

**Beyond Legislative Containment: Leading Peer-Facilitated Community Aftercare for Individuals  
Convicted of a Sex Offense**

Caprice Haverty, PhD  
Cindy Mataras, PsyD  
Elijah Morrow, PsyD, JD  
Anne Weisberg, PhD

**Level**

Intermediate

**Room**

**Track**

Sex Offender

**CE**

CPA/BBS/CJER

**Bio**

**Caprice Haverty, PhD** is a forensic and clinical psychologist and Co-Director of A Step Forward, Inc. (ASF). ASF is a clinic with several offices in the greater Bay Area of California. Her programs evaluate and treat those who have been harmed by sexual assault and those who have caused sexual harm, and the families of both. She directs the Harm Prevention Program while also providing forensic evaluation, testimony, and treatment for those with histories of sexual offending and sexual addiction. She also treats people who fear they are at risk for sexual offending, and those who identify as Minor Attracted Persons (MAPs). For over thirty-five years, Caprice has also treated adult survivors of sexual assault, and she works with families and communities to facilitate reconciliation with those who cause harm. Caprice is a California Sex Offender Management Board certified provider, as is her clinic. In 2008, she founded Community of Resource & Resolution (CORR), a non-profit, cost-free, support group program for adults with sexual offense histories who are seeking early intervention or aftercare. At CORR since 2014, she has employed two co-facilitators who themselves rehabilitated after committing a sex crime. In 2016, she co-authored California's Treatment Completion Guidelines for those mandated to treatment following a sexual offense and in 2023 she was commissioned to the California Sex Offender Management Board (CASOMB). After conducting original research on the differential symptoms of physical and sexual childhood abuse among incarcerated women, Caprice received her Doctorate in Clinical Psychology from the California School of Professional Psychology in 1990.

**Anna Weisberg, PhD**, is a psychologist and Co-Director of A Step Forward, Inc. She directs the Child and Family Program and has over twenty-eight years of specialized experience with children, adults, and families impacted by sexual abuse and developmental trauma. She co-facilitates the Family Support Group Meeting in A Step Forward's aftercare program, Community of Resource & Resolution (CORR). Certified by the California Sex Offender Management Board as an Independent Practitioner, she also treats men and women who have committed sexual offenses and/or who struggle with sexual addiction. She is particularly interested in helping families heal and reunite safely when sexual abuse and boundary violations have resulted in separation. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Expressive Arts Therapies and she received her Doctorate in Clinical Psychology from the California School of Professional

Psychology after completing original research on the motivations of body-oriented psychotherapists and body workers who use touch in psychotherapy.

**Cindy Mataraso, PsyD** is a seasoned psychologist with over 25 years of experience and a diverse background in therapeutic modalities such as Dialectical Behavior Therapy, Motivational Interviewing, trauma-informed approaches, behavioral health leadership, and training roles. She has extensive experience working with clients who have been historically marginalized or have struggled with serious mental illness. A CASOMB-certified provider, Cindy specializes in the treatment of individuals and families impacted by sexual behavior problems. She approaches treatment with compassion and a strength-based perspective, empowering clients to recognize and build upon their inherent resilience. In all her work, she supports clients as experts in their own lives and applies an effective, skillful framework to help them create a life filled with meaning, purpose, and accountability.

**Elijah Morrow, PsyD, JD** is a licensed Psychologist primarily employed as a Senior Psychologist Supervisor at the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. Elijah also a licensed Attorney, litigates civil and criminal matters in Visalia, as well as working pro bono in Fresno to represent domestic abuse victims. In addition to these duties, Elijah completes forensic assessments, including competency to stand trial and mental health diversion evaluations. Elijah has several professional publications, including in 2020, when the Journal of Sexual Abuse published a meta-analysis on cognitive, affective, and general empathy with individuals convicted of a sex offense, and in 2025 when a chapter titled The Public Health Approach to Sexual Violence was published in a Springer textbook. Elijah has served as Vice Chair of California Coalition on Sex Offending.

### **Narrative**

Those discharged back into the community after a sex offense conviction often face a host of barriers to establishing and maintaining positive support networks and community re-integration. These barriers range from community suspicion caused by popular myths regarding sex offenders to legislative barriers which serve to segregate in the name of safety. However, social isolation is an especially salient risk factor for individuals convicted of a sex offense, possessing the potential to trigger an increase in other dynamic risk factors. Without appropriate intervention, increased dynamic risk factors may lead to repeat sexual abuse at worst, and increased misery at best. While mandated treatment and community supervision may address social needs, these interventions do not last and an additional platform for community support may be needed. Such programs, commonly referred to as aftercare programs, while implemented in similar fields, have not yet been widely implemented or vigorously studied for those convicted of sexual offenses. Beyond treatment and supervision, community repair and integration for those with histories of sexual offending have yet to be fully considered or implemented.

This lecture will show how A Step Forward's aftercare program, Community of Resource & Resolution (CORR), has become a thriving, supportive, non-profit organization to address the aftermath of sex offender treatment, supervision, and registration, as well as housing, employment, and family and community struggles. Members buoy each other as they attempt to repair and reconcile with their families, victims, and community. This lecture will provide the results of a semi-qualitative study on the benefits and efficacy of this program. It will also provide anecdotes from fifteen years of meetings and from more than a hundred members, including people who have and have not offended, their families, and victim participants. CORR also provides unique opportunities for aftercare members to become involved with the inner workings of the organization through co-

facilitation of support groups and Board meetings and fundraising to support victims and peers who otherwise could not afford treatment. This lecture will present evidence that this model of aftercare may counteract social isolation in ways that current available interventions do not.

### **Learning Objectives**

1. Describe three ways that aftercare programs help members maintain lowered recidivism rates, create a network of resources and relationships, take action on behalf of those impacted by their offenses, and hold one another accountable to lives of meaning and purpose
2. Explain how the use of peer support enhances personalized, evidenced- and strength-based treatments, such as Risk-Needs-Responsivity and Good Lives Model, in engaging clients in post-treatment aftercare
3. Describe three differences between aftercare and sex offender treatment through examining what happens in CORR meetings; the role of facilitators and how they navigate boundaries, confidentiality, and safety