



STATE OF WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

Insurance Building, PO Box 43113 □ Olympia, Washington 98504-3113 □ (360) 902-0555

SEX OFFENDER POLICY BOARD

November 6, 2015 9:00am – 12:00pm

Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs
3060 Willamette Dr NE
Lacey, WA 98516

Members Present:

Kecia Rongen
Andrea Piper-Wentland
Brad Meryhew
Jeff Patnode
Keri Waterland
Julie Door (proxy Candice Bock)
Michael O'Connell
James McMahan
Daniel Yanisch
Richard Torrance

Members Absent:

Holly Coryell
Jonathan Meyer
Hon. James E Rogers

Staff:

Keri-Anne Jetzer

Guests: Shannon Hinchliffe, SOPB Contractor; Jamie Yoder, WASPC; Malcolm Ross, AGO; Doug Levy.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Kecia Rongen called the meeting to order and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION #15-9: MOTION TO APPROVE MEETING MINUTES FROM OCTOBER 23, 2015

MOVED: Andrea Piper-Wentland

SECONDED: Michael O'Connell

PASSED: Unanimously

III. REVIEW DRAFT LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Chair Rongen asked Keri-Anne Jetzer to walk members through the draft report.

Keri-Anne explained how she brought the information provided by members and the contractor together and how the flow of the report has been created.

Members discussed language changes within the body of the report.

Keri Waterland read the email sent by Judge Rogers. He had a concern about the finding related to ‘widespread dissemination of level 1 offenders’ information would have a deleterious effect on victims...” Andrea Piper-Wentland replied that she had suggested some additional language to one of the paragraphs to help add context. Brad Meryhew suggested adding additional research citations to include several studies that specifically look the impact on victims by having offenders on community notification generally. Andrea offered to provide Keri-Anne some research citations to be added to the report.

Michael O’Connell noted that the verb was missing from Sec 16(a) Recommendation B. James McMahan commented that he had noticed that too but realized that the recommended change is part of a list of items and the language that precedes it includes the verb. It was suggested to include the header language of RCW 42.56.240 to bring context to the recommended language. James also noticed that the RCW amended should be RCW 42.56.240, not .130.

MOTION #15-10: MOTION TO MODIFY SEC 16(a) RECOMMENDATION B TO INCLUDE RCW HEADER LANGUAGE AND CHANGE AMENDED RCW TO 42.56.240

MOVED: Michael O’Connell
SECONDED: Keri Waterland
PASSED: Unanimously

MOTION #15-11: MOTION TO ADOPT THE RECOMMENDATION FOR SEC 16(b) “THE SOPB RECOGNIZES THAT ADULTS AND JUVENILES ARE GENERALLY DIFFERENT. MANY STATES ACKNOWLEDGE THESE DIFFERENCES IN THEIR STATUTES RELATED TO SEX OFFENDER REGISTRATION AND COMMUNITY NOTIFICATION AND TREAT JUVENILES DIFFERENTLY. AS SUCH, THE SOPB BELIEVES THIS ISSUE WARRANTS ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATION BY WASHINGTON POLICYMAKERS”

MOVED: Michael O’Connell
SECONDED: Brad Meryhew
PASSED: Unanimously

MOTION #15-12: MOTION TO ADOPT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SEC 16(c):

“To the Legislature:

- A) The SOPB recommends that the SOPB be authorized to develop best practices for the process and criteria regarding a sex or kidnapping offender’s request for assigned risk level classification review*.**

The board is not recommending any statutory change to RCW 4.24.550(6)(d) at this time.

***The SOPB has been directed by Governor Inslee to carry out this task.**

To Law Enforcement:

Through the course of deliberations, the SOPB came to a consensus on the following recommendations to law enforcement.

- B) The SOPB recommends that each law enforcement agency responsible for sex and kidnapping offender registration and community notification have an established process to accept and review a sex or kidnapping offender’s request for assigned risk level classification review and use criteria to reduce or increase that level that are supported by current research as much as practicable.**
- C) The SOPB recommends that the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs amend its model policy created pursuant to RCW 4.24.5501 to recommend that each law enforcement agency responsible for sex and kidnapping offender registration and community notification have an established process to review the assigned risk classification level when requested by an offender registered in their jurisdiction. Furthermore, the SOPB recommends that the model policy incorporates or references the best practices referenced above, once developed.**
- D) The SOPB recommends that the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs conduct a survey to assess which agencies have an established process to review a sex or kidnapping offender’s request for assigned risk level classification review and what that process is, and share the results of such survey with the SOPB by December 1, 2016. While many jurisdictions have created processes to consider requests from offenders to reduce their community notification risk level, the statute has not explicitly authorized this process until the passage of Chapter 261, Laws of 2015 (SSB 5154).’**

MOVED: Michael O’Connell

SECONDED: Brad Meryhew

PASSED: Unanimously

Keri-Anne informed members that she should be able to have the updated draft report out to members the following week for one more review. She asked members if they preferred to have an email vote on the final product or assign a deadline for any comments or suggestions. She suggested that if there are any major issues, a

conference call could be set up. They chose the deadline option and said at this time they consider the report final and approved.

Chair Rongen informed members the meeting scheduled for November 19th has been cancelled.

There was brief discussion on the SOPB Coordinator hiring process.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

Shannon had some questions about the remaining deliverables, the fact sheets and the living document. She asked who the intended audience is for the fact sheets. Some members thought the audience was the offenders while others referred to the Governor’s request letter which indicated “provide summaries...and practices to assist policymakers...” and thought it should be directed toward legislators. It was decided to have Shannon complete the fact sheets and then the Board will review and modify as needed.

Shannon inquired what format the Board is looking for in a living document and what would be useful to the members. For example, would it consist of a timeline of major happenings in sex offender registration overlapped with Board assignments? Brad suggested a short summary of each report with links to the documents and the legislative action resulting from the recommendations. She also suggested pulling out findings from the reports that would be helpful to new Board members so they can see what the Board’s previous work has been building toward. The members agreed with both suggestions.

The members thanked Shannon for all the work she has done thus far.

V. ADJOURNMENT

APPROVED AND ADOPTED BY THE SEX OFFENDER POLICY BOARD

/ s /

Chair Kecia Rongen

Date