

SEXUAL OFEENDERS ASSESSMENT BOARD

Module 1

Using the Containment Model at the Local Level

Transcript

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Section 1: Introduction

Screen Number	Character	Narration
1001	Judge:	Hello! I'm Judge Hyatt, your host for this e-Learning program targeted to criminal justice professionals, like you, who work with sex offenders or <i>victims</i> of sex offenders. In this program, you will learn about a new approach to managing offenders that is aimed at reducing victimization and ensuring safer communities.
1002	Judge:	<p>After years of review and collaborative discussion, professionals at the national, state and local levels identified an effective concept that involves 5 key components:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Teamwork- A <u>Victim</u> Focus- Specialized knowledge of sex offending- Regular monitoring and evaluation of efforts, and- Educating the public about how to prevent sex offenses by communicating science-based information, to prevent fear-based policies
1003	Judge:	<p>A specialized team in Pennsylvania created Sex Offender Containment, which is specific to our needs here in the Commonwealth. It is a plan that relies on the collaboration of agencies and individuals to contain sex offenders.</p> <p>Simply put, team members share information and expertise in order to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Promote public safety and victim protection, and- Hold offenders accountable.
1004	Judge:	The agency representatives and individuals who join forces in this management approach are called a Sex Offender Containment Team”.

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Judge:

In this module, we will introduce you to the team members who form a containment team, explain the guidelines for participating on a team, tell you how to find or form a team, and provide examples of effective containment teams in action.

Section 2: Team Members

Screen Number	Character	Narration
1006	Judge:	First, I want you to meet some of the team members of a containment group. Along with me, these individuals, who represent various disciplines, will guide you through this program. Each of them has an important role to play in the sex offender containment process.
1007	Law Enforcement:	Hi! I'm Ken Crouse. I'm a police officer. I represent Law Enforcement on the Sex Offender Containment Team. Law Enforcement is the term for those of us who are considered an "arresting authority." (Like, me, your local cop.) We're usually the first ones called when a sex crime has been committed. That call could be placed by the victim, the victim's family, the hospital, or Children & Youth Services, if there is a child involved.
1008	Law Enforcement:	My colleagues with the PA State Police are also considered an "arresting authority." They may become involved in cases because they administer Pennsylvania's Sex Offender Registry. This is the registry of offenders in the state who have been convicted of a sex crime.
1009	Law Enforcement:	The District Attorney's Office is not an arresting authority, but they work closely with Law Enforcement. They decide which laws have been broken and how to prosecute a case.
1010	Law Enforcement:	The final arresting authority is the state's Attorney General. This office investigates Internet sex crimes.
1011	Law Enforcement:	During this program, wherever Law Enforcement is involved in the containment process, you'll hear from me.
1012	Victim Advocate:	Hi, I'm Teresa Garnotsi, a Victim Advocate . I provide support services and counseling to victims of sex crimes and to the non-offending parent of a victim, in crimes involving minors. I also connect my clients with the services that can help them recover and heal.

- 1013 **Victim Advocate:** Victim assistance programs are available in all 67 Pennsylvania counties. Most of these advocacy programs are “system-based,” which means they are provided through the criminal justice system. In Pennsylvania, these programs are located in the county office of the district attorney.
- 1014 **Victim Advocate:** There are also community-based victim services which are usually provided through a county non-profit victim service organization.
- 1015 **Victim Advocate:** Throughout this program, wherever Victim Services have a voice in the containment process, you’ll hear my voice.
- 1016 **Treatment Provider:** Hi, I’m Gary Ackmore. I’m a **Treatment Provider** and I work exclusively with sex offenders. I could get involved with a case through several avenues:
- when a sex offender’s treatment is ordered by a judge,
 - through a service program within Corrections, or
 - when treatment is mandated as a condition of an offender’s probation or parole
- I could also be contacted by an offender who’s looking for help before he commits an offense, but that’s pretty unusual.
- 1017 **Treatment Provider:** Treatment has a critical role to play in sex offender management and containment. There are many types of correctional and forensic programs and treatment options available which can serve as interventions for sex offenders. The treatment provider on your team should understand them and know when to recommend them.

