

# SOCCPN

**23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference**  
**October 24-25, 2022**



## **Westin Bonaventure Hotel – Los Angeles**

### ***Our Organization***

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 Interim Executive Director Aniss Benelmoufok, Associate Director Kelly McGrath and CMP Ms Mike Thomas for their ongoing support and tremendous assistance with our annual conference, and also Liberty Healthcare 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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 on line at <http://soccpn.org/annual-conference/>

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

**Non-member Registration Fees:**

Registration only - non-members	\$150
Registration - non-members + CE credits	\$175

**Member Registration Fees:**

Registration only -members	\$125
Registration - members + CE credits	\$150

**Presenter Registration Fees:**

Presenter Registration – members	\$100
Presenter Registration – members + CE credits	\$125
Presenter Registration – non-members	\$125
Presenter Registration – non-members + CE credits	\$150

**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 **9.5 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 Westin Bonaventure Los Angeles is fully ADA accessible. Please contact the SOCCPN Conference Planning Chair, Jennifer Schneider, at [Jennifer.Schneider@doh.nj.gov](mailto:Jennifer.Schneider@doh.nj.gov) for any additional accommodations needed.

# SOCCPN

MONDAY, OCT. 24TH

1:00 pm

## President's Welcome \*



**Jennifer Schneider, Ph.D.** SOCCPN President *Research Scientist, New Jersey Special Treatment Unit*

1:15 pm – 2:30 pm

## Plenary Session

### 2022 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*

#### 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

## 2:30 am – 2:45 - Break\*

2:45 am – 4:00 am

Panel Presentation:

### Getting Out of Sexual Offense Civil Commitment

**Deirdre M. D’Orazio, Ph.D.** (symposium coordinator) and **Sunny Lowell**, Attorney III, *CA Department of State Hospitals*; **Lauren Herbert, Psy.D**, *Minnesota Sex Offender Program*, **Holly Coryell, Ph.D**, *Chief of Forensic Services* and **Candace Yi**, *Washington SVP Program*.



#### Instructional Level: Intermediate

**Abstract:** The objective of this workshop is to enhance the efficacy of ‘sex offender civil commitment (SOCC)’ programs across the nation through collaborative discussion about how those committed get out. SOCC is a rare criminal justice intervention reserved for sexual offending individuals judicially determined likely to reoffend due to a mental condition. The constitutionality of SOCC laws rests on the necessity that commitment programs have valid pathways out. In this workshop, multiple SOCC programs across the country will describe the legal, evaluative, implementation, and outcome features of the pathways for release. We will discuss successes and challenges involved in getting SOCC individuals out of confinement and safe and effective community reintegration. 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) Compare available discharge options for multiple Sexual Offender Civil Commitment Programs (SOCCP).
- 2) Analyze the lessons learned, challenges, and implementation realities involving the discharge options across multiple SOCC programs.
- 3) Describe the role of forensic evaluation in effectuating discharge options across SOCC programs.
- 4) Describe the census and outcome information of those released from SOCC for multiple programs.



4:15 pm – 5:30 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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**Evening Reception\***

# SOCCPN

TUESDAY, OCT. 25TH

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8:30 am – 10:00 am

**Special Considerations: LGBTQIA+  
Sexual Health**

**Charles P. Samenow, M.D., MPH**, Associate Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, George Washington University School of Medicine

**Instructional Level: Advanced**

**Abstract:** There is a continuing need for clinicians working with the sex offender population to better understand the unique aspects of sexual health related to the LGBTQIA+ population. Individuals who identify as LGBTQIA+ are more likely to be prosecuted and convicted for sexual offenses than their heterosexual counterparts. This difference stems from complex historical and legal disparities and lack of clinical attention to this population. In order for these individuals to have the best chance of fostering healthy sexual behaviors (and to prevent recidivism), it is critical that professionals working in the field of sex offending understand the health behaviors, health disparities, and challenges that this population faces. This workshop will explore LGBTQIA+ basics and focus on special considerations such as identity, coming out, transitioning, and relationship building.

