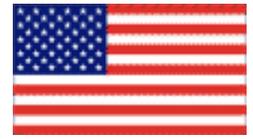




CSSD Chronicle



A regular publication of information and news about Court Support Services
Division

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SEX OFFENDER UNITS THE CONNECTICUT COLLABORATION MODEL (CCM)

There are few crimes that provoke more public concern and outcry than sexual assault offenses. Sexual abuse has an enormous impact -- physically, emotionally, and financially -- on its victims, as well as on their family members, friends, and extended community. CSSD, in conjunction with the Center for the Treatment of Problem Sexual Behavior (The Center) and the Connecticut Sexual Assault Crises Services (CONNSACS), has created a Connecticut Collaboration Model (CCM) – an effective team approach to sex offender management. The Center for Sex Offender Management is sponsored by the Office of Justice Programs U.S. Department of Justice, in collaboration with the National Institute of Corrections, State Justice Institutes, and the American Probation and Parole Association.

THE CCM TEAM APPROACH: Currently there are over 1,700 sex offenders being supervised by CSSD's adult probation staff. The community supervision of sex offenders poses many unique and challenging issues and CSSD's Adult Probation uses a multi-disciplinary team approach to monitoring this high profile population. The CCM team includes a community supervision officer, the sex offender's treatment providers, and a victim advocate who work together to ensure that the needs of the victim are addressed and that community safety is the primary focus. Each member of the team has a specific role to play and, through their individual duties and their collaboration, the offender is effectively monitored and managed in the community. Sex offender caseloads are usually 35-45 clients. Currently, Connecticut is the only state to have a full time victim advocate working within specialized sex offender supervision teams. The CCM has combined, incorporated and modified three proven, effective sex offender supervision practices: (1) the Victim-Centered Approach; 2) the Collaboration Model; and 3) the Containment Model.

- 1. *The Victim-Centered Approach*** is based on a philosophy that views the victim and the community as clients, and the interests of current and potential future victims remain at the forefront for those working to manage sex offenders in the community.
- 2. *The Collaboration Model*** is a mutually beneficial and well-defined relationship entered into by two or more organizations to achieve common sex offender supervision outcome goals. This type of relationship is developed among supervising officers, treatment providers, polygraph examiners, and victim advocates.
- 3. *The Containment Model*** targets community and victim safety. Multiple stakeholders with similar goals but different roles help the adult offender by setting healthy limits on the adult's behavior in the community.

CCM HISTORY:

- **Mid-1990s:** The CCM was first implemented in the New London adult probation office
- **1998:** The model was introduced to the New Haven and Hartford adult probation offices. During that same year, the New Haven Sex Offender Unit became a Center for Sex Offender Management Resource site.
- **2006:** In the 2006 Commission on Prison and Jail Overcrowding Report, recommendations were made to expand the CCM statewide. The General Assembly adopted the recommendations and provided the necessary funds to expand the model.
- **2007:** In early 2007, additional probation officers were hired and a sexual assault victim advocate from CONNSACS was made available to all field offices.
- **2008:** Today, the CCM is used in all Adult Probation field offices. Officers have received specialized sex offender training and work closely with The Center and CONNSACS. The sex offender unit/team works together to formulate the best course of supervision and treatment for each offender through open and continuous dialogue among the team members, ad hoc communication and during formal unit/team meetings.

TRAINING: All victim advocates and probation officers dedicated to sex offender caseloads receive 32 hours (four full days) of training. The training is provided by CSSD's contracted sex offender treatment provider and William Anselmo, the Chief Probation Officer who oversees the Sex Offender Units statewide.

OTHER ENHANCEMENTS TO SEX OFFENDER SUPERVISION

Monitoring software: In 2007, CSSD, in conjunction with the State's Department of Correction's Parole Division, entered into a pilot project with IPPC Technologies and began testing its computer management software. IPPC's technologies have been developed specifically for the purpose of monitoring and controlling an offender's computer and Internet use. The IPPC software provides officers with the ability to identify when offenders are using their computer and the Internet for illicit purposes.

Forensic specialist: CSSD's hiring of a forensic specialist in June 2007 has been a valuable addition to the Sex Offender Supervision Units' efforts. The forensic specialist conducts baseline previews and full forensic searches of a variety of electronic storage devices (computers, cell phones, PDA's, etc.), as well as: training officers on how to use the previewing software (Helix); providing on-going technical support; and training officers on how to seize any supplementary equipment. Thus far, the forensic specialist has completed fourteen (14) forensic searches. In one case child pornography was found, verified through the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. Following police investigation, the offender was arrested and charged with Illegal Possession of Child Pornography in the Third Degree.

Global Positioning Satellites (GPS): CSSD also offers staff the ability to monitor high risk sex offenders with Global Positioning Satellites (GPS). GPS is a form of electronic monitoring that utilizes a satellite tracking network which allows the CSSD employee to track the whereabouts and movements of an offender on a regular basis. There are two types of GPS; Active and Passive. Active allows the employee to observe the offender in real-time, utilizing a modem built into a tracking unit that is carried by the offender. The employee can set up exclusion zones; areas the offender is restricted from such as parks, schools and the victim's home and work place. The employee is notified immediately about any violation activity. The Passive system also tracks the offender's movements, but the unit is not equipped with a modem.

Passive GPS collects tracked points throughout the day and downloads these points through a docking station connected to a telephone line in the offender's home. The offender manually engages the docking station and, once the points are downloaded, the officer is notified of movements and any violation activity. Both Active and Passive GPS tracked points can be viewed via a secured website from the CSSD employee's computer. The website displays a geographic map that includes streets, land marks, (schools, churches, lakes, etc.) traveling speed, time spent at a particular location, and all compliance or violation activity. Passive and Active GPS both include the ability for the CSSD employee to text message the offender instructions, warnings, etc. at any time, through the website.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION contact Chief Probation Officer William Anselmo at 860-721-2151 or William.Anselmo@jud.ct.gov

Suggestions? Questions? Comments? Concerns? Contact us! Rena.Goldwasser@jud.ct.gov
