

Report and Recommendations

Sex Offender Workgroup

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Members

Patricia Hill, Director of Staff Development and Video Conferencing
Alvis House

Heidi Hughes, Clinical Services Supervisor
Columbus Developmental Center
Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities

Zachery Haughwaut, Deputy Director
Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities

Vicki Jenkins, Associate General Counsel
Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities

Colleen Mercuri Johnson, MSW, LISW-S, Director of Problematic Sexual
Behavior Team-Counselor
Butler County Board of Developmental Disabilities

Janet Keeler, Ph.D., Forensic Liaison and Behavioral Support Services
Supervisor
Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities

Gina Kerman, Director of QA Compliance
Phoenix Residential

Buffie LaBelle, Regional Director
The Mentor Network

Connie McLaughlin, Regional Manager Supervisor, MUI Registry Unit
Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities

Scott Phillips, Assistant Deputy Director, MUI Registry Unit
Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities

Drew Williams, Director of Service and Support Administration
County of Summit Developmental Disabilities Board

The workgroup was convened in August of 2013 by the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities to develop a supervision protocol for individuals with developmental disabilities who have been convicted of a sex offense.

The workgroup held monthly meetings and worked in subcommittees between meetings.

The work consisted of (1) reviewing current practices used by county boards and provider agencies to set supervision levels (2) reviewing resources available regarding individuals with developmental disabilities who have been convicted of a sex offense (3) identifying the challenges experienced by county boards and agency providers when working with individuals with developmental disabilities who have been convicted of a sex offense and (4) developing recommendations that would assist teams, county boards and provider agencies to determine the level of supervision an individual who has a conviction for a sex offense needs.

In order to better serve individuals with developmental disabilities who have been convicted of a sex offense and their communities, the work group has the following recommendations:

Increase the capacity of Service and Support Administrators (SSA) and agency providers to develop appropriate supervision levels for individuals with developmental disabilities who have been convicted of a sex offense by taking the following actions:

1. Develop a protocol that explains the type of assessments needed when working with individuals with developmental disabilities who have been convicted of a sex offense, including a description of who is qualified to perform the assessments and the types of information the county board needs to obtain from the assessment and how to use the information to develop the individual service plan (ISP).
2. Develop a guide or worksheet to aid SSAs and the team to develop appropriate supervision levels by examining supervision across settings.
3. Develop a web based training program for direct care staff who work with individuals with developmental disabilities who have been convicted of a sex offense.

Implementation of Recommendations:

1. The workgroup developed a *Sex Offender Protocol* for SSAs that explains the type of assessments that are required before a SSA should attempt to develop a service plan for individuals with developmental disabilities who have been convicted of a sex offense, the type of person that is qualified to do the assessment and the type of questions or information the SSA should request and obtain from the evaluator.

2. The workgroup developed a *Service Plan Development and Implementation Checklist for Sex Offenders* which aids the SSA, agency provider and the team in developing appropriate supervision levels by examining supervision across settings.
3. The workgroup developed an *Environmental Assessment* tool, based upon a tool used by the Butler County Board of Developmental Disabilities, for the SSAs and agency providers to use. The environmental assessment requires the SSA, agency provider and the ISP team to examine the impact of environmental factors on an individual's treatment or progress.
4. The workgroup developed a worksheet to be used in developing Relapse Prevention Plans for individuals with developmental disabilities who have been convicted of a sex offense. The worksheet gives the SSA, agency providers and the ISP team an explanation of the purpose of a safety plan and the issues to consider in preparing a safety plan.

These documents are attached and will be posted on DODD's website.

The recommendations compliment the person centered planning described in DODD and CMS rules, and the tools should be used to support the development of a person centered plan.

Next steps:

The workgroup discussed the need for training for direct care staff. It was recognized that direct care staff often do not have the ability to take advantage of training that is provided on offenders with intellectual disabilities due to their schedules. In addition the workgroup viewed the training Alvis House, a sex offender treatment program, provides to its staff. The workgroup identified topics direct care staff need to know in training. The workgroup conferred with David Berenson, Director of Sex Offender Services, Department of Rehabilitation and Correction who volunteered to identify key information direct staff need to know about working with sex offenders.

The workgroup will work with DODD to develop an interactive online program. It would be accessible at any time for direct care staff to access and providers could incorporate it into their existing training. The training would be available on the DODD website. It is hoped this training will be available by the end of the year.