July 17–18, 2019 | Chicago

2019 NATIONAL SYMPOSIUM
on Sex Offender Management and Accountability
Registrar Safety and Rural Registration

Paul Fuentes
Probation Officer, Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes, Oklahoma

Amber Choate
Oklahoma Department of Corrections

Chicago, IL
July 17, 2019
Objectives

• Identify risks and concerns in offender behavior
• Demonstrate registrar safety
• Apply field verification safety
Risks and Concerns
Sexual Characteristics

- Tendencies
- Target of choice
- Victim access
- Related/unrelated victims
- Undetected deviant sexual behaviors
Aggression And Violence

• History of violence
• Domestic violence
• Controlling nature
• Violent opinions
• Access to weapons
Mental Health And Substance Abuse Conditions

• Mental health disorders
• Personality disorders
• Suicidal ideation
• Substance abuse or dependency issues
• Rooted in drug culture

*It is important to be able to recognize individuals in a state of crisis and how to access help for them.*
Risk Analysis and Mitigation

• Facility and property exposed to risk?
  - Uneven floors, exposed electrical wiring, poor lighting

• People exposed to risk?
  - Public, Sex offender, new employees, untrained workers

• Discuss worst-case scenarios

• Prioritize risks
Risk Analysis and Mitigation (cont.)

- Prepare observations and recommendations

- Identify protocols and practices for clients when entering building and or office
  - Client screening
  - Client attire/bags
  - Client access/entrance to office space
  - **Offender Shoots Parole Officer**

- Share/establish expectation with client
Personal Safety

• Partner to observe or assist
• Keep safe distance
• Never have your back toward the person
• Have an escape plan
Personal Safety (cont.)

- No personal identifiers
- Social media awareness
- Keep personal life private
Security Controls and Risk Management

- Secure all weapons before entering
- Search room prior to and after an interview
- Simple desk and chairs
- No heavy, large or sharp objects
- Away from general public and noise
Maintaining Safety During Registration

• Assemble forms for offender to complete beforehand
• Assess offender body language, attitude and safety risks
• Assess your own nonverbal actions and attitude
• Stay calm and confident
• Non-confrontational while completing forms and processing
Building Rapport With Registrant

• Practice active listening
• Help identify their network of support
• Encourage consistency and self-control
• Recognize their success
• Demonstrate empathy and concern
• Offer resources such as mental health services
Utilizing Technology

- Walkthrough metal detector
- Wand hand-held metal detector
- Security cameras

*Implementation of screening devices should always be approved by administration/governing body.*
Field Verification Safety
Personal Safety in the Field

• Dress in a manner that —
  - Assists you in performing your duties
  - Helps identify your official capacity
  - Allows you ease of movement
  - Does not create additional risks or allow someone to control you (lanyard, scarf, neck tie)
  - Wear ballistic vest if available
Personal Safety in the Field (cont.)

• Advise dispatch, supervisor or another person where you are going
  - Written itinerary in order of when you are attempting verifications

• Take a partner
  - Safety in numbers
  - Jeffery M. McCoy

• Trust your instincts for threat assessment
  - It's OK to come back later!
Personal Safety in the Field (cont.)

• Warrant check before going to the home
  - Active warrants could cause offender to become an increased safety risk
• Know offender's work/treatment schedule
• Ideally conducted in daylight hours
• If possible, do not schedule visit ahead of time
  - Sporadic and unscheduled home visits are best
Safely Approach the Home

• Know offender’s case
• Know location of residence prior to arriving, aerial/street view google map
• Know who else lives in the home
• Park a house or two away and leave clear escape path
  - If on a dead-end road or rural setting, park tactically
• Check communication device for channel and battery level
Safely Approach the Home (cont.)

• Call in any vehicle plates, colors and make
• Assess environment before you get out of the car
  - Come back later if environment seems high risk (lots of cars/people, etc.)
• Be alert for animals, snakes, insects
• Keep keys in your hand (non-dominant hand if carrying weapon)
• Move to side of door before you knock
  - Make sure you and your partner are not in front of windows
Safety Inside the Home

• Body mechanics, balanced stance, supportive stance, weapon bladed away

• Never close off your escape route or box yourself in
  - Fatal funnel (doorways, stairwells, hallways)

• Always ask who else is in the residence

• Quickly scan kitchens or areas where dangerous items can be located

• Watch their hands

• While you focus on offender, have partner observe home environment
Safety Inside the Home (cont.)

• While walking through home, have offender in front of you
  - Never turn your back on an offender or others, even when exiting the home

• Make sure home is well lit before proceeding with visit
  - Always carry a flashlight in case of low lighting or no power

• Have the offender sit if in home for extended timeframe after walkthrough

• Sit on hard areas, instead of sofas or couches
  - If soft seating area is only seating available, search area before offender sits
Oklahoma Deputy Fatally Shoots Suspect Who Stabbed Him

• https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vOMNaJXparE
What’s Wrong With This Photo?
Questions?
Paul Fuentes  
Probation Officer  
Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes, Oklahoma  
Judicial Branch  
405-422-7760  
pfuentes@cheyenneandarapaho-nsn.gov

Amber Choate  
Training Officer  
Probation and Parole Office IV  
Probation and Parole Services  
Oklahoma Department of Corrections  
405-693-1352 (c)  
405-364-2365  
amber.choate@doc.ok.gov

SMART Office  
Office of Justice Programs  
U.S. Department of Justice  
810 Seventh St. NW  
Washington, DC 20531  
Phone: 202-514-4689  
Twitter: @DOJSMART  
Facebook: @DOJSMART  
Facebook: @NSOPW
Thank you.