



# Dancing In A Mine Field

Community Placement/Integration of Sexually Violent Predators

Alan Stillman, LSCW  
Executive Director, CACONREP

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## Extremes



- ▶ More laws vs. fewer laws
- ▶ More trust vs. less trust
- ▶ Offending is a choice vs. biological
- ▶ Treatment doesn't work vs. treatment helps
- ▶ Institutionalization vs. community integration
- ▶ Rights vs. no rights
- ▶ Mandated treatment is unethical vs. it's okay

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## Dancing in the Minefield: Agenda

- ▶ Overview of Sex Offender (SO) statistics
  - National, State and Local
- ▶ SO Laws– Megan's' Law/Jessica's Law, etc.
- ▶ Community Placement Dance
  - Myths: Is the music on key or off
  - Steps to placement
  - Careful where you step
  - The Best Steps

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## Agenda continued

- ▶ What are to best dance–latest studies and
  - Reference material
- ▶ Relationships: Some dances need partners
- ▶ GPS (Global Positioning System) the newest accessory

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## Agenda continued

- ▶ Some concepts to consider:
  - Extremism
  - Appearance or Substance
  - Caution, Confirm, Confront (3Cs)
  - Collaboration ( Containment Model)
  - Evidence-Based Treatment
  - Neurobiology
- ▶ Questions/Answers

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## Current Statistics

- ▶ Nationally – **1,538,854** individuals incarcerated in Federal an State prisons
- ▶ Nationally – **747,408** registered SOs
- ▶ Community Supervised **SOs=265,000**

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## Current statistics

- ▶ Approximately 150,000 adult sex offenders are currently in state/federal prisons
- ▶ 10,000 to 20,000 released yearly
- ▶ 12–24% of sex offenders will reoffend with non sexual or violent offense

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## California Statistics

- ▶ CA has more registered SOs than any other state: 90,000
- ▶ Approximately **22,500** adult SOs in CA prisons
- ▶ Approximately **21,000** adult SOs on probation/parole in CA

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## CA\CONREP Statistics

**In ten years, 25 SVPs released to CA\CONREP**

- ▶ **10** clients currently reside in CA
- ▶ **7** clients have graduated successfully
- ▶ **7** clients have been revoked for violations of their terms/conditions
- ▶ **1** client died from cancer after only 6 weeks
- ▶ **In ten years, no new offenses**

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## Myths

- ▶ The further away from communities the placement is, the better
- ▶ Treatment services do not help the client, the client can't get better
- ▶ Keep the client tied up in court—prolong the process as much as possible

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## Myths continued

- ▶ Community notification and housing restrictions equal a safer community
- ▶ If a sex offender is talking...he's lying
- ▶ Most sex offenders are pedophiles
- ▶ Most sex offenders are strangers

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## Identifying the Mine Field



The Court orders the SVP placed:

- ▶ What is the 'County of domicile?'
- ▶ Where in that area can the client legally reside?
- ▶ How long will it take to identify a location and someone who agrees to rent to an SO?

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## Identifying the Mine Field Cont.

- ▶ Conditional or Unconditional Release
- ▶ Community response
- ▶ Local Law Enforcements' role
- ▶ Political considerations
- ▶ What constitutes successful placement?
- ▶ What does it take for the client to be successful?



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## Surviving the Mine Field—Best Dance Steps

- ▶ Emotional stability
- ▶ Cognitive awareness
- ▶ Ability to adjust to community life
- ▶ Job options/training options
- ▶ Positive Attitude
- ▶ Positive, Healthy Relationships



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## The Importance of Relationships

Characteristics of clients who were successful:

- History of positive adult experiences
- Work, education, independence
- Supportive connections with family and friends
- Developing a positive sense of self

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## Relationships

- ▶ Provide opportunity for reality checks
- ▶ Help in identifying the mines in the field
- ▶ Support development of 'change in thinking'
- ▶ Support development of healthy sexuality
- ▶ Sexual behavior is a form of relating



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## Change is Possible



- ▶ Clients
- ▶ Community
- ▶ Treatment providers
- ▶ For all of us as we explore our biases



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## What Do You Think?

### Question and Answer:

- *Extremism*
- *Appearance or Substance*
- *Caution, Confirm, Confront (3Cs)*
- *Collaboration (Containment Model)*
- *Evidence-Based Treatment*
- *Neurobiology*



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**Alan Stillman LCSW**

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