

# 2018 SORNA Regional Workshop

- Community Notification and Education – The Importance of Victim Centeredness



# Community Notification/Education Meetings



# 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?

