

Survey to Chief APOs

Issue: Sex Offender caseloads

Question (from Allegheny County):

1. For Sex Offender caseloads, do you conduct a SO specific assessment on the offenders?
2. If so, what assessment do you use?
3. Who conducts the assessment (officers, treatment specialist, psychiatrist, etc.)? Does it require specialized training?
4. Do you require the offenders to undergo polygraph examinations? How often? Who pays if the offender is indigent?
5. Do you also conduct a general R/N assessment such as the LSI-R on this population?
6. If so, how do you integrate the two assessments? If your department uses TRI's (Treatment Research institute) DUI-Rant for DUI case risk assessments, please provide feedback on the experience.

Adams County

1. For Sex Offender caseloads, do you conduct a SO specific assessment on the offenders? Adams County DPS does not currently complete an initial assessment. We work closely with the Sex Offender Therapist, Dr. Randy Turner and at the six-month point, a Vermont is completed by the SO officer and Dr. Turner. The results are compared and treatment is adjusted accordingly. We are looking at the Static 99 for the near future.
2. If so, what assessment do you use? The Vermont Assessment
3. Who conducts the assessment (officers, treatment specialist, psychiatrist, etc.)? The Vermont Assessment is conducted by the Probation Officer and the therapist separately. Does it require specialized training? This does not require specialized training.
4. Do you require the offenders to undergo polygraph examinations? Yes, we do. How often? The sexual history polygraph will take place usually within the first 6-9 months. Once that exam is passed, maintenance polygraph examinations occur every six months thereafter. Who pays if the offender is indigent? The Department requests Court assistance. In the cases I have requested funds, the Court has paid. It is no guarantee, however.
5. Do you also conduct a general R/N assessment such as the LSI-R on this population? Not on this population.

6. If so, how do you integrate the two assessments? Not applicable.

Chester County

1. We do utilize Sex Offender Specific Assessments for all clients mandated to SO Supervision and Treatment.
2. We use the Static 99R (revised 2016), the Stable and in some instances, we use the Acute.
3. Our four Officers administer the Assessments and re-assessments and have received specialized training.
4. Those clients who are placed on the SO caseloads are required to attend specialized SO treatment. The treatment agents all use the polygraph as part of their treatment assessment and progress tracking. The treatment agent determines the standards for periodic polygraph administration. Our department has a limited fund to assist indigent clients. We have worked out a discounted polygraph fee from the polygraph and treatment providers for a very limited number of exams for indigent clients.
5. We recently began using the ORAS risk assessment for our general supervision population and the SO clients as well. We use it strictly as another tool and piece of information to assist in articulating supervision strategies.
6. We compare all information including the polygraph results to develop supervision strategies.

If there is any further information I can provide please feel free to contact Timothy M. Waltz, Probation Supervisor at (610) 344-6055 or twaltz@chesco.org.

Lancaster County

1. For Sex Offender caseloads, do you conduct a SO specific assessment on the offenders?
Yes
2. If so, what assessment do you use? Static/Stable/Acute in addition to the information that we receive from sex offender specific treatment (any additional assessments that they may administer) for those individuals who have a treatment stipulation.
3. Who conducts the assessment (officers, treatment specialist, psychiatrist, etc.)? Does it require specialized training? Officers and/or treatment conducts the assessment. It requires specialized training...our officers were trained by the SOAB; it is usually a two-day training.

4. Do you require the offenders to undergo polygraph examinations? How often? Who pays if the offender is indigent? Polygraphs are part of their treatment contracts. Every treatment provider that we use (that is approved by the court and by the PA SOAB) uses therapeutic polygraphs. The frequency depends on a number of different factors and varies from client to client and from provider to provider. Clients who can't afford to pay can pay small amounts of money weekly until they pay the money and there have been times when they have reduced the fee.

5. Do you also conduct a general R/N assessment such as the LSI-R on this population? We do not currently do LSI-Rs for specialized populations, but plan to do so in the near future.

6. If so, how do you integrate the two assessments? We will not use the information of risk to determine supervision level, as all clients in this unit are supervised intensively. Rather, the risk assessment will be used to identify additional criminogenic risks and needs that require interventions.

Lebanon County

1. For Sex Offender caseloads, do you conduct a SO specific assessment on the offenders? The probation office does not, but our provider agencies do complete them.

2. If so, what assessment do you use? The Static 99 and Stable

3. Who conducts the assessment (officers, treatment specialist, psychiatrist, etc.)? Our SO Treatment Agencies Does it require specialized training? Yes, they are trained to use these tool and have specialized training in treatment of sexual offenders.

4. Do you require the offenders to undergo polygraph examinations? Yes. How often? This is determined by the individual and circumstance. The SO tx provider uses three types of polygraphs as necessary – Admission, Sexual History and Maintenance. Who pays if the offender is indigent? The offender pays all polygraph testing fees or sets up a payment plan.

5. Do you also conduct a general R/N assessment such as the LSI-R on this population? NO. Our SO officer works very closely with the tx provider to determine appropriate level of supervision. The offender is initially placed on maximum supervision until such time as the tx provider is able to complete their risk assessment.

6. If so, how do you integrate the two assessments?

Westmoreland County

1. For Sex Offender caseloads, do you conduct a SO specific assessment on the offenders?
Yes
2. If so, what assessment do you use? Static 99
3. Who conducts the assessment (officers, treatment specialist, psychiatrist, etc.)? Does it require specialized training? Treatment specialist
4. Do you require the offenders to undergo polygraph examinations? How often? Who pays if the offender is indigent? The treatment provider requires that polygraphs be conducted. The cost is \$500.00 per polygraph and the individual on supervision is required to pay – no exceptions.
5. Do you also conduct a general R/N assessment such as the LSI-R on this population? Yes. The officers who supervise the sex offender caseloads just recently started using the ORAS.
6. If so, how do you integrate the two assessments? Not sure at this point. The officers just started to use the ORAS. What they have found, however, is that the information they gathered from the ORAS has been extremely helpful for them as far as supervision.

York County

1. For Sex Offender caseloads, do you conduct a SO specific assessment on the offenders?
The probation office does not, but our provider agencies do complete them.
2. If so, what assessment do you use? The Static 99 and Stable
3. Who conducts the assessment (officers, treatment specialist, psychiatrist, etc.)? Our SO Treatment Agencies Does it require specialized training? Yes, they are trained to use these tool and have specialized training in treatment of sexual offenders.
4. Do you require the offenders to undergo polygraph examinations? Yes How often? It depends on the individual. We use three types of polygraphs as necessary – Admission, Sexual History and Maintenance Who pays if the offender is indigent? I have a small line item in my budget to pay for indigent clients polygraphs.
5. Do you also conduct a general R/N assessment such as the LSI-R on this population? We conduct the ORAS and use the results in conjunction with the Static 99 and Stable. We use the WRNA for female sexual offenders.

6. If so, how do you integrate the two assessments? We recently had a consultant review our risk/needs policies and procedures and made recommendations for how to apply the tools together that correspond with recommended contact requirements. We met with our provider agencies and now require them to provide these results to us within 30 days of their intake. As you know the Static 99 and Stable are not normed for women. We use the Women's Risk and Needs Assessment (WRNA) for all females. We are currently working out details around individuals with internet pornography charges as well since the Static/Stable isn't normed for these charges as well.