SOCCPN, the Sex Offender Civil Commitment Programs Network, is a professional network for individuals working in and with sex offender civil commitment programs. We provide a forum for research, discussion and sharing of information related to the effective management, assessment, and treatment of individuals held under civil commitment laws addressing sexual violence and/or sexual dangerousness.

**Our Mission**

To provide a forum to discuss and share information related to the effective management, assessment and treatment of individuals held under civil commitment laws addressing sexual violence and/or sexual dangerousness.

**Our Gratitude**

SOCCPN would like to thank ATSA Executive Director Maia Christopher for her ongoing support and tremendous assistance with our annual conference, and also Wellpath Recovery Solutions for their sponsorship and support. Many thanks also to Dr. Jennifer Schneider and Dr. Rebecca Jackson, our perennial SOCCPN Conference Co-Chairs!
Note: The SOCCPN 21st Annual Conference is designed for professionals who work in civil commitment programs for sexual offenders, and other professionals interested in all aspects of the civil commitment process.

Conference Fee Schedule: Please register online at [http://soccpn.org/annual-conference/](http://soccpn.org/annual-conference/)

*All registration fees include catered lunch on day(s) of training!*

**Non-member Registration Fees:**

- Registration only - non-members $200
- Registration - non-members + CE credits $225

**Member Registration Fees:**

- Registration only - members $175
- Registration - members + CE credits $200

**Presenter Registration Fees:**

- Presenter Registration – members $150
- Presenter Registration – members + CE credits $175
- Presenter Registration – non-members $175
- Presenter Registration – non-members + CE credits $200

**Single Day Registration:**

- One day registration, member or non-member $100
- One day registration, member or non-member + CE credits $125

Refund/cancellation policy – Cancellations up to 30 days prior to the conference date will result in full refund.

Continuing Education Credits: a total of **9.75 credits** will be available for those attending the entire conference. CE’s will be awarded on a session by session basis. Attendees registering for CE credits will receive an email after the conference with instructions on completing the paperwork (surveys, content questions) required by APA. In the following brochure, items marked with an asterisk (*) are NOT offered for CE’s. SOCCPN is approved by the American Psychological Association to sponsor continuing education for psychologists. SOCCPN maintains responsibility for this program and its content.

Any potential commercial supports or conflicts of interest for any of the CE programs or instructors involved in this conference are listed in the session description. No other known conflicts of interest exist.

The Hyatt Regency Atlanta is fully ADA accessible. Please contact the SOCCPN Conference Planning Chair, Jennifer Schneider, at [Jennifer.Schneider@dhs.state.nj.us](mailto:Jennifer.Schneider@dhs.state.nj.us) for any additional accommodations needed.
Abstract: The objective of this workshop is to enhance the efficacy of civil commitment programs through collaborative discussion about recidivism and other outcomes. Civil commitment is a rare criminal justice intervention reserved for sexual offenders determined likely to reoffend due to mental disorder. It is necessary that programs routinely evaluate their efficacy in order to assure
that resources are used wisely and prepare offenders for successful reintegration in the community while maximally reducing the likelihood of sexual re-offense. Several SOCC programs across the country will provide recidivism and/or other outcome evaluation information on civilly committed sexual offenders. Each program will describe its sample population, research methodology, outcome results, potential confounds and limitations, and conclusions. Findings across programs will be discussed collaboratively and in light of the best practice principles, “Risk, Need, and Responsivity.”

**Learning Objectives** - This workshop is designed to help you:

1) Describe various recidivism outcomes for Sexual Offender Civil Commitment Programs (SOCCP).
2) Assess a variety of methods to evaluate the efficacy of SOCCP, when recidivism information is not available or to supplement recidivism information.
3) Analyze several barriers and challenges to conducting SOCC program evaluations.

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10:00 am – 10:15 - Break*

10:15 pm – 11:45 pm

Plenary Session

**Recidivism and Other Markers of Success in Sexual Offender Civil Commitment Programs: A Review Across Programs – PART II**

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11:45 pm - Catered Lunch*
Instructional Level: Introductory

Abstract: This session presents the results of the SOCCPN annual survey administered to SVP programs in the United States. The survey presents the findings from responding jurisdictions with SVP programs in the areas of facility operations, treatment, and community supervision of conditionally released SVPs. The presenters compare this year’s findings to those of previous years when the survey was administered. Trends and future directions of SVP program management and treatment are discussed.

