

THE ADVOCATE



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AFC MISSION STATEMENT

AFC supports those with a sexual offense and their families by:

Advocating for change in sexual offense laws and policies, and for the adherence to constitutional rights;

Educating the public, lawmakers, and the judiciary;

Promoting the successful treatment and reintegration of those with an offense into the community, thus reducing victimization and enhancing the safety of all.

NOTE

AFC's newsletter is The Advocate. The So Ready For Change (SORFC) Newsletter is written by inmates and others and is not affiliated with AFC.

It's Spring and AFC is Moving Forward!

Greetings to all our sponsors and donors,

2013 started with a healthy bang. The outside evaluators report was presented to, and was well received by, the legislature and the process to make changes in the treatment program was beginning to take place. But then the wind was taken out of our sails by the tragic death of Executive Director Tom Clements. The loss was felt both professionally and personally by the AFC board. Mr. Clements was a sincere and good man who cared deeply for his staff and the inmates in his charge. He was steadily working to make the positive changes that are so badly needed in the Department of Corrections. In addition, several members of Mr. Clements staff are retiring, leaving quite a void in the executive team.

Despite the setbacks, AFC keeps moving forward using the outside evaluators report as a tool to address the various stakeholders in the legislature, SOMB and CCJJ. Mr. Clements set in motion change that needs to take place and the staff is moving in the direction of that change. It is slowed down by the lack of decision makers at the top but, hopefully, the interim director, Mr. Roger Wertholz, will move Mr. Clements plan forward into the summer. And as a new director is selected our hope is that he will continue on with this effort.

Another positive development is the legislature's decision to allocate another hundred thousand dollars to have a team of outside evaluators study the SOMB and their policies. This evaluation should address the fact that SOMB has remained in a status quo mindset based on old research. Hopefully, this new report will address the many issues that affect the lives of so many people and create the changes needed within the SOMB Standards and Guidelines.

I want to wish everyone reading this newsletter warm light-filled summer days, and that you remain hopeful in the many positive changes that are taking place on every one of those days.

*Ann Harris, Chair
Advocates for Change*

Voices of Reason from the Inside

By Craig
Inmate Editorial

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Our united appreciation goes out to all the participants addressing the wide range of issues concerning existing sexual offense treatment programs within CDOC. This extends from our elected legislators and the body of stakeholders at AFC to the evaluation team, and the local newspapers. It is both reasonable and appropriate to now include thanks to the SOTMP and mental health officials for the responsive actions beginning to be initiated. The implementation of more effective strategies for evaluations and treatment should soon provide more opportunities for reintegration of viable parole candidates. This in turn, should quicken the implementation of further suggested improvements and open up more slots for those in need of these services!

However, as indicated in The Advocate, March Issue, progress can only occur if the parole board combines the new evaluation standards with other obvious eligibility indicators on the inmates' record in the decision-making process. Our attention should now shift to the issues generating from parole board transitioning policies and the need for creating and expanding state approved programs. As it stands now, the strict set of requirements looked for in approving parole plans for inmates with sexual offenses under lifetime supervision are extremely difficult for many to achieve. One of the top difficulties is the push to limit inmates to the counties out of which they fell. Second is the requirement to present one sponsor who will take the inmate on and be a support person for him/her, with fairly stringent requirements for that support person in terms of training and behavioral demands. To date, we are being told that almost all group homes, even with high accountability standards in place, are being ranked the same as paroling homeless. Beyond Containment Circles of Support and Accountability is a progeny program for addressing these issues. Our request goes out for help in these areas, and we are willing to roll up our sleeves and pitch in to make it happen!

NOTE: This is an inmate editorial comment, and its views are not necessarily endorsed by Advocates for Change.

PEOPLE FIRST LANGUAGE

AFC promotes and encourages the use of what has been referred to as "people-first" language in which a person being referred to is acknowledged by their personhood first, and any issue or other aspect of that person second. For example, instead of referring to someone as a "sex offender," AFC encourages the use of "a person with a sex offense." Similarly, AFC encourages the use of "sex offense laws" instead of "sex offender" laws.

