

## ***BETTER TOGETHER***

2018 ATSA Conference | Friday October 19 | 3:30 PM – 5:00 PM

**F-36**

### **Better Together: Bridging the Worlds of Community Supervision, Treatment, Research, and Policy**

Panel Chair: Kimberly R. Kras, PhD  
University of Massachusetts Lowell

Andrew J. Harris, PhD  
University of Massachusetts Lowell  
Katherine Gotch, MA, LPC

Integrated Clinical & Correctional Services

Barbara J. Johnson, MA  
Pima County Superior Court Adult Probation Department

Across the United States, probation and parole agencies have increasingly adopted specialized caseload approaches to community-based supervision and management of adults with sexual offense histories. To varying degrees, many of these programs have employed evidence-based practices (EBPs) utilizing structured risk and needs assessments to inform treatment, supervision, and case management planning. The extent and nature of such EBP adoption, however, may be significantly influenced by unique factors such as funding, organizational capacity, leadership, institutional culture, and the jurisdiction's political landscape. Although some specialized sex offender management (SOM) programs and models have been evaluated in isolation, there has to date been no broad-based nationwide assessment of the scope of SOM policies and practices, including the extent, nature, and correlates of EBP adoption in the management of individuals convicted of sexual crimes.

This panel session will explore the current state of specialized SOM policy and practice within the United States, including models of supervision, EBP adoption, staff training strategies, collaboration with treatment providers, and roles and responsibilities of probation and parole officers. The first part of the session will feature a brief presentation of the first wave of results from a nationwide survey of SOM policies and practices within U.S. community corrections agencies, undertaken by Kimberly Kras and Andrew Harris in conjunction with the American Probation and Parole Association. This presentation will be followed by a moderated dialogue featuring commentary and perspective on the study results from both an SOM probation supervision professional (Barbara Johnson) and a treatment professional (Katie Gotch). The dialogue, which will also include ample opportunity for audience engagement and interaction, will emphasize themes related to enhancing collaboration between supervision and treatment professionals, and facilitating the adoption of risk and need-informed EBPs within probation and parole agencies.

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Consistent with the conference theme of “Better Together,” this session is geared toward a wide range of conference participants, including those working in the fields of community supervision, treatment, research, and policy development.

### **Learning Goals:**

By the conclusion of this session, participants will have gained:

- Improved understanding of the current scope and range of SOM models and evidence-based practices (EBPs) employed within probation and parole agencies in the United States;
- Improved understanding of the institutional dynamics surrounding SOM policies and practices, including the factors that may promote and/or impede EBP adoption;
- Improved capacity for clinical and community supervision practitioners to bridge disciplinary boundaries and to promote and support EBP adoption within their agencies.

**Kimberly R. Kras, PhD** is Assistant Professor in the School of Criminology and Justice Studies at the University of Massachusetts Lowell. After earning her doctorate in 2014, following a career with the Missouri Department of Corrections, Dr. Kras spent two years as a post-doctoral fellow at the George Mason University Center for Advancing Correctional Excellence (ACE!), where she worked with the RNR Simulation Tool along with other evaluation projects. Dr. Kras’ work centers on the study of community corrections, reentry and desistance from offending behavior, and utilizes both quantitative and qualitative methodologies. Her research considers how offender behavior change occurs from both the offenders’ and community corrections agents’ perspectives by examining reentry-related experiences, collateral consequences of convictions, and evidence-based practices. Dr. Kras’ work also focuses on translating research findings into practice through practitioner publications and on-site and web-based trainings

**Andrew J. Harris, PhD**, is Associate Professor in the School of Criminology and Justice Studies at the University of Massachusetts Lowell. An expert in public policy, he teaches and conducts applied policy research on a variety of policy topics, including institutional and community corrections, substance abuse, sexual offending, crime and mental illness, and social policy. He has served as Principal Investigator for several major studies funded by the U.S. Department of Justice, including a current nationwide project focused on implementation of the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act (SORNA). Dr. Harris has served as a consultant to state policy boards, public behavioral health agencies, community-based service providers, and state and municipal correctional systems, and currently serves as Associate Editor of the ATSA journal [Sexual Abuse](#).

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**Katherine “Katie” Gotch, MA, LPC, CSOT** maintains a private practice, Integrated Clinical & Correctional Services, in Portland, Oregon which provides specialized clinical and consultation services for issues related to sexual/violent offenders, individuals with sexual behavior problems, and sexual abuse prevention. She earned a bachelor’s degree in psychology from Boston University and a master’s degree in forensic psychology from the University of Denver. She has worked in the field of sexual abuse since 2000 as a clinician, evaluator, trainer, educator, and in legislative/policy development. She is a Clinical Member & Public Policy Executive Board Member – ATSA, Board Member & Policy Representative – Oregon ATSA, and Board Member & Co-Chair of Action Team 5 (Public Policy) – NPEIV. She regularly provides training nationally to correction agencies, treatment providers, policy makers, and other community partners on sexual offense specific risk/need assessment, sexual offense specific management and treatment, public policy, public engagement, and related topics. She is a certified Static-99R/STABLE & ACUTE-2007 trainer.

**Barbara J. Johnson, MA**, is the unit supervisor and coordinator of the Sex Offender Program of the Pima County Superior Court Adult Probation Department in Tucson, Arizona, where she has devoted more than half of her 38-year career to the community management of sexual abusers. She pursued her master’s degree in forensic psychology well into her career to enhance her effectiveness as a trainer, educator and collaborator in this field. Ms. Johnson has served on a variety of Arizona Supreme Court committees, to include that which developed statewide standards and guidelines for probation professionals in the community supervision of sexual offenders. She regularly is invited to present to professionals on local and state levels, as well as to community organizations, schools, and neighborhood associations. She also serves as the department’s media spokesperson for community issues related to sex offender supervision. In 2006, she formed a multi-agency task force to facilitate a continuum of communication and collaboration between probation and local, inter-county, federal, tribal and campus law enforcement agencies. She serves as the probation liaison on the Multidisciplinary Task Force of the Special Victims Unit, as well as the NCMEC (National Center for Missing and Exploited Children) Task Force, a local, state and federal partnership sponsored by the US Department of Justice. She is an active member of ATSA and currently serves on the Public Policy Board. She also serves on the board of directors for the Arizona Chapter. She is dedicated to efforts advancing collaborative relationships/partnerships, while promoting community safety.