- 1018 **Treatment Provider:** The treatment of sex offenders is a specialized field that requires the services of clinicians and treatment providers with skills and training specific to this population. That’s why I said earlier that I work exclusively with sex offenders. The type of treatment program selected must be determined through the completion of a sex offender assessment, which is conducted by a clinician or therapist who has specialized expertise in the field. The treatment option selected is based on the individual dynamics of the offender and his offense. There is no one appropriate solution that will work for every offender. It’d make my job a whole lot easier if there were. Effective management of sex offender cases requires the cooperative efforts of qualified clinicians, knowledgeable court personnel, and correctional and parole professionals.
- 1019 **Treatment Provider:** Throughout this program, whenever a Treatment Provider is required for the containment process, you’ll hear from me.
- 1020 **State Parole Agent with Supervision:** Hi, I’m Rob Shaw. I’m involved with **Supervision** as a State Parole Agent. Supervision also includes county probation officers. Our job is to make sure the community and victims are safe by making certain sex offenders follow their rules for probation or parole. We know there’s a real potential for a sex offender to re-offend. Believe me; we take that possibility very seriously. So we have specialized planning and protocols to discourage an offender from committing a new crime and victimizing the community further.
- 1021 **State Parole Agent with Supervision:** When you join a Sex Offender Containment Team, you need to know that sex offenders are very different from other kinds of offenders. You can’t look at things like, does he have a stable job, a bank account, an active lifestyle, and the way he seems agreeable with everything you suggest, and think, “Hey, this offender has a reduced level of risk.” Behaviors that serve as warning signals to re-offense are usually subtle and may seem unrelated to sexual deviance.
- 1022 **State Parole Agent with Supervision:** Probation and Parole supervision authorities set up the rules and conditions of supervision. We develop case plans, create supervision networks, and respond to violations. We may also get involved with the offender’s family and other household members, *and sometimes the* victim’s family. This is not an easy job.

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Judge:

You've just heard about the team members involved in Sex Offender Containment. In the next section, we will talk more about the containment process itself. Before going on, I want to make one thing clear up front: most sex offenders are male, but there are female sex offenders. In this program, we will refer to an offender as a "he," with the understanding that the offender could be male or female.

Section 3: Sex Offender Containment Model

Screen Number	Character	Narration
1030	Judge:	Sex Offender Containment is a comprehensive approach to sex offender management. It sex offender issues from a wide-range of perspectives, with the primary goals of reducing victimization and ensuring safer communities. Let’s take a closer look at its fundamental principles and guidelines.
1031	Judge:	<p>The fundamental principles of a comprehensive approach to sex offender management include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Agencies, partners and individuals must collaborate and communicate to effectively manage sex offenders.• Successful sex offender management maintains a victim-centered approach.• Specialized knowledge and expertise is required in every aspect of sex offender management.• All entities involved with sex offenders must monitor, communicate and evaluate their work.• All entities involved with sex offenders have a role in educating the public about how they can protect themselves and prevent sex offenses.• Containment requires the use of polygraph, probation/parole supervision, and treatment, all to provide external controls for the offender while he develops internal controls/support, and• The containment model advances the idea that the community safety is the goal.

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Judge:

To be effective in this approach, team members should be aware of the following guidelines:

- Agencies, partners and individuals must collaborate and communicate.
- Team members should maintain a victim-centered approach.
- Specialized knowledge and expertise is required in every aspect of sex offender management.
- All professionals involved with sex offenders must monitor, communicate and evaluate their work.
- All professionals involved with sex offenders must help educate the public about the ways to protect themselves from sex offenses.
- And finally, the containment model views the community *and the victim* as clients. They are why we are all here.

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Judge:

By now, it should be easy to see that if your job involves working with sex offenders or *victims* of sex offenders, you'll want to consider joining a group that specifically addresses sex offender issues in your area. Your expertise, along with the expertise of your team members, can help safeguard your community and prevent future victimization.

