



*Turning lives around one child at a time.*

**Offender Specific Unit:  
A Model For Juvenile Sex Offender Case  
Management and Supervision**

Judge Linda Tucci Teodosio  
Summit County Court of Common Pleas  
Juvenile Division  
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## Objectives

- ▶ 1. Identify the rationale for a specialized and individualized approach to the case management and supervision of juvenile sex offenders
- ▶ 2. Explore case processing, supervision and treatment
- ▶ 3. Understand laws pertaining to HIV/VD testing and juvenile sex offender registration and how to assist the court with classification

1992

## Summit County Juvenile Court

- ▶ 18 probation officers
- ▶ Random assignment of cases based on 11 geographic districts.
- ▶ Recognized the need to have a more coordinated effort to supervise and treat sexual offenders in the community.
- ▶ Established a specialized position to process and supervise sexual offenders from the initial intake through closure of the case.
- ▶ The development and implementation of a community based assessment and treatment program with Child Guidance and Family Solutions.

## 2017

- ▶ Cases are heard by our judge or two designated magistrates
- ▶ Three full-time probation officers
- ▶ Caseloads of approximately fifteen to twenty-five youth
  - ▶ Serve a multidisciplinary role supervising youth from intake through termination of probation including any placements.
  - ▶ Process and supervise any youth referred to court for a sexually related offense.
- ▶ One probation community officer
  - ▶ Assists with field contacts and administrative duties

## Benefits of a Specialized Unit

- ▶ Continuity from intake to case closure
- ▶ Better understanding of the population and risk factors
- ▶ Good understanding of effective treatment options
- ▶ Smaller caseload
- ▶ Clear and specific expectations of the conditions of probation supervision and treatment
- ▶ Knowledge of community support networks

# Types of Cases

<u>Offenses</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>
Rape	7	16
Sexual Battery	1	1
Gross Sexual Imposition	10	8
Sexual Imposition	6	4
Importuning	0	0
Public Indecency	7	1
Solicitation	2	1
Voyeurism	1	0
Illegal Use of a Minor	5	12
Disseminating Matter	6	0
Pandering Obscenity	1	7
<u>Totals -</u>	46 Charges 40 Youth	50 Charges 42 Youth

# Court Process

Youth are referred in two ways:

1. Complaints are mailed in by local law enforcement
  - ▶ Hearing is scheduled within thirty days
2. Youth are charged and brought to the detention center
  - ▶ All sexual offenses are automatically held and scheduled for a hearing the next business day

## Preliminary Hearing

- ▶ Denial entered for any sexual offense to allow appointment or hiring of attorney
- ▶ Recommendations are made based on information gathered during intake interview
  - ▶ Parent monitored house arrest
  - ▶ EMHA / GPS
  - ▶ Safe Landing Youth Shelter
  - ▶ Comprehensive safety planning
  - ▶ Potential placement with other family or family friends
  - ▶ Continued hold in detention



## HIV/VD Testing

- ▶ Referred for HIV/VD testing on all cases in accordance with Ohio Revised Code 2907.27
  - ▶ Requires HIV/VD testing on 2907.02, 2907.03, 2907.04, 2907.24, 2907.241, 2907.25 or an ordinance that is substantially equivalent
  - ▶ Our youth are tested by the local health department or Planned Parenthood
  - ▶ Victims are notified by Victim Assistance if there is a positive result
  - ▶ Defendants are notified by Planned Parenthood for all positive test results

## Pretrial / Trial

- ▶ PO presents any new recommendations, if applicable
- ▶ If no plea is entered, the case is set for trial
- ▶ If a youth is adjudicated the matter is scheduled for disposition in approximately two to ten weeks.

# Pending Disposition

- ▶ Youth can be referred for an assessment
  - ▶ Sexual behavior problems risk assessment (J-SOAP-II or ERASOR)
  - ▶ Psychological/psychiatric/mental health assessment
  - ▶ Substance abuse evaluation
  - ▶ Ohio Youth Assessment System
- ▶ Referred to collaborative program with Child Guidance and Family Solutions. (Private providers may be used if pre-approved by the court)
- ▶ PO gathers any available records
- ▶ Department or team staffing is conducted to review information and develop recommendations
- ▶ A report is provided to the judge, magistrate and attorneys prior to the dispositional hearing
- ▶ Victim Impact Statement, if completed, is also reviewed and provided to the judge and magistrate

# Recommendations

## Ohio Department of Youth Services (ODYS) Commitment

- ▶ Community safety concerns
- ▶ Youth found to require a high level of risk management
- ▶ Nature of offense
- ▶ Prior court involvement
- ▶ Denying offender

## Community Correctional Facility (CCF)

- ▶ Suspended commitment to ODYS

# Recommendations

## Residential Placement

- ▶ Community safety concerns
- ▶ Youth found to require a moderate to high level of risk management
- ▶ Victim(s) reside in the home/ No alternative community placement
- ▶ Probation supervision for the term of treatment

## Community Based Placement and Treatment

- ▶ Youth found to require a low to moderate level of risk management
- ▶ Probation supervision for the term of treatment
- ▶ Youth can remain in own home or be placed at relative's home or group/foster home

# Sex Offender Classification and Registration

- ▶ Youth are classified for the purposes of registration according to Ohio Revised Code 2950.04
- ▶ Age at time of offense (discretionary vs. mandatory)
- ▶ The judge or magistrate rule on classification immediately following disposition or a week prior to release from ODYS
- ▶ Adam Walsh Act – three classification tiers
  - ▶ Tier I - annually for ten years
  - ▶ Tier II - every 180 days for twenty years
  - ▶ Tier III - every ninety days for lifetime
- ▶ Review of classification
  - ▶ Successful completion of probation or parole supervision
  - ▶ Three years after completion
  - ▶ Five years later