SEEKING STORIES FROM THE INSIDE

By Mark Walker

I am gearing up to write the Fifth Edition of my regular paper, *An Unacceptably High Cost*, which details the problems with Colorado's sexual offense laws and policies, reviews research, and examines sexual offending issues in the courts and media. I am seeking your stories for the "inside look" section, where I publish first-hand accounts of experiences with the system. If you want to submit your observations for possible publication, please send them to AFC, Attn: Unacceptably High Cost. Any writing selected for publication will be published anonymously unless you instruct otherwise. Thanks to all of you for your help and support!

THE DEMISE OF THE NO KNOWN CURE!

*By Peggy Randall
AFC Board Member*

After four long years of fighting against the “No Known Cure” language used by the SOMB in their Standards and Guidelines, we are happy to report that it has finally been eliminated! At the April SOMB Meeting, the language was voted out of the Standards and Guidelines with only two dissenting votes.

Monday, May 20, AFC’s Breakfast Action Group (BAG) participants lifted a toast with their coffee, tea or orange juice to the demise of No Known Cure, truly a celebratory moment. Although the revised language is not perfect, and we would like to have seen different wording in some parts of the new SOMB Guiding Principle, it has come a long way. The new language in the first Guiding Principle now reads:

“Sexual offending behavior is often repetitive and there is a continuing risk that adult sex offenders will re-offend.

“The Sex Offender Management Board (SOMB) has reviewed the considerable body of research concerning the treatment of adult sex offenders. This guiding principle establishes a treatment and management philosophy which recognizes that there is currently no way to ensure that adult sex offenders will not re-offend.

“This does not mean that all sex offenders will re-offend. With effective treatment, supervision and self-management, sex offenders can internalize changes that may decrease their likelihood of re-offense. The offender must take responsibility for his/her behavior and commit to continually manage the behaviors that led to his or her offense(s) in order to prevent future victims and to enhance public safety.”

Editorial Note (Susan Walker): *Four possible versions of the substitute language for the No Known Cure in the First Guiding Principle of the Sex Offender Management Board (SOMB) Standards and Guidelines were suggested by Jeff Geist, Vice-Chair of the SOMB and a regional manager for parole. Peggy Heil, Chief of Behavioral Health at CDOC and a therapist representative on the SOMB, stated that of options 1 – 4, option 3 was the one she liked, if the language was going to be changed from No Known Cure to something else. Ms. Heil admonished the SOMB during discussion of removing the No Known Cure language that “we spent a lot of time on this a couple of years ago when we did the No Known Cure White Paper (what it does mean and what it doesn’t mean), and I don’t think we should spend more time on it. We have more important things to do”. Obviously, the majority of the board did not agree! As most of you remember, the No Known Cure language was removed from the Colorado Statutes a number of years ago.*

*Two SOMB members voted to keep the No Known Cure language – they were Allison Boyd, victims representative for the D.A.’s Office, and Kandy Moore, victims’ therapist and adult sexual offense therapist. All other board members present voted in favor of the new language! Allison also wanted the suggested new language in the first paragraph to be “sexual offending is **likely** to be repetitive...” instead of “is often repetitive.” That suggestion was soundly voted down! Tom Leversee (a board member) stated that the research literature did not support “likely”.*

Update on the SOTMP Outside Evaluators' Report and Preview of the Mandated Outside Evaluation of the Sex Offender Management Board

By Susan Walker

The murder of Executive Director Tom Clements was a tragic event, not only because he was a wonderful man and a champion of second chances for all those who are incarcerated, but because he was a supporter of the cause for better treatment and second chances for those who have sexually offended! Now that both Tom Clements and Director Tony Carochi are gone (both were there to champion the cause of improvements in our areas of concern), we must look forward to those who are helping us progress in the present, and into the future.

There is a new Program Manager for the SOTM Program. Her name is Laura Wolnofer. Laura has never worked at CDOC before, and is, according to Director Kellie Wasko, very excited to come on board at this time of innovation in the SOTM Program. Director Wasko herself is presently in charge of the implementation of the changes recommended in the Outside Evaluators' Report (OER), and carries on Mr. Clements work in this area! We are happy to have both of these women on board in support of program improvements!

