

BETTER TOGETHER

2018 ATSA Conference | Thursday October 18 | 1:30 PM – 3:00 PM

T-32

A Work in Tandem: Effective Community-Based Supervision and Treatment of Juveniles Charged with Sexual Offenses

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Juveniles with problem sexual behaviors and sexual misconduct offenses should not be treated as “mini adults” because doing so overlooks a juvenile’s needs, emotional capacity, and developmental stage. Historically, public policies and programs utilized a “trickle-down effect” from the supervision and treatment of adult sex offenders to the supervision and treatment of juveniles, which is not the best approach for adolescents who are developmentally immature. Evidenced-based practices helped shift juvenile sex offender case management from a punitive platform to one focused on behavioral change and treatment. Juvenile probation officers and treatment providers can work together to implement change, increase strengths, and reduce recidivism of probationers. This session will describe the collaborative efforts of probation and treatment in an intensive community-based program designed for juveniles charged with sexual offenses.

Learning Goals:

- Participants will become knowledgeable of intense court supervision and developmentally informed treatment for juvenile justice-involved adolescents with problem sexual behaviors.
- Participants will examine how the historical divide between probation and treatment negatively impacted the work with youth who sexually offended.
- Participants will learn that best practice approaches to treating juveniles with problem sexual behaviors include a collaborative approach between probation and treatment in the areas of individualized case planning, parental involvement, safety planning, empathy development, community engagement, skill building, and experiential activities.

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JaVonda Palmer, LLMSW, CSOTS, CTP-C is a Juvenile Probation Officer/Criminal Sexual Conduct Caseworker at the Washtenaw County Trial Court, Juvenile Division in Ann Arbor, MI in the Sex Offender Treatment Program. She obtained her master's in social work degree at University of Michigan School of Social Work, and is a certified sex offender treatment specialist and a certified clinical trauma practitioner. Ms. Palmer has spent the majority of her career working in juvenile justice and child welfare as a probation officer, a child abuse and neglect investigator, and an older-youth foster care specialist. Ms. Palmer supervises and works with court-involved youth who have problem sexual behaviors and sexual misconduct offenses. Supervision and treatment goals for each youth include sex offender specific treatment, empathy development, skill building, experiential activities, victim restoration, accountability, and parental support. Ms. Palmer uses an approach that promotes positive behavioral change, identity and cultural awareness, and appropriate self-expression.

Steven Hall, LLMSW is a Juvenile Probation Officer/Criminal Sexual Conduct Caseworker at the Washtenaw County Trial Court, Juvenile Division in Ann Arbor, MI in the Sex Offender Treatment Program. Mr. Hall obtained his master's in social work degree at the University of Southern California and his bachelor's degree in criminology from Eastern Michigan University. Before coming to the court he worked doing community outreach for the Washtenaw County Sheriff's Department and aided in the development of their re-entry program. Further experience includes individual and family therapy, working with the homeless and home health care. Mr. Hall is a Veteran of the U.S. Army and served in Operations Iraqi Freedom.

Tim Lankerd, LLMSW, CJSOC is a Contractual Therapist at the Washtenaw County Trial Court, Juvenile Division in Ann Arbor, MI. He obtained his master's in social work degree at Eastern Michigan University School of Social Work and is a certified juvenile sex offender counselor.

Mr. Lankerd has twenty-nine years of experience in Juvenile Justice and treatment. Mr. Lankerd spent twenty-four years working in residential treatment in mid-Michigan. During that time he worked as a direct care worker, Program Coordinator and Program Manager for Boysville of Michigan/Holy Cross Children's Services. Mr. Lankerd has worked exclusively with youth with sexual behavior problems for the last twenty-five years. He has worked as the lead therapist for the Washtenaw County Trial Court, Juvenile Division sexual offender treatment program for five years. Mr. Lankerd has a wide variety of experiences in working with youth and families and will share the role that outpatient therapy plays in the Washtenaw County treatment program.