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facsimile transmittal

To: Will Delker Fax: 271-2110  
From: Lance Messinger Date: 11/06/02  
Re: History of SO Tx. Pages: 4 (including cover)  
CC:

Urgent  For Review  Please Comment  Please Reply  Please Recycle

Notes: Enclosed is an outline of key events in sexual offender treatment over the past 50-60 years. If you would like me to elaborate further on any of these developments, please let me know. I will try to complete review of the Aube file so we can get together next Tues or Wed.

## Historical Timeline for Sexual Offender Treatment in NH and United States

- 1940's Many states pass Sexual Psychopath Laws. Treatment sometimes includes castration and long prison sentences. Psychoanalysis is sometimes utilized.
- 1950's A few large states (FL, CA, NJ, WA) begin specialized programs for sex offenders.
- 1960's to present Behavioral therapy experiments with sexual offenders using aversive conditioning to reduce deviant sexual arousal. Introduction of the penile plethysmograph to measure sexual arousal and monitor effectiveness of treatment. These devices became increasingly more elaborate and utilized various forms of visual and auditory stimuli.
- 1970's Specialized programs continue developing on West Coast and various institutions across US. Dr Gene Abel & Judith Becker receive NIMH (National Institute of Mental Health) grant.
- 1973 Oregon Judge sanctioned use of polygraph examinations to monitor sex offenders (Circuit court judge in Multnomah County placed offender on probation with special condition that he participate in new polygraph surveillance program.)
- 1974 Dr. David Barlow introduces concept that Behavioral Treatment is not sufficient and that sex offenders also need social skills training in anger management and impulse control.
- 1975 Oregon legislature took lead in promoting cooperative relationship between mental health and correctional system for treatment of sexual offenders.
- 1976 Samuel Samenow writes The Criminal Personality that introduces concept of thinking errors used to justify criminal behavior. Later becomes key concept in cognitive-behavioral therapy approaches to treatment of sexual offenders.
- 1979 Nicholas Groth writes Men Who Rape: The Psychology of an Offender and introduces concept of power and control as primary motivators for sexual offenders and diminishes sexual component. Also introduces concept of Fixated and Regressed pedophiles and characteristics.
- 1982 Development by Dr. Edward Rowan of specialized Treatment Program for sex offenders at Forensic Unit of New Hampshire Hospital.
- 1982 Formation of NH Perpetrator Treatment Providers Network. Professional organization designed to explore national trends in sex offender treatment and implement similar programs in NH.
- 1983 Association for Treatment of Sexual Abusers incorporated to foster research and advancement of professional standards and practices in field of sex offender evaluations and treatment.
- 1983 Dr. Patrick Carnes introduces concept of "Sexual Addiction" in Book: Out of the Shadows: Understanding Sexual Addiction.
- 1983 Dr. William Pithers formulates "Relapse Prevention Model" based on concepts derived from substance abuse treatment and modifies it to sexual offender treatment.
- 1984 State v Gauntlett (Michigan Court of Appeals) is first reported decision to uphold Depo-Provera (chemical castration) to be used as a condition of probation.

- 1985 David Finkelhor (University of NH) publishes Four-Factor Model describing all the various theories to explain Pedophilia.
- 1986 Sex Offender Program moved from NH Hospital to Secure Psychiatric Unit at NH State Prison and Intensive SOP developed incorporating therapeutic community concept.
- 1987 Anna Salter writes Treatment of Child Sexual Abuse summarizing newest assessment and treatment techniques.
- 1994 Dr. Gene Abel introduces Abel Screening Device as an alternative to penile plethysmograph. Designed to measure sexual interest vs. sexual arousal it is less invasive and yields similar results.
- 1996 Kim English writes Managing Adult Sex Offenders: A Containment Approach which emphasizes victim and community safety. The team approach is utilized with treatment providers (helping offenders develop internal control), probation officer and polygraph examiner (external control).
- 1999 NH ATSA replaces NH Perpetrator Treatment Providers Network and becomes chartered state chapter of national ATSA. National ATSA has more than 2000 members.



# ATSA HISTORY

## THE ASSOCIATION FOR THE TREATMENT OF SEXUAL ABUSERS

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\* Past recipients of the ATSA Significant Achievement Award

In the mid 1970's, Dr. Gene Abel and Dr. Judith V. Becker received an NIMH grant to fund their work with sex offenders. This research project was instrumental in the formalization of periodic meetings with NIMH representatives and some of the pioneers in the sex offender field. The meetings were so beneficial to those involved, as well as to the newly developing field, additional monies were requested from NIMH to continue--and more importantly--to expand the focus of the meetings. Several post-doctorate positions were also established to assist in expanding the research. Initially, Drs. Abel and Becker organized four meetings, the first occurred in Memphis, Tennessee in 1977, the second in New York City, the third on the California Central Coast and the fourth in Denver, Colorado.

The meetings were instrumental in fostering and supporting the communication among those professionals who were initiating and conducting research projects and with those who were providing treatment to the sex offender population. NIMH expressed an interest in the ongoing meetings and co-sponsored, with the Masters and Johnson Institute, a meeting in St. Louis, Missouri. The following year the meeting was held in Tampa, Florida, in conjunction with the awarding of a NIMH grant to Dr. D. Richard Laws who was researching the prevention of relapse with child molesters. The interest in that meeting, as well as the identified growth in the field of sex offender research, evaluation and treatment suggested the possibility that future meetings might be able to be organized and funded without NIMH financial support. The members of the original Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers (initially named the Association for the Behavioral Treatment of Sexual Abusers) offered to sponsor an annual conference to review ongoing research and to share information about clinical issues and expertise. It was with that focus the first ABSTA sponsored conference was scheduled in Newport, Oregon in 1987.

The Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers (ATSA), a non-profit, interdisciplinary organization, was incorporated in 1984 by a small group of clinicians in Oregon who were working with sex offenders. ATSA remains dedicated to principles which foster research and information exchange, further professional education and provide for the advancement of professional standards and practices in the field of sex offender evaluation and treatment. ATSA is an international organization with a membership of over 1500 professionals committed to the prevention of sexual assault through effective management of sex offenders.

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