The biggest accomplishments made so far are the hiring of Manager Wolnofer, and the accomplishment of hundreds of risk assessments on people currently in the treatment program. Director Wasko reports that over 400 risk assessments have already been completed, and that there is an "ambitious" program in place to complete these assessments on those in the program, those on the wait list, then on those who have passed their PED, and finally on everyone else. The Joint Budget Committee (JBC) at the Colorado Legislature has also okayed the hiring of a clinical person who will sit in on treatment frequently and mentor therapists who need assistance with therapeutic skills and approaches.

Director Wasko and others are hard at work on a proposal that will spell out for the JBC the expenditures that are needed to implement the "new" program. That proposal is expected to be in the hands of the year round Joint Budget Committee sometime in June of 2013. Once the proposal has reached the legislature, specifically the JBC, there will be a decision made as to what they wish to fund at this particular time. Other matters relating to program changes, both on the inside of CDOC and on the outside (SOMB and the legislative mandate) are likely to be made after the completion of the OER of the SOMB, and after the CCJJ (Coalition on Criminal and Juvenile Justice) meets for a while to discuss the Lifetime Act and how it may be altered or hopefully, removed (that may be too much to hope for!). The OER on the SOMB is due to the JBC by February 1 of 2014. For those of you who read the OER on the SOTMP, you know that the outside evaluators stated that the "SOTMP is enshrined in the SOMB, and the legislative mandate". Some changes can be made without the SOMB and the legislature – others cannot.

(Continued on page 5)

EDITORIAL POLICY

The Advocate newsletter is published by Advocates for Change, providing information on efforts of this group to affect change in legislation, treatment, and re-integration into the community, primarily for those who have been convicted of a sexual offense.

Submissions from inmates/offenders and parolees are encouraged. Articles should be no longer than 300 words. Content should be about a single issue, be original, and accurate, citing sources if appropriate. Contributors will be identified by first name only if requested.

Readers should know that AFC makes no representation as to the accuracy of any submission and does not necessarily endorse the opinions of any author. Nothing offered by AFC is intended to be legal advice, and any information provided should never be a substitute for obtaining counsel and/or conducting your own research.

The editor reserves the right to publish all, part or none of the contributions submitted. Send contributions for publication and/or comments on the newsletter to: Advocates for Change, Newsletter Editor, PO Box 351032, Westminster, CO 80035-1032.

Editor: Susan Walker

Publisher: Mark Walker

(Continued from page 4)

The Joint Budget Committee and other legislators as well, were so pleased with the OER on the SOTMP that the decision was made to go ahead and further evaluate the sexual offense treatment and monitoring system in Colorado by doing an OER on the SOMB! This is something that AFC and others have been calling for, and which the SOMB did not feel it needed (with a couple of board member exceptions). Some felt that they had already evaluated themselves, and didn't need to be reviewed by anyone else! We strongly disagreed, as did a few members of the SOMB. AFC is most grateful that besides our own involvement with the JBC and the legislature, there are two attorneys who have worked tirelessly for our cause. They met with JBC Members, and offered suggestions as to how the most progress forward could be made by doing an OER on the SOMB. One of the suggestions was that the SOMB OER be based on a risk-need-responsivity model, which as many of you remember, is the treatment model that was utilized by the OER for the SOTMP. This was a brilliant move, as it means that both reports will be connected by this well researched model. If the SOMB had hoped to hire an evaluation team that more closely mirrored their present beliefs, the chances of their doing so have been diminished. The choice of the team to do the evaluation is also to be made by two representatives from each of three different governmental entities: the Department of Public Safety (houses the SOMB); the Department of Corrections; and the Judicial Branch's Division of Probation. Below is the actual footnote for the Sex Offender Management Board Study directly from the JBC!

“Revised footnote for the Sex Offender Management Board Study. The committee approved a \$100,000 FY 2012-2013 appropriation for an external study of the Sex Offender Management Board. **Staff recommends the following italicized changes for the already approved Long Bill footnote that describes this study.** These changes (1) make the language of the footnote more closely parallel statute and (2) allow the appropriation, which will probably become available in early May 2013, to roll forward to 2013-14.

N DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY, DIVISION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE, THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS, JUDICIAL BRANCH'S DIVISION OF PROBATION - The Directors of the Department of Public Safety, the Department of Corrections, and the Judicial Branch's Division of Probation, are requested to each appoint 2 members to a committee that will select an independent expert to conduct a thorough review, based on risk-need-responsivity principles and the relevant literature, with recommendations for improvement as warranted, of the efficacy, cost-effectiveness and public safety implications of sex offender management board programs and policies with particular attention to

- (1) The guidelines and standards to treat adult sex offenders as issued by the Sex Offender Management Board pursuant to Section 16 -11.7-103(4) (b), C.R.S.,
- (2) The criteria for release from incarceration, reduction in supervision, discharge for certain adult sex offenders, and measurement of an adult sex offender's progress in treatment as issued by the Sex Offender Management Board pursuant to section 16-11.7-103(4)(f), C.R.S., and
- (3) The application and review process for treatment providers, evaluators and polygraph examiners who provide services to adult sex offenders as developed by the Sex Offender Management Board pursuant to Section 16-11.7-106(2)(a).

The Department is requested to provide the report to the Joint Budget Committee by February 1, 2014. *This appropriation may roll forward to FY 2013-2014.*”

It is our hope that these evaluations together, deliberations of the CCJJ, and changes in the law will bring about substantive change to an approach in our state that has far outlived any usefulness it may have had! The hard part is waiting. We must continue to work together to bring about the change that is so sorely needed.

THE BOOKSHELF

GIFTED HANDS – The Extraordinary Life of Dr. Ben Carson

By Rose M. Graf

This true story relates how a Detroit inner city, poverty stricken, black kid rises to a position as a world renowned director of pediatric neurosurgery at Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions at age 33.

Dr. Ben tells a fascinating, suspenseful account of many case studies as he works with medical teams in the operating room. He describes performing a hemispherectomy (radical brain surgery to control constant seizures) on beautiful little Beth who had fallen from a swing. In another surgery, Dr. Ben leads a team of 70 medical staff to separate Siamese twins, the little Binder boys, joined at the back of the head, in a 22 hour operation using 60 units of blood.

Ben begins his life's story with his youth, and how his single parent mother, Sonya Carson, was one of 24 children and married at age 13. By working three jobs at a time, she set a goal to keep herself and 2 young sons off welfare. With a 3rd grade education, Sonya was a strict disciplinarian and insisted on limited television and 2 books per week with book report requirements to her even though she was unable to read. One day, Ben's mother broke the news that his often missing in action Daddy "wasn't going to live with them anymore." He sobbed for hours. At 8 years old, it was hard to understand that someone he loved so much "was doing bad things," that of living the life of a bigamist.

Racial prejudice often dominated Ben's middle school years. Fortunately, his mother's role modeling taught him skin color or race doesn't make others smarter, dumber, better or worse. Influenced by his mother taught him to work hard and to love learning. Ben learned to always find a job, no matter how difficult. He learned to keep the job, no matter how menial. He learned by performing his very best, by being punctual, by being pleasant and polite, that what might be a temporary job this season would probably be a summer job awaiting him the following year. One employer told him: "Ben, I will create a job for you." Another, "for a guy like you, there's always a job!"

Ben attributes his success to three areas. 1. His Seventh Day Adventist Faith where he often called on God to help him through life's tough lessons: a vicious exam, a difficult surgery or losing a patient. 2. His learned love of classical music through which he met his wife, Candy. 3. But in particular, his mother Sonya, imparting the knowledge that he could accomplish anything in the world he wanted if he believed in himself.

PUBLISHER'S CORRECTION

By Mark Walker

In the last issue of The Advocate we included an article about a new Circles of Support and Accountability Program in Denver called *Beyond Containment*. The article contained an incorrect address for the *Beyond Containment* Program. I apologize for this error, particularly to those of you who had mail sent to *Beyond Containment* returned. I know that your stamps are valuable and can often be in short supply, and I very much regret that many of you used stamps sending mail to an incorrect address. The correct address is: ***Beyond Containment, Attn: Mary Heathman, P.O. Box 18871, Denver, CO 80218.*** The phone number and email address were correct.

AFC is committed to providing accurate and reliable information in our newsletters and other publications. For this reason we carefully proofread and double-check all of our articles before sending them to press. Nevertheless, from time to time typos such as this may unfortunately make it past our editorial process. When that happens we will publish a correction as soon as possible.

