

**TH-PM-03**

**Sex Offender Registration and Notification: To Reform or Not Reform, That Is the Question**

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Sex offender registration and notification (SORN) laws have been in existence at the United States since 1947 with notable expansion of these laws in the past 25 years, both within the U.S. and internationally. However, the United States is the only country in the world which includes broad-based community notification as part of their SORN programs. Additionally, despite the wide use of SORN laws, the research related to these policies was only completed after these policies were already implemented and has brought into question some of the key components of SORN policies.<sup>1</sup> Against this backdrop, organizations such as the Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers (ATSA) have been advocates for change in the ways in which SORN has been implemented in the U.S. This has included producing a series of resource documents to provide guidance to its members and others on how to address these policy issues which culminated in the recent development of comprehensive materials focused specifically on evidence-based reform. Several states have already undertaken reform efforts in various forms, and more are likely to follow. As research has highlighted the shortcomings of such broad-based policies, it is critical that those who undertake reform efforts include empirical data to support their efforts. This workshop will provide a comprehensive review of the relevant research related to SORN, highlighting the recent evidence-based reform materials developed by the ATSA Public Policy Committee, and provide recommendations for public policy advocacy related to adults and youth required to register.

Participants will be able to identify critical issues related to SORN in the U.S., learn more about registry models from other countries, and have specific resources and strategies for addressing SORN reform and/or elimination, depending on the population and goals of the jurisdiction.

This workshop is rated: Adult & Youth | Intermediate | Research

**Learning Goals**

- Upon educational activity, learners should be better able to understand the research related to sex offender registration and notification laws.
- Upon educational activity, learners should be better able to identify different models of sex offender registry being used in the United States and other countries.

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<sup>1</sup> See, for example, summary research information provided by the U.S. Department of Justice SMART Office Sex Offender Management and Assessment Initiative (<https://smart.gov/SOMAPI/index.html>).

## ***BLENDING VOICES. STRENGTHENING LIVES.***

2020 ATSA Conference | Thursday October 22 | 3:30 PM – 5:00 PM

- Upon educational activity, learners should be better able to learn strategies to advocate for registry reform and what resources exist to assist with these efforts.

**Christopher Lobanov-Rostovsky** has worked for the Division of Criminal Justice within the Colorado Department of Public Safety as the Program Manager for the Colorado Sex Offender Management Board since 2006, where he is responsible for overseeing the development of standards for the treatment and management of sexual offenders, approving treatment providers, and providing legislative and policy input. Mr. Lobanov-Rostovsky holds a Master Degree in Social Work from the University of Michigan, and has been a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) since 1990. Prior to his current position, Mr. Lobanov-Rostovsky worked as a clinician and evaluator of adult sex offenders and juveniles who commit sexual offenses. Mr. Lobanov-Rostovsky also works as a private consultant for a variety of federal, state, tribal, and private agencies in developing and enhancing sex offender management services, including providing training and technical assistance, program assessment, literature reviews, peer review of grant solicitations and reports, and legislative and policy development. More specifically, Mr. Lobanov-Rostovsky was also a co-project consultant lead for the National Criminal Justice Association (NCJA) on the Sex Offender Management Assessment and Planning Initiative (SOMAPI) to identify research supported sex offender management and treatment practices. Finally, Mr. Lobanov-Rostovsky has published a number of articles and chapters related to federal and state sex offender management public policy, and was awarded the 2015 National Adolescent Perpetration Network Advocacy Award for his work in promoting evidence-based polices and legislation.

**Katherine “Katie” Gotch MA, LPC, ATSAF** 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 prevention since 2000 as a clinician, evaluator, trainer, educator, and in legislative/policy development. She currently maintains a private practice, [Integrated Clinical & Correctional Services](#), which provides specialized clinical and consultation services related to adults with sexual behavior problems and other forms of abusive/violent behavior. She is a Clinical Member & Public Policy Executive Board Member – ATSA and Advisory Board Member – NPEIV. She frequently provides training to correctional agencies, treatment providers, policy makers, and other community partners on sexual offense specific management and treatment, static and dynamic risk, incorporation of the risk/need/responsivity principles into practice, public policy, public engagement, and related topics. She is a certified Static-99R/STABLE & ACUTE-2007 trainer.

**Seth Wescott** is a Licensed Master’s Level Psychologist. He has been working in the forensic mental health field since 2002. He has worked in maximum security prisons for adults and juveniles. In addition, he has worked with offenders in various community-based settings. Mr. Wescott has been employed at Clinical Associates as the Director of the Sex Offender Treatment Program since 2011. In 2016 the program began providing psychosexual evaluation and treatment services to youth adjudicated of sexual offenses. In private practice, Mr. Wescott conducts pre-disposition and pre-adjudication psychosexual evaluations of adults and juveniles. Mr. Wescott is a clinical member of ATSA. He serves as Co-chair of the ATSA Public Policy Committee, and is a member of the Kansas Advisory Committee on Sex Offenses and Registration for the Kansas Judicial Counsel. He is an Adjunct Professor of Psychology at Rockhurst University.