



# Sex Offender Services MO Dept of Corrections

STAR Professional Development Series  
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# Missouri Sex Offender Program (MoSOP)--Background



- Began in 1980's at Missouri Eastern Correctional Center in Pacific MO
- Goal: To protect public by treating offenders and reducing likelihood of future crimes.



# RSMo 589.040



- (1.) The Director of the Department of Corrections shall develop a program of treatment, education and rehabilitation for all imprisoned offenders who are serving sentences for sexual assault offenses. When developing such programs, the ultimate goal shall be the prevention of future sexual assaults by the participants in such programs, and the Director shall utilize those concepts, services, programs, projects, facilities and other resources designed to achieve this goal.



# RSMo 589.040



- (2.) All persons imprisoned by the Department of Corrections for sexual assault offenses shall be required to successfully complete the programs developed pursuant to subsection 1 of this section.

# + Sexual Assault Offenses



- Defined under RSMo 566
- Rape, Sodomy, Child molestation, Sexual Misconduct, Deviate Sexual Assault, Sexual Abuse, Child Abuse (which involves sexual conduct), Incest, Use of a Child in a Sexual Performance, Enticement of a Child, or Attempts to Commit any of the above.

# + DOC Policy



- Other Sexual Offenses are referred for treatment, but treatment is not mandated by statute.
- Endangering the Welfare of a Child (with sexual contact), Sexual Exploitation of a Minor, Sexual Trafficking of a Child, Promoting or Possessing Child Pornography, etc.

# + MoSOP Treatment



- Primary location is at Farmington Correctional Center (FCC)
- 276 Beds for treatment.
- Therapeutic Community—4 wings of 60 beds, 1 wing of 36 beds
- Phase I—Assessment and Introduction to Treatment (approximately 12 weeks)
- Phase II—Active Treatment (9-12 months)

# + MoSOP Treatment—Other Locations

- WERDCC in Vandalia for Women
- ERDCC in Bonne Terre for males in Protective Custody or who have high medical needs
- Moberly Correctional Center for offenders on dialysis (this program operates when needed)





# + MoSOP Treatment Components



- Required to accept responsibility
- Cognitive Behavior therapy—looking at common thinking errors that contribute to offending
- Sexual History
- Case Layout—description of chronology and elements of index offense
- Empathy Enhancement
- Relapse Prevention



# Successful Completion of MoSOP



- Offenders may be terminated from treatment due to lack of progress, poor conduct, failure to accept responsibility, etc.
- Our goal, though, is to treat every offender possible to minimize future risk to the public and to help the offender become a productive member of society.
- Successful completion may allow an offender to be released from prison on conditional release or parole.
- Most offenders released prior to completing full sentence will continue in treatment in the community.

# + Community Treatment



- DOC “approves” treatment providers in the community who meet standards of expertise.
- These providers agree to allow DOC to audit records, observe treatment, and they agree to comply with other requirements (share information, follow evidence-based treatment practice).
- “Containment Model”—Probation and Parole Officers, Polygraph Examiners, and Therapists all work together to minimize risk. Includes polygraph examinations.
- DOC Regional Sex Offender Specialists serve as liaison between P&P and therapists, have special expertise.

# + Sexually Violent Predator Determination

- All offenders convicted of a “sexually violent offense” must be reviewed prior to release from incarceration to see if they meet the statutory definition of “sexually violent predator.”
- Must have “mental abnormality” that makes it “more likely than not” that he/she will sexually reoffend.
- End of Confinement evaluation consists of review of crimes, subject’s history, assessment of risk of reoffending, review of progress of treatment, and interview.
- If psychologist determines the offender does not meet criteria, the process stops here.

# + Sexually Violent Predator Determination

- If the psychologist's assessment is that the offender meets the criteria, the case is referred to the Attorney General and to the Multidisciplinary Team (MDT).
- MDT consists of a minimum of 3 people (currently 4), including representatives of the DOC and DMH.
- MDT reviews, discusses, and debates the merits of the case. The MDT votes and passes its recommendation on to the Attorney General.
- A parallel process occurs in the AG's office. Prosecutors Review Committee (PRC) votes and makes recommendation.



# + Sexually Violent Predator Determination

- For the case to proceed, the AG takes the case to court where a judge has to find “probable cause.”
- If so, the judge orders the offender to be held in the custody of DMH. (The offender has completed his DOC sentence.)
- DMH completes a more thorough evaluation of the offender.
- The case ultimately proceeds to a civil trial (with right to a jury). The state must prove that the offender has a mental abnormality making it more likely than not that he/she will reoffend.

# + Sexually Violent Predator Determination

- If the court's judgment is that the offender meets this criteria, then the offender is civilly committed to DMH's Sex Offender Rehabilitation and Treatment Services (SORTS). Treatment is located at Southeast Missouri Mental Health Center (Farmington) and Fulton State Hospital.
- Offenders are committed indefinitely for treatment.





# Sex Offender Assessment Unit (SOAU)--Eligibility

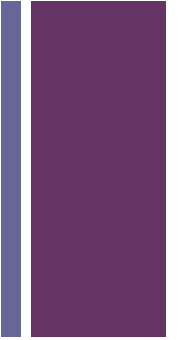


- Convicted of a sex offense as defined in RSMo 589.015, 566, 568, or 573.
- Sentenced pursuant to RSMo 559.115.
- A Sentencing Assessment Report must have been completed for the current offense.
- Not eligible if case is pending appeal.
- May be ineligible if serious health/mental health issues prevent assessment.
- Must be parole eligible offense.



# + Referral to SOAU

- An order from the Court with the stipulation that sentencing is under RSMo 559.115 with placement at the Sex Offender Assessment Unit.



# + Purpose of SOAU



- Risk Assessment to determine if offender can safely be managed in the community.
- Recommendations for community supervision and treatment if probation is granted.