in the Sex Offender Management Board Fund to IDFPFR to be used to implement the SOETP Act.*

The Board inquired as to why the reference to them being used as a resource to the General Assembly was removed from the Legislative Committee's proposed language. After extensive discussion it was determined that the Board as a whole would not be able to come to a consensus on any piece of legislation and this language will not be included in the language introduced.

Jessica explained the amendment to the Sex Offender Registration Act (730 ILCS 150).

- *On the effective date of the Amendatory Act, increases the portion of the \$100 registration fee retained by local registering agencies to \$35(from \$30) and decreases the portion of the fee currently deposited into the SOMB fund to \$5 (from \$10).*

A motion was made by Abdi Tinwalla and seconded by Steve Goytia to approve the legislative proposal with the recommended changes discussed at today's meeting. All Board members present and on the phone approved the motion.

C. New Business

D. Next Meeting: March 15, 2012, Bloomington, Illinois

E. Adjournment