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

1. Define basic terminology/concepts of LGBTQIA+ sexual health
2. Identify healthy sexual behaviors in the LGBTQIA+ population
3. Discuss health outcomes and legal disparities related to LGBTQIA+ sexual health
4. Identify diagnostic and treatment strategies in working with sex offenders who identify as LGBTQIA+

**10:00 - 10:15 am – Break\***

**10:15 am - 11:45 am**

**Dialectical Behavior Therapy: Addressing Difficult Situations in Therapy with People in a Civil Commitment Program in Missouri**

**Sharron Robbins, Ph.D., and Lee Ann McVay, Psy.D., *Fulton State Hospital***

**Instructional Level: Advanced**

**Abstract:** Within this workshop, we will provide examples and role plays including:

- How DBT is relevant for treatment of sex offenders (biosocial model)
- Gaining commitment and gaining commitment and re-gaining commitment
- Extremely difficult scenarios to Validate (group activity and role play)
- Behaviors to target in treatment (hierarchy of target behaviors)
- Coaching Calls (format, role play and issues)
- Consultation Team
- Diary Cards (what to monitor, handouts of Diary Card samples, role play going through a Diary Card)
- Completing a behavioral chain analysis (role play and sample forms)
- Skills training (how to coach to use skills and balance intervention with validation, role play)

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

1. Apply the use of validation with challenging clients.
2. Write a behavior chain analysis and describe the importance of coaching calls.
3. Select behaviors to target in therapy.
4. Describe the Diary Card completion.



**11:45 pm –  
Catered Lunch\***

**1:00 pm – 2:15 pm**

**No Playing Possum: Using the ARMIDILO-S to Inform the Trier of Fact and Guide Case-Specific Interventions**

Cassandra J. Lind, Psy.D., L.P., Minnesota Sex Offender Program

**Instructional Level: Intermediate**

**Abstract:** The ARMIDILO-S was designed to aid in identification of treatment targets and improve risk management of persons with developmental or intellectual limitations who committed a sexual offense or exhibited other problematic sexual behavior. This presentation will provide a broad overview of the ARMIDILO-S, including risk factors (i.e., stable and acute), protective factors, and the use of such factors within the risk appraisal process. Emphasis will be placed on the value of using the RNR model as a framework with this specialized population, particularly incorporating responsivity principles in the risk assessment process. The presenter will then focus on the importance of identification and prioritization of areas that are most risk-relevant (i.e., critical-items) to guide treatment planning/goals and inform supervision strategies.

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

1. Describe the unique needs of individuals who have concomitant intellectual disabilities and problematic sexual behaviors (IDPSB).
2. Identify both risk and protective factors of the ARMIDILO-S.
3. Utilize assessment results to better inform their practice.

**2:15 – 2:30 pm – Break\***

2:30 – 3:45 pm

## **Therapy Supporting Activities – Promoting Positive Changes**

Jessica Marsh, Janet Latham and Kara Gougler, Texas Civil Commitment Office

### **Instructional Level: Intermediate**

**Abstract:** The Texas Civil Commitment Office identified a gap in the programming for civilly committed sex offenders in the state. While clients receive 6 hours of group treatment weekly, there were limited opportunities for clients to utilize the positive changes from treatment outside the treatment room through structured, productive programming. In response to this identified gap, the Texas Civil Commitment Office developed an 8-week structured program called Project Change: Practicing Change Beyond the Classroom. The program consists of educational activities, structured recreational activities, informational packets for clients, worksheets to be completed and peer-led activities. The presentation will provide an overview of the program and review the outcomes that the program has seen since implementing the program. Finally, the presentation will provide plans for future programming.

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

- 1) Summarize the model of therapy supporting activities used in Texas;
- 2) Analyze the benefits of peer-facilitated structured activities; and
- 3) Compile a list of possible opportunities for similar programs in their own states.

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4:00 pm – 5:15 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!