Learning Objectives: This workshop is designed to help you:

1. Analyze treatment progress measures utilized with SVP populations
2. Explain barriers to conditional release for SVP populations
3. Compare approaches to conditional release of SVPs across civil commitment programs

1:00 pm – 2:30 pm

Plenary Session

2018 Annual Survey of Sex Offender Civil Commitment Programs

Jennifer Schneider, Ph.D., New Jersey Special Treatment Unit; Rebecca Jackson, Ph.D., Wellpath Recovery Solutions; Gina Ambroziak, BS, Sand Ridge Secure Treatment Center; Deirdre D’Orazio, Ph.D., CA Dept. of State Hospitals; Naomi Freeman, Ph.D. New York State Office of Mental Health; Jannine Hébert, MA, LP, Minnesota Sex Offender Program

2:30 pm – Break*

2:45 pm - 4:30 pm

Round Table Discussions*

Potential Topics – Programming and Management of Residents with Cognitive Decline, Gender Dysphoria and Transgender Issues, Assessment of Sexual Interest, Conditional Release, SVP Evaluations, Administrative/Facility Issues, Conducting Research with SVP’s, others as determined by interest. Topics to be finalized via list serve later this summer!
Instructional Level: Advanced

Abstract: Risk assessments typically answer two general questions. First, how likely is an offender to commit a new offense? Second, what can be done to decrease this likelihood? A key component to answering these questions involves the evaluation of factors that are amendable to deliberate intervention. As such, this training will focus on the assessment of dynamic risk factors for offenders who are in long term incarcerated settings, as well as discuss treatment and supervisory recommendations.

Learning Objectives: This workshop is designed to help you:

1. Demonstrate an awareness of trends in the field related to sexual violence risk assessments
2. Identify the utility of assessing dynamic risk factors for long term incarcerated offenders
3. Describe several treatment and/or supervisory recommendations

8:30 am - 10:00 am

Plenary Session

The Assessment of Dynamic Risk Factors for Offenders in Long Term Incarcerated Settings

Lauren Herbert, Psy.D., Minnesota Sex Offender Program

10:00 am – Break*
Abstract: Clients can demonstrate behaviors that preclude their ability to engage meaningfully in treatment. These include behaviors that interfere with their receiving therapy, behaviors that interfere with their peers receiving therapy, or behaviors that impact the therapist’s motivation to provide therapy for the client. Often, individuals that committed sexual offenses have severe TIB unique to them. Unless therapy-interfering behaviors (TIB) are addressed and resolved effectively, therapist and client are subject to frustration, and poor treatment outcomes are the likely result. This presentation examines and groups TIB into three main categories—responsivity issues, motivation issues, and self-efficacy issues. It explains how the therapist can address TIB effectively by examining these categories within an algorithm. The algorithm allows the therapist to examine which of the three categories may be the primary TIB issue, as well as to determine the possible contributions of each category issue to the TIB. The presentation offers specific strategies to address TIB effectively within each of the three categories.

Learning Objectives: This workshop is designed to help you:

1. Describe the three categories and rationale for using the algorithm to address TIB.
2. Describe common responsivity issues among individuals that committed sexual offenses and specific strategies to address them effectively.
3. Describe common motivational issues among individuals that committed sexual offenses and specific strategies to address them effectively.
Abstract: The MSOP Alternative Program is designed for clients with compromised executive functioning for whom more conventional talk therapy and written assignments are difficult to navigate. Clients in the alternative program address the same dynamic risk factors as conventional clients; though approaches to treatment differ in particular ways to ensure responsivity needs are effectively addressed. In the fall of 2016, MSOP embarked on a refinement of the Alternative Program. This process was identified “refinement” as the basic principles of treatment were based on research and best practice but needed refinement to ensure meeting the individual needs of clients in this program. This refinement focused on providing treatment in response to the client’s likely target of future residence, recognizing that many clients with compromised executive functioning and long-term persistent mental health issues prevent independent placement in the community. These clients would also benefit from programming that is not dependent on insight. The components of the refinement were developed based on available research in providing treatment to individuals with compromised executive functioning.

Learning Objectives: This workshop is designed to help you:

1. Describe the basic principles of treatment based on research and best practice
2. Identify the unique needs of clients with compromised executive functioning and how to respond to these needs individually and program wide
3. Provide current treatment focused on future living arrangements
Instructional Level: Intermediate

Abstract: The clientele of civil commitment programs present with complicated pathology that calls for sophisticated treatment interventions. Managing program consistency across service delivery can be challenging in any program, particularly a larger one. Training clinical staff is an ongoing endeavor that is the foundation of a consistent and evidence-based treatment program. To that end, this presentation will walk through how the Minnesota Sex Offender Treatment Program (MSOP) developed a training framework by identifying our core clinical competencies, how this framework was utilized to develop a clinical orientation program for clinicians who are hired to work for MSOP, how the framework is used to identify current and future training needs, the benefits of a training framework for helping clinical staff understand their job, and the organizational benefits of having a training framework.

