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 and Associate Director, Kelly McGrath for their ongoing support and tremendous assistance with our annual conference, and 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 24th Annual Conference is primarily intended to provide a forum for professionals working in, or affiliated with, civil commitment or treatment programs designed to prevent sexual offending behavior. Students working toward a degree in a related field are also encouraged to attend. For conference registration we ask that you identify your attendance as professional, student or non-professional attendee. Due to the nature of the conference, media are not permitted to attend. Photographs and recordings of any kind are not permitted. We reserve the right to remove attendees that distract or prevent our conference from meeting its objectives.


All registration fees include catered lunch on Tuesday!

**Non-member Registration Fees:**

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

**Member Registration Fees:**

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

**Presenter Registration Fees:**

- Presenter Registration – members $125
- Presenter Registration – members + CE credits $150
- Presenter Registration – non-members $175
- Presenter Registration – non-members + CE credits $200

**Single Day Registration:**

- One day registration, member or non-member $125
- One day registration, member or non-member + CE credits $150

**Student Registration:**

- Student registration $100

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 Gaylord Rockies Resort is fully ADA accessible. Please contact the SOCCPN Conference Planning Chair, Jennifer Schneider, at Jennifer.Schneider@doh.nj.gov for any additional accommodations needed.
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
Instructional Level: Intermediate

Abstract: The objective of this workshop is to share the journey and success of having a collaborative relationship among all departments in a civil commitment program, particularly between operations and clinical. This presentation will cover the barriers that can result in the creation of silos, how to break down the “us and them” mentality and reveal how to sustain a collaborative relationship across all disciplines. Strategies that were implemented to shift culture and discuss the positive impact on the client’s treatment progression will be identified. An area of focus will be the use of warmth, empathy, rewarding and directiveness (Marshall, 2005) in the relationships between staff and clients to influence treatment. These relationships have provided opportunities for clients to address protective factors related to desistance to sexual offending (de Vogel, V., De Ruiter, C., Bourman, Y., de Vries, Robbe, M. 2012). Key factors include attitude towards rules and regulation, prosocial connections, vocational, leisure activities, financial management, medication, and the therapeutic alliance. Through the collaboration of the treatment team and the building of working relationships between members of the treatment team and clients, the concept of a 24-hour treatment program are embedded.

Learning Objectives - This workshop is designed to help you:

1) Explain the barriers to partnership and collaboration
2) Explain how we shifted our culture
3) Describe the value of a collaborative approach for a 24/7 treatment facility
4) Identify the foundation of a therapeutic community
5) The role of the treatment team in application of the RNR principles
6) The role of members of the treatment time and contributions to a client’s treatment

Ying and Yang, Operations and Clinical Working Collaboratively

Brenda Todd-Bense, MSW, Clinical Director and Bonnie Wold, Facility Director, Minnesota Sex Offender Program.
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.

Evening Reception*
**Instructional Level:** Intermediate

**Abstract:** This panel discussion’s intention is to identify the way that five civil commitment programs are meeting the needs of the transgender clients under their care. Through discussion, Directors from 5 programs will share their opinion, experience and practice with this specialized population who reside in their institutional setting. As the clients are committed to our programs for treatment of a paraphilic disorder, providing care for their sexual identity can be challenging, including prioritizing treatment needs, determining any correlations between sexual offending and sexual identity, provision of environments supportive gender diversity, and the complexities of gender affirming surgery. Civil commitment programs want to ensure that all clients, including those who identify as transgender, are treated with respect and protected from harm. The World Professional Association for Transgender Health (WPATH) provided Standards of Care for the Health of Transgender and Gender Diverse People, Version 8 in September 2022. There is a chapter which addresses care for transgender individuals who reside in institutions.

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

1. Participants will develop a basic understanding of WPATH guidelines for providing care for transgender individuals residing in institutions.
2. Participants will learn the role that informed consent can serve in providing care for transgender individuals.
3. Participants will learn about challenges treatment providers face when providing care for transgender individuals within civil commitment programs.
Abstract: When exploring the etiology of problematic sexual behaviors, we often find a lack of trust with authority and legal systems, poor relationship stability and skills, misconceptions of intimacy, history of personal and society boundary violations, and attachment difficulties. Research also shows the therapeutic alliance is an effective tool (responsivity factor) in developing prosocial coping skills to decrease risk of reoffending. This workshop supports the conversation on how to develop/maintain healthy therapeutic relationships, keeping the therapist within ethical standards, while providing effective treatment and relationship role modeling. In other words, “connect before you correct.”

Learning Objectives: This workshop is designed to help you:

1. Define therapeutic alliance.
2. Explain why these alliances are effective in the change process.
3. Identify and challenge barriers with both professionals and clients.
4. Offer suggestions on how to strengthen current therapeutic alliances.
Abstract: When many of us started in this field, there was much in debate about whether treatment for sexual offending persons could be effective. There is now compelling research support for the efficacy of interventions with such persons. When empirically derived principles are followed, interventions effectively assist these persons in desisting from further abusive behavior and creating socially acceptable and personally fulfilling lives.

Persons convicted of sexual offenses that are in secure settings are a vulnerable population in a vulnerable place and time. Secure settings can be a helpful context for change, but they may also exacerbate the risk factors that led to sexual offending and create new mental health and behavioral challenges. There is more work to be done to reduce the prevalence of sexual abuse. The purpose of this talk is to cultivate optimism with interventionists that work toward maximizing treatment outcomes in secure settings and to motivate a recasting of the prevention continuum. Acknowledging our successes and our expertise can motivate us to both improve and more beyond tertiary prevention.

Learning Objectives - This workshop is designed to help you:

1) Participants will learn what is meant by therapeutic optimism and multiple evidence-based outcomes in support of this.

2) Participants will learn the features of effective correctional programming for persons with sexual offenses in secure settings

3) Participants will learn the prevention continuum and multiple reasons experts should promote recasting

4) Participants will learn the application of quaternary prevention, therapeutic jurisprudence, and the responsivity principle applicable to SOCC.

2:00 – 2:15 pm – Break*
Abstract: The general treatment program, the civil commitment review process, and the civil commitment treatment program were established in the Federal Bureau of Prisons in 2006 after passage of the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act. This presentation will provide an overview of the process for civil commitment for individuals within federal custody who have a history of sexual offending. Furthermore, a broad overview of the voluntary treatment process and program for those individuals who are committed by the Court as a sexually dangerous person will also be discussed.

Learning Objectives: This workshop is designed to help you:

1) To understand the civil commitment process for federally sentenced inmates.
2) Discuss aspects of the clinical population for those individuals within the federal prison system who are legally determined to be a sexually dangerous person.
3) Examine how treatment is generally provided for those individuals civilly committed as a sexually dangerous person within the federal system.

Round Table Discussions*

Topics to be finalized via list serve later this summer!