
SOCR News

October 2005

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SEX OFFENDER CONTAINMENT AND RESEARCH PROJECT (SOCR)

Outside the Walls Ministries Sees the Need...

As a faith-based organization functioning Outside the Walls of traditional church, we clearly see the need for intensive community education to better understand the degree of danger caused by sexual predators.

Though it may seem easier to ignore this growing problem, the well being of the children in our community supersedes the temptation to look the other way. It is imperative that we, as concerned citizens, must address this continuing threat to the safety and public health of those who are most vulnerable. To date, those who have had the ability to take corrective actions in our communities have failed to do so because of their own personal, professional, or political agendas. These agendas are contrary to public safety and at the expense of our children.

The need for a community corrections board, controlled by concerned citizens who do not have external agendas, is a necessary solution. We can no longer ignore the local and national media attempts to make us aware of this national crisis that impedes our freedom to live in peace. It is time for us, as concerned citizens, to take action.



We embrace the idea SOCR has introduced that sexual predators be given a chance to live in a controlled environment and have the privilege to serve their sentence while paying back the State for the expense of this managed facility. Generating income and paying taxes is part of the ongoing restitution to not only the victims, but also the community. We also believe that the SOCR project must be thoroughly researched and must be comprehensive enough to make a meaningful difference in public safety.

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Second Chance *by Greig Veeder*

Current thinking:

People deserve a second chance. With good reason, this is a highly prized value in our society, as well as in the criminal justice system. We know that people can change, can transform and take up profoundly new ways of living. Moreover, everyone desires a second chance after misbehaving. In a criminal justice context, second chance has typically meant, "Serve your sentence, then go forth into society as one of us and harm no more."

Problem with and solutions for current thinking:

In the case of sex offenders, the typical conceptualization of second chance requires greater examination. While it would be easier to allow sex offenders to go forth into society and hope they harm no more, research has repeatedly demonstrated that hands-on repetitive adult sex offenders are incapable of maintaining this bargain with society.

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Whether it is two months, two years, or ten years down the road, the likelihood of a sex offender creating more victims increases as time passes. This reality does not allow society to responsibly provide the same type of second chance to a sex offender as it may to other individuals.

When deciding how to manage hands-on, repetitive adult sex offenders, the concept of a second chance has to be defined differently. Sex offenders must be managed with the understanding that they have an enduring problem – a permanent impairment in their use of judgment. As a result, sex offenders must be required to live limited lifestyles with significantly removed rights of privacy and personal control. They must be continually aided in accepting external constraint as being in the best interest of everyone, including themselves. (See **2nd Chance** on page 2)

2nd Chance *(continued from page 1)*

Therefore, "second chance" must be applied quite differently for the sex offender who lives in the community than it would be defined for the non-sex offender. While non-sex offenders may be encouraged and trusted to become as self-sufficient as possible, the same level of trust cannot be given to the sex offender. The sex offender must be told, "We will never trust you to be fully on your own, until you prove you have made profound changes." As research has demonstrated, hands-on repetitive adult sex offenders have persistent patterns of abuse that involve multiple victims, over varying periods of time. A different kind of second chance is necessary - for sex offenders to live in the community.

A different kind of second chance is necessary - for sex offenders to live in the community.

As members of a free society, controlling another person for life is a concept that often offends sensibilities. Advocating for lifetime control of sex offenders is viewed as either too harsh or too coddling. Ironically, it is neither. Allowing a sex offender to become a productive and safe member of society while also limiting their ability to harm others is the most humane and moderate option available. It is clear that hands-on, repetitive adult sex offenders are unable to go forth into society, live lives of privacy and not re-offend. Sex offenders require the loss of privacy and an externally controlled lifestyle to refrain from sexually abusing others. If sex offenders are to be provided a second chance, it must be accepted that their second chance will not be the same kind given to a non-sex offender. For a sex offender, a second chance is the opportunity to live, work, play, and form relationships in the community, while under very tight external monitoring and control.

A more appropriate definition of second chance for repetitive adult sex offenders is placement in the

community in such a manner that A.) Their residence, associations, activities and use of money are controlled for life or until they have reliably and sufficiently changed, and B.) They can continually prove that they have made such changes.

Greig Veeder is the Executive Director of Teaching Humane Existence, Inc., a non-profit Sex Offender Treatment program.

www.about-the.org

What Can I Do? *by Tess Henry, SOCR volunteer*

The question I asked myself... as I learned the number of victims of sexual abuse under the age of 18... the defenselessness of the victims... the lifetime emotional suffering of victims... the shame borne by the victims and their families... and the ineffectiveness of the criminal justice system to stop the abuse. You can take the same steps I took. Call T.H. E @ 303-504-6188:

- Volunteer to set up community education meetings.
- Speak out and tell others what you have learned.
- Make monetary contributions.
- Sponsor a fundraiser.
- Assist in getting the citizen's initiative through the process.
- Join us in making SOCR a reality.

Community education is at the core.

The SOCR Project is a comprehensive approach to managing sex offenders living in our communities. Community education is the core of the SOCR Project, informing citizens of the magnitude of the problem, working with citizens in a grass roots project to establish a citizen board, obtaining the resources to establish the SOCR facility, and let it be known that there is a solution.