Overview of New Jersey's Parole Supervision for Life: Conditions and Treatment

Jackson Tay Bosley, Psy.D.

Context-What is Parole Supervision for Life?

- It was originally called Community Supervision for Life.
- It was created in 1994 as part of the group of sex offender statutes that includes Megan's Law.
- The name of the sentencing provision was changed in 2003.

Context-What is Parole Supervision for Life (Cont.)

- It only applies to adult offenders who have been convicted of one of the listed offenses.
- It is a mandatory sentence for one of these offenses. It is in the sentencing statute- 2C:43-6.4
- Some parolees are released from the provision through a court hearing.

Sexual Offenses in NJ which trigger PSL Sentence 2C:14 – 1 et seq.

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Aggravated Sexual Assault
 Sexual Assault

Aggravated Criminal Sexual Contact

Criminal Sexual Contact

Endangering the Welfare of a Child

Sexual Offense Laws (Cont.)

Luring, kidnapping (judge's discretion) * Possession/Distribution of Child Pornography (an increasing problem) Lewdness is a municipal offense unless the victim is a child. If the victim is a child, it is usually charged with the Endangering statute.

Imposition of a Sentence of CSL/PSL

Following Conviction for the sex offense: Sentencing occurs NJ Sex Offender Act (evaluation) "Repetitive and Compulsive" (Amenable and willing) Mandatory Supervision for Life Judge determines length of sentence. Probation (very few)

Incarceration

Prison assignment: Adult Diagnostic and Treatment Center If R&C, sentenced to ADTC which is a prison/treatment center Gets SO-specific treatment "Regular" prison No SO-specific treatment Prior to release, SVP screening Prior to release, disposition plans clarified Release to the Community
 Prior to release, inmates must submit an address where they expect to live upon release.

The address is investigated by the State Parole Board (responsible for supervision upon release). If children are present, inmate can't live there.

Once released, offender MUST reside (sleep) in registered address.

Sex Offender Supervision

Release to supervision at termination of incarceration (State Parole Board) Community/Parole Supervision for Life Violent Predator Incapacitation Act of 1994 Mandatory Sentencing Provision Graduated monitoring/support Megan's Law - Registration and Community Notification (separate)

Seen by PO upon release

- PO does assessment to establish risk and determine needs.
- Reviews stipulations (rules) with parolee.
- Makes referrals to community agencies for needed services (employment, MH Tx).
- Makes referral to SO counseling.
- Is responsible for maintaining community safety.

Supervision Stipulations
Parolee is given a list of the rules.
They initial each rule & sign at the bottom.

- PO will supervise with regular visits, sometimes in office, usually at the offender's home after work hours.
- Relationship between PO and Parolee is important.

Supportive, guidance, monitoring violations

Failure to Comply with Conditions

- Type of violation
 - Violation of stipulations or a new crime
- Possible charge by local prosecutors
- Parole hearing
- Possible return to prison
- Other sanctions
 - "Adjustment Session"
 - Mandate for treatment (substance use)
 - Residential placement (Bo Robinson)

SO Counseling

POs will usually mandate SO counseling with approved provider.

If indigent/low SES, can be referred to Rutgers services for free services.

Other services as needed –

Mental health counseling, Medication management, Etc.

The Rutgers Tx is usually in a SPB District Office, Rutgers facility or CRC.

Rutgers Treatment

- Parole schedules with Rutgers for an Intake Assessment.
- Interviewed by clinician, records reviewed, scored on Stable & Acute 2007.
- Assigned to treatment group based on need and availability.
- There are special groups for ID/DD individuals.
- Clinicians work closely with POs

Rutgers Treatment (Cont.) Treatment is in a group setting. Phase assignment (1, 2, or 3) depends on prior treatment and presentation. Clinician write Monthly Individual Progress Report for PO. Clinician required to notify PO if client discloses any high-risk behaviors. Limits of confidentiality explained.

Rutgers Treatment (Cont.) Treatment is individualized, and all aspects of prior offending behavior are examined. Sexual arousal patterns, social competencies/skills, impulse control, etc. are examined and addressed in treatment. Treatment is mandated and involves exploring unpleasant/painful issues. Treatment progress is reviewed with POs as are Tx termination decisions.

Rutgers Treatment Phases Phase 1 – Introduction Rapport building, low confrontation, support Phase 2 – Active Treatment Explore antecedents to offense(s), arousal pattern and distorted cognitions Phase 3 – Maintenance Weaning away from treatment, day-to-day issues

Client Presentation

Parolee/Clients are continually assessed.

- Life situations are discussed, and clients get feedback from peers and POs.
- Clients are given guidance to reintegrate into the community, find a supportive social network and avoid criminal activity.
- Resistance to treatment is expected and tolerated (to a limited extent).
- Polygraphy is used as an adjunct.

Referrals

Rutgers is contracted to provide sexual offense-specific treatment.

- When other issues are present, the clinician and PO will make appropriate referrals to community providers.
- If clients are removed from the community and placed in SPB-sponsored residential facilities, Rutgers provides similar treatment in those facilities.

Rutgers Special Assessments Parolees are not allowed to live in a home with children unless approved by SPB. Rutgers does these evaluations – Special Assessments (Living With Children Ass.) Clinicians interview other adult in the home (and the child if older). Appropriate protectiveness is required by all concerned.

The PO makes the referral (not client).

Summary

SOs in the community are supervised by well-trained officers who visit the parolee's home regularly. Rutgers clinicians are competent and communicate closely with the POs. There are resource limitations (i.e., housing, employment) that are problems. Everyone is working hard to keep the society safe.