Learning Objectives: This workshop is designed to help you:

1. Identify core clinical competencies for their organization and how to utilize these to develop a training framework.
2. Utilize a training framework to determine organizational training needs.
3. Identify the benefits of a training framework for their organization
Abstract: This presentation will focus on diagnostic and legal issues related to Other Specified Paraphilic Disorder-Nonconsent. In the context of civil commitment evaluations and legal decisions, the reliability and validity of this diagnosis has been repeatedly challenged. These challenges relate both to political/legal concerns as well as the conceptualization of Nonconsent/Rape as a taxon or a continuum. Following a discussion of these challenges, his presentation will examine recent rulings and preliminary data from various settings, including civil commitment centers and settings outside of civil commitment. The main purpose of garnering such data is to understand the current role of this diagnosis and the impact of these challenges on its use in forensic contexts. Our presentation is grounded in extant empirical research related to paraphilic interests/disorder involving rape/nonconsent. Information about use of this diagnosis as based on a non-representative key information survey using purposive sampling. Such survey data is limited in its scope as it is a convenience sample and cannot be broadly generalized.

Learning Objectives: This workshop is designed to help you:

1. Describe the primary challenges related to this diagnosis.
2. Examine the research conceptualizing rape as part of the agonistic continuum
3. Examine the impact of challenges to this diagnosis in forensic contexts.
Abstract: The goal of achieving better outcomes for sex offender treatment participants is attained through effective treatment and assessment. Critical to the facilitation of effective treatment and assessment services are proficient clinical staff who feel confident to manage the challenging clinical presentations inherent to this population. This presentation will address a prominent staffing issue faced by many sexual offender civil commitment programs. Many civil commitment programs are located in rural communities, directly impacting the number of interested applicants and the experience level of prospective staff. Clinical therapists graduating from schools, including online programs or expedited programs, may be less prepared to meet the treatment needs and challenges of this clinically complex population. Supervisors often find themselves striving to reinforce foundational clinical skills, while acquainting clinicians with the tenets of sex offender treatment and assessment. As such, supervisors can find themselves in the multi-faceted role of educator, mentor and supervisor. This presentation will include a brief review of the obstacles facing supervisors and various strategies to bring new employees up to an adequate level clinical professionalism expected of sex offender treatment providers.

Learning Objectives: This workshop is designed to help you:

1. Identify at least two new strategies to use with their supervisees.
2. Describe the ways in which the supervisory frame can be used to mirror the clinical frame.
3. Discuss the impact malignant alienation has on the therapeutic alliance.

2:15 pm - 3:30 pm

Concurrent Session 6:
Self-Care 2.0: Helping the Helper by Practicing Compassion

R. Keith Ramsey, M.S., New York State Office of Mental Health
Instructional Level: Introductory

Abstract: While being a helping professional can be rewarding and beneficial on many levels, it also can be fraught with pressures and problems that can be detrimental to the helper. Dealing with the suffering of others, encountering the worst aspects of humanity, contending with organizational demands, and struggling with challenges of change are just some examples of issues that can erode one’s energy, enthusiasm and effectiveness over time. “Burnout,” “compassion fatigue,” “secondary traumatic stress,” and “vicarious traumatization” are constructs that describe potential deleterious effects from working in helping professions. This presentation discusses evidence-based ways that the helper can practice effective self-care. A key ingredient for effective self-care is understanding the nature and dangers of using empathy. Research suggests that empathy can pose risk to helpers. Practicing compassion enhances the helper and is protective against deleterious effects of helping others. Practicing compassion, including compassion meditation, is a powerful means to take self-care to the next level: “Self-Care 2.0.”

Learning Objectives: This workshop is designed to help you:

1. Describe traditional evidence-based ways to enhance self-care.
2. Discuss ways to practice specific attitudes that enhance self-care.
3. Demonstrate how using compassion, including compassion meditation, is healing and protective.

3:30 pm – Break*

3:45 – 4:45 pm

Political and Legal Updates in Sex Offender Civil Commitment

Ken Carabello, MSW (Moderator)

Liberty Healthcare

Instructional Level: Introductory

Abstract: Mr. Carabello will lead a group discussion with participants regarding current political and legal issues affecting each state’s SVP program, among those represented at the conference. The
discussion will center on upcoming and ongoing legal challenges faced by both the operations and treatment aspects of SVP programs, as well as managing SVPs on conditional release in the community, and will involve a group problem solving effort designed to elicit potential solutions to these challenges.

**Learning Objectives:** This workshop is designed to help you:

1. Compare case law developments related to the civil commitment process in states with active SVP laws.
2. Analyze political themes influencing the treatment and operations of SVP programs in jurisdictions reporting.
3. Create effective responses to legal and political challenges in order to maintain program integrity in SVP facilities across the nation.

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**4:45 pm – Closing Remarks**

*Items marked with asterisk do not count for CE credit

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**Sex Offender Civil Commitment Programs Network**