# Offender Specific Probation

## Probation Rules

- ▶ Individualized for each youth

## Case Planning

- ▶ Risk, Needs, Responsivity – Who, What and How
  - ▶ Match the level of supervision/service to the risk
  - ▶ Identify needs using assessments
  - ▶ Individualized responses
- ▶ High Risk vs. Low Risk – Intensive supervision and services provided to lower risk offenders can increase their risk for recidivism

## Why Individualize?

- ▶ Etiology
- ▶ Typology
- ▶ Strengths
- ▶ Risks
- ▶ Trauma
- ▶ Age appropriate activities, behaviors and relationships



## Who they are

- ▶ “A juvenile sexual offender is a person below the age of legal majority who commits one or more legally proscribed sexual acts.” (NCJJ, 1992)
- ▶ Most offenders are between the ages of 12-14
- ▶ 1 out of 8 are younger than 12
- ▶ 7% of juvenile offenders are female (Snyder, 2002)
- ▶ Juveniles commit 1/3 of all sexual offenses against children (Finkelhor, Ormrod and Chaffin, 2009)
- ▶ Studies show that approximately 20-50% of JSO’s have experienced physical abuse and approximately 40 to 80% have experienced sexual abuse (Hunter and Becker, 1998).
  - It’s important to point out that although many JSO’s have been victim’s of sexual abuse, not all victims of sexual abuse become offenders.
- ▶ More in common with non-sexual delinquent youth than adult sexual offenders.

## Why they offend

- ▶ Cope with or satisfy emotions/feelings
- ▶ Poor supervision and communication within the family
- ▶ Involvement with delinquent or higher risk peers
- ▶ Exposure to nonsexual abuse and neglect
- ▶ Sexual abuse victimization
- ▶ Exposure to violence
- ▶ Early exposure to sex or pornography
- ▶ Social Isolation
- ▶ Curiosity
- ▶ Power and control
- ▶ Low self-esteem

# Supervision & Case Management

## Supervision

- ▶ Monitor the terms of probation
- ▶ Report compliance and completion of court orders to the magistrate or judge
- ▶ Office and field contacts
- ▶ “Surveillance”

## Case Management

- ▶ Help with registration duties
- ▶ Safety planning
- ▶ Referrals for services – counseling, education, mentors
- ▶ Assisting with transportation
- ▶ Connecting to resources – basic needs, benefits
- ▶ Participating in team meetings
- ▶ Re-entry – employment, aftercare
- ▶ Reunification
- ▶ Involved in treatment
- ▶ Co-facilitation of treatment groups

**BALANCE!!!**

# Reinforcing Positive Behavior

- ▶ Having a conversation
- ▶ PO determined sanctions
  - ▶ House arrest, essays, curfew, etc.
- ▶ Behavior contracts (Response Grid)
  - ▶ Incentive based
  - ▶ Sanctions
- ▶ Probation violations
  - ▶ Does the behavior require court intervention?
  - ▶ Can youth be held accountable without a formal violation?
  - ▶ What is the goal?

# ODYS Program Certification

## OHIO COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT PROTOCOL

Certification Review FOR: PROGRAMS SEEKING INITIAL OR RECERTIFICATION TO PROVIDE JUVENILE SEX OFFENDER, CHILD-VICTIM OFFENDER OR YOUTH WITH SEXUALLY ABUSIVE BEHAVIORS TREATMENT

- ▶ Program and administrative requirements
- ▶ **Assessment**
- ▶ **Treatment**
- ▶ **Transition**
- ▶ Clinical Records and Documentation

<http://dys.ohio.gov/Community-Programs/Sex-Offender-Program-Certification>

# Programming

- ▶ Sexual Behavior Problems Program
  - ▶ Collaborative with Child Guidance and Family Solutions created in June, 1992
  - ▶ Comprehensive sexual behavior problems risk assessment
  - ▶ Sexual offender specific treatment (Pathways, Footprints, Roadmaps)
    - ▶ Individual and family sessions
    - ▶ Two to three weekly treatment groups
    - ▶ Parent group
    - ▶ Short-term group for low risk and non-contact offenders
  - ▶ Weekly team meeting to update and discuss progress or concerns about active cases

## Benefits of Agency Collaboration

- ▶ Enhanced understanding of roles and responsibilities of team members
- ▶ Increased communication
- ▶ More informed decision making
- ▶ Maximize resources
- ▶ Promotes accountability and community safety

## Wise Guys - Male responsibility curriculum / Smart Girls - Life skills training curriculum

- ▶ Eight to ten week group facilitated by one probation officer
- ▶ Healthy sexuality and lifestyle education
- ▶ Youth that require a low level of risk management
- ▶ Includes non-contact offenses (sexting)
- ▶ Can be used as a diversionary option



## Community Outreach

- ▶ Present to local agencies, churches, police departments and schools
  - ▶ Sexting, social media and internet safety presentation for parents and teens
  - ▶ Supervision of juvenile sexual offenders
  - ▶ Offender Specific Unit

## Recommendations for PO's

- ▶ Have a good understanding of classification and registration
- ▶ Understand the requirements for treatment certification
- ▶ Be knowledgeable about the different types of assessments and treatment options
- ▶ Use a strength based approach
- ▶ Be supportive, empathetic, non-judgmental, culturally competent and trauma sensitive
- ▶ Balance vs surveillance

# Contact Information

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