To get started, we're going to focus on the first principle: collaborating and communicating on a regular basis. It's this collaboration and the resulting case treatment plans that will help "contain" sex offenders.

Section 4: Sex Offender Containment Teams

Screen Number	Character	Narration
1034	Judge:	<p>Teamwork is the engine that drives Sex Offender Containment.</p> <p>You may be able to access a pre-existing group in your area, connect with potential team members through your county Criminal Justice Advisory Board, also referred to as a CJAB, or use one of these models to form your own team.</p> <p>Let's start with potential resources that may already be available to you through CJABs.</p>
1035	Judge:	<p>In Pennsylvania, Criminal Justice Advisory Boards are groups of top-level county officials who address criminal justice issues from a systemic and policy level perspective. Membership includes top-level representatives of the courts, corrections, law enforcement, community-based organizations, executive branch of government, health and human service agencies, victims' services agencies, and the business and faith communities.</p>
1036	Judge:	<p>If you have a county CJAB, they may already include at least some of the members you would want in your sex offender containment group. If they haven't already formed a group specific to sex offender issues, they may still be a good place to start. Please keep in mind, the Commonwealth's counties aren't all alike and the goals of containment don't depend on which agency or individual gets the ball rolling. CJABs may be a logical place to start, but as you will see from another successful containment group, not the only way to make it happen in your area.</p>

- 1037 **Judge:** Criminal Justice Advisory Boards have several objectives. They include:
- Improving communications, cooperation, and coordination between county and state officials and community members
 - Making resource allocation decisions
 - Setting priorities for the use of resources to achieve justice goals and objectives
 - Understanding community problems and needs
 - Creating goals and objectives
 - Evaluating and comparing alternative programs and procedures, and
 - Providing agency personnel with new knowledge and information
- 1038 **Judge:** With the CJAB’s multi-disciplinary membership, they can be a good starting point for you to locate other potential sex offender containment group members. You should also get to know your CJAB for another reason: they could serve as a possible funding source for your team through a federal or state grant.
- 1039 **Judge:** The first thing to do is contact your county CJAB and find out who serves on the board. If the members include appropriate containment team members – like county probation, court representatives, the DA’s office, and victim services – you should join the board and form a Sex Offender Containment Subcommittee.
- 1040 **Judge:** There’s just one possible hitch to joining a CJAB: not every county has one. Of the 67 counties in the state, there are CJABs in more than 50. If you’d like to see if a CJAB is available in your county, check out the map that is provided on the screen. A copy of it is available for you in the program’s library.

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Judge:

If there is no CJAB in your county or if they don't seem to be a good fit for your goals, you can form your own team. In the next section, we'll show you some model teams in action. You can follow their examples or follow your own path.

Keep in mind – it doesn't matter how a sex offender containment group is organized. There is no established structure that all teams must follow. All you need is a dedicated team of professionals with one goal in mind: keeping sex offenders contained. For more information regarding CJABs, please consult the CJABs Document located in the program's library.

Section 5: Containment Team Examples

Screen Number	Character	Narration
1042	Judge:	<p>I said at the outset that Sex Offender Containment is a best practice management approach to sex offenders . Now I'm going to show you how the idea can work.</p> <p>First, the story of a Sex Offender Containment Team that was formed from an <u>existing</u> CJAB in Erie County.</p>
1043	Judge:	<p>Since 2001, Erie County has made real strides towards improving treatment for sexual offenders by integrating the office of Erie County Adult Probation and Parole with an existing sex offender program. They call it the "Integrated Adult Sexual Offender Program (IASOP) Treatment Team." By combining treatment and supervision offices under one roof, they are able to maximize resources for the treatment, supervision, and rehabilitation of sex offenders.</p> <p>The goals and aspects of this program were designed and revised as the team grew.</p>
1044	Judge:	<p>Since the team was formed, they have served 360 sex offenders. Their collaborative approach allows the courts, law enforcement, probation and parole, victim advocacy, and treatment providers to work together in the management of offenders and response to victim protection. This approach reduces the risk of offenders committing a new offense and provides for victim protection.</p>
1045	Judge:	<p>If you live in Erie County you can contact the Integrated Adult Sexual Offender Program (IASOP) treatment team and see where your work can assist the team.</p> <p>If you work in Erie County and would like to become involved with the Integrated Adult Sexual Offender Program (IASOP) Treatment Team, you can access Erie's contact information in the Erie Contact document located in the program's library tab.</p>

