2018 SORNA Regional Workshop

• Community Notification and Education – The Importance of Victim Centeredness
Website Notifications

• Under SORNA, jurisdictions are to make available on the internet, in a manner that is readily accessible to all jurisdictions and to the public, all information about each sex offender in each registry.
Website Registry

• Provides participation with Dru Sjodin, NSOPW, and includes
  • Ability to provide community notifications
  • Ability to identify all offender information required by SORNA
Website Notifications

• TTSORS system has a means of sending immediate notice to:
  • Any person or organization that provides their email
  • Based on radius or zip code to offender location
Law Enforcement Participation in SORNA Programs

- Law Enforcement needs to work with the community
  - Many are responsible for registration
  - Have access to National Law Enforcement Databases – NCIC and NSOR
  - Investigate SORNA violations
  - Help monitor offenders
  - Point of contact for other agencies
  - Responsible for public safety
  - Community notifications
Notification Meeting

• Widespread notification is needed for offenders who are considered to have a high likelihood to re-offend
• High risk may include assessment of many factors to identify their level of risk to the community
• Different from SORNA tiering and notification requirements
Community Notification Meetings

• Provide a forum to educate citizens about sex offenders in general (known and unknown)
• Helps citizens see the big picture
• Helps them understand their vested interest in the offender’s success
• Gives them tools to protect themselves and their family
• Assists LE/P&P by getting quality calls
Community Notifications/Education

• Provide an opportunity to educate the community about sex offenders and sexual offending
• Provide information on the offender
• Make recommendations on how to safeguard family members as well as the community
• Provide tips that enhance personal safety
• Dispel myths
Community Notifications/Education

• Offenders will come back to the community
• Can’t lock up forever
• Difficulties related to coming back to community
  • Myths
  • Recidivism rates
  • Treatments that don’t work
  • High profile cases
  • Negative opinions
  • Increased protection areas
  • Laws
Proactive Education

• Focuses attention on the problem of sexual abuse
• Part of sexual violence prevention and victim advocacy mission
• Helps protect the community
• Is community policing at its best
  • Gets the public involved in public safety
Purpose of Community Notification/Education
Community Education Programs

Teach Victims and Community about

• Sex Offenders
• Offending Behavior

Provide Community Member Tools to

• Prevent and
• Reduce potential for victimization

Provide Resource Information for

• Victims,
• Offenders, and
• Their families
Benefits of Community Notification/Education
Community Education Benefits

• Supports SORNA implementation and sustainability
• Gains community and tribal council support
• Brings sexual abuse out of the shadows
• Emphasizes prevention of sexual violence
• Provides accurate information/dispels myths
Community Ed. Benefits, cont.

• Minimizes harassment and other reaction to offenders within the community
• Helps with offender reentry
• Ensures compliance for offenders without community supervision
• Assists with the development of a comprehensive sex offender management program (integrates all tribal agencies)
Community Education Benefits, cont.

• The public feels empowered
• The public is less anxious
• It gets the community involved
• It protects victims through education and understanding the trauma of sexual abuse
How to be victim centered…

• Victim safety must be the main priority
• Include victim advocates in the sex offender management team
• Keep victims informed and provide opportunities for victims to have their voices heard where necessary and appropriate
How Victims might be Involved with SORNA Programs

- Victim notification
- Assist with supervision planning
- General community education
- Safety planning
- Victim initiated, or agreed to restorative justice programs
What Good Sex Offender Management Can Do

• Promote victim healing and access to resources
• Prevent re-victimization
• Promote effective offender re-entry
• Inform and educate the community
Effective Sex Offender Management Strategies

• Do Not:
  • overlook the needs of victims
  • re-traumatize or negatively impact victims
  • inadvertently jeopardize the safety of victims or community members
Review

...Questions?