For those of you who sent your returned letters to AFC, we forwarded them to *Beyond Containment*, and hopefully they have responded to you. I apologize again for any inconvenience this error has caused.

Today I close the door to the past, open the door to the future, take a deep breath, step on through and start a new chapter of my life.

HOW DO YOU EAT AN ELEPHANT?

You may be wondering what eating an elephant has to do with you and parole. Let me explain. This series of articles addresses parole. Since parole is such a vast area to cover, it seemed that this title might be appropriate. We will attempt to address parole the same way you would eat an elephant – one bite at a time.

Having said that, our first “bite” will give you an idea of the things you may / will be facing upon parole. Of course, as with anything else, there are exceptions to the rules - not everything here applies to every one of you. You do not need to wait for release or even being granted parole to take care of most of these things. Your case manager should be able to assist you in obtaining some or all of these documents. If there is someone on the outside helping you get these documents, you should have the documents sent to them – NOT YOU. If there is no one on the outside that can help you, you should have them sent to your case manager and they will put them in your ID Bank to be given to you upon your release or they may be sent directly to the re-entry specialist in the area to which you are paroling. Be sure to ask for them. Here is a list of items that may affect you:

1. **Legal Matters:** You may have some legal matters pending from before incarceration; i.e., unresolved traffic tickets, unrelated warrants, child support, divorce, etc. If so, you should try to get all of these things resolved immediately.
2. **Identification:** In order to obtain employment you will need identification in the form of either a Colorado ID or driver's license. If your license has expired you should be able to renew it by mail. There is a fee for the renewal that you will need to pay. The cost of a state ID card is approximately \$10.50 and the renewal license is generally around \$21. If your license has been revoked or suspended you will generally pay approximately \$95.00. If you need to get your documents from another state you will need to contact that city / state for information. If you are over 62, there is no cost for a Colorado Identification Card.
3. **Social Security Card:** If you no longer have your social security card you will need to reorder it. You need a copy of your birth certificate in order to obtain the card. You need a social security card in order to get work.
4. **Birth Certificate:** This is probably the FIRST piece of identification you should apply for if you need it. You will likely need your birth certificate when you apply for a new social security card or a new driver's license. The birth certificate is approximately \$20.00.
5. **DD-214:** If you are a veteran, you may also need to reapply for your DD-214.
6. **MVR:** Order a copy of your driving record from Colorado Department of Motor Vehicles.
7. **Credit Report:** Everyone is entitled to one free credit report per year from all three reporting agencies. You should get a copy of your report and review it immediately. Then dispute what you need to and keep an eye on it every year.
8. **Resume:** Prepare a resume for yourself so you will have one ready to go when you hit the streets.

If you do need more information regarding any of these items, please write to AFC / Re-Entry Info and specifically state your need.

AFC Calendar Information

Because this is a quarterly newsletter only the AFC meeting dates that occur on a regular basis will be posted. Other dates will be available by email (make sure AFC has your current email address) and on the AFC website.

Calendar for AFC Meetings:

Denver area general meetings are the 3rd Tuesday of the month from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 16th and Grant St., Denver, CO.

Colorado Springs General Meetings are on the 2nd Tuesday of the month from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm. This meeting is held at 3615 Roberts Road (ComCor Building-next to the power plant). These meetings are a cooperative effort between the Southern Chapter of CURE and AFC

Fort Collins meetings are also in conjunction with the Northern Colorado CURE meetings and are held on a quarterly basis. The next Fort Collins meeting is to be announced. This is a much smaller venue and you are required to contact us ahead of time if you would like to attend.

AFC also holds its BAG (Breakfast Action Group) meetings every Monday morning at 7:00 am – 9:00 am at the Perkins on I-25 and Colorado Blvd. The first BAG meeting of each month is now a combination BAG/Board meeting.

JOIN US

Sponsorship Fee is \$20 per year for family sponsorship, \$5 per year for returning citizens and 8 stamps for those on the inside. Any additional donations are gratefully accepted.

Today's Date: _____

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Email Address: _____

**Call 720-690-7125 if you have any questions or comments.
Please feel free to share an application with a friend or a family member.**