- 1046 **Judge:** If there is no CJAB in your county or if they don't seem to be a good fit for your goals - start your own. The bottom line is – first check around, don't try to recreate any wheels, but you should also feel free to form the group that suits your needs.
- 1047 **Judge:** Now, let's look at a containment group that was formed when treatment and victims services professionals recognized there had to be a better way to supervise and manage sex offenders.
- 1048 **Judge:** Project Point of Light is a treatment program for adult and adolescent sexual offenders. It was developed in 1986 as a joint effort of Clearfield County Adult Probation Office (APO), Jefferson County APO, and the State Board of Parole in Altoona and Butler. Today, there are groups in DuBois, Clarion and a satellite location in Venango County.
- 1049 **Judge:** Sex Offender Containment is addressed through the Project Point of Light program using “*Intervention Teams*” to “contain” offenders.
- 1050 **Judge:** In this model, the Intervention Team members includes representatives from:
- Probation/Parole,
 - Victims' Services,
 - Children & Youth Services,
 - The Court System,
 - Law Enforcement, and
- Any agency or Treatment Providers involved in the treatment of the offender
- 1051 **Judge:** The Intervention Team gets involved in a sex offender case when a referral is made – either by a social service agency, Probation & Parole, Children & Youth, or any agency dealing with sexual abuse.
- 1052 **Judge:** The team's efforts are targeted to adults and adolescents who have displayed inappropriate sexual behaviors, such as voyeurism and exhibitionism, or offenders who have been convicted of sex offenses like rape and molestation.

- 1053 **Judge:** When offenders are accepted into the Project Point of Light Program, they are required to sign a waiver indicating that they will have no confidentiality rights. This waiver ensures that the offender knows his case information will be shared with other agencies in order to coordinate treatment and supervision services.
- 1054 **Judge:** In addition to providing services for offenders, the Intervention Team steps outside of the box and offers comprehensive services to the victims of sexual abuse and to non-offending parents. This is a real departure for most offender programs, but it is a goal we should all be working toward with the containment approach.
- 1055 **Judge:** All offenders in Project Point of Light are reviewed quarterly by the Intervention Team. Cases are also reviewed “as needed” when spikes in behavior indicate an offender’s increased risk of re-offending. This mechanism was put in place to ensure offenders weren’t “getting around the system” somehow and possibly impacting victim and community safety.
- 1056 **Judge:** Another tool the Intervention Team uses to keep offenders contained is the polygraph. The polygraph is part of the offender’s treatment plan and may be used to identify if the offender is complying with his treatment requirements. All polygraph tests are conducted by an examiner who has demonstrated a sex offender specialty with the American Polygraph Association.
- 1057 **Judge:** All adult offenders are required to pay for and complete two polygraph examinations: one at the beginning of their treatment and the second prior to their release from the program. These tests are used to verify the offender’s past history, potential targets, present sexual activity and new victims. The Intervention Team does not use the polygraph to identify possible probation or parole violations.
- 1058 **Judge:** If you are in Clearfield, DuBois, Clarion, Jefferson or Venango Counties and would like to know more about the work of the Project Point of Light Program, you should contact Project Point of Light. Their contact information is available in the Contact Project Point of Light Knowledge Document in the program’s library.

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Judge:

If not you can use this model to create a sex offender containment team. The bottom line is – first check around, don't try to recreate the wheel, but you should also feel free to form the group that suits your needs.

Section 6: Conclusion

Screen Number	Character	Narration
1060	Judge:	Erie County and the Project Point of Light are just two examples of effective sex offender containment programs. Our objective in highlighting them here was to give you ideas that you can use when forming your own team. Remember, for more information you can access the knowledge documents in the program's library for further review.