



Connecticut Adult Sex Offender Services (ASOS)

The Collaborative Model

Judicial Branch, Court Support Services Division (JBCSSD)
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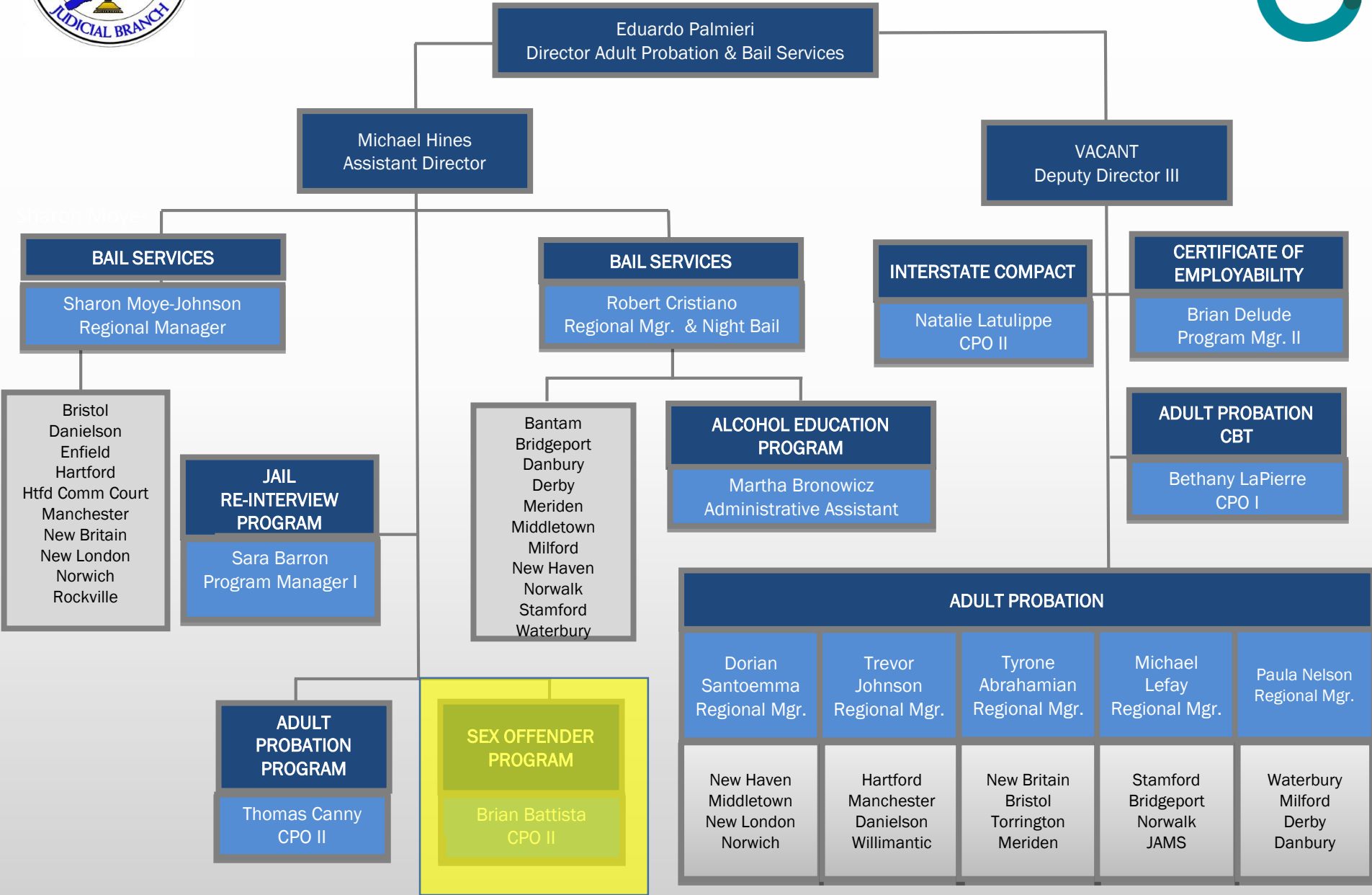
The Connecticut Alliance to End Sexual Violence

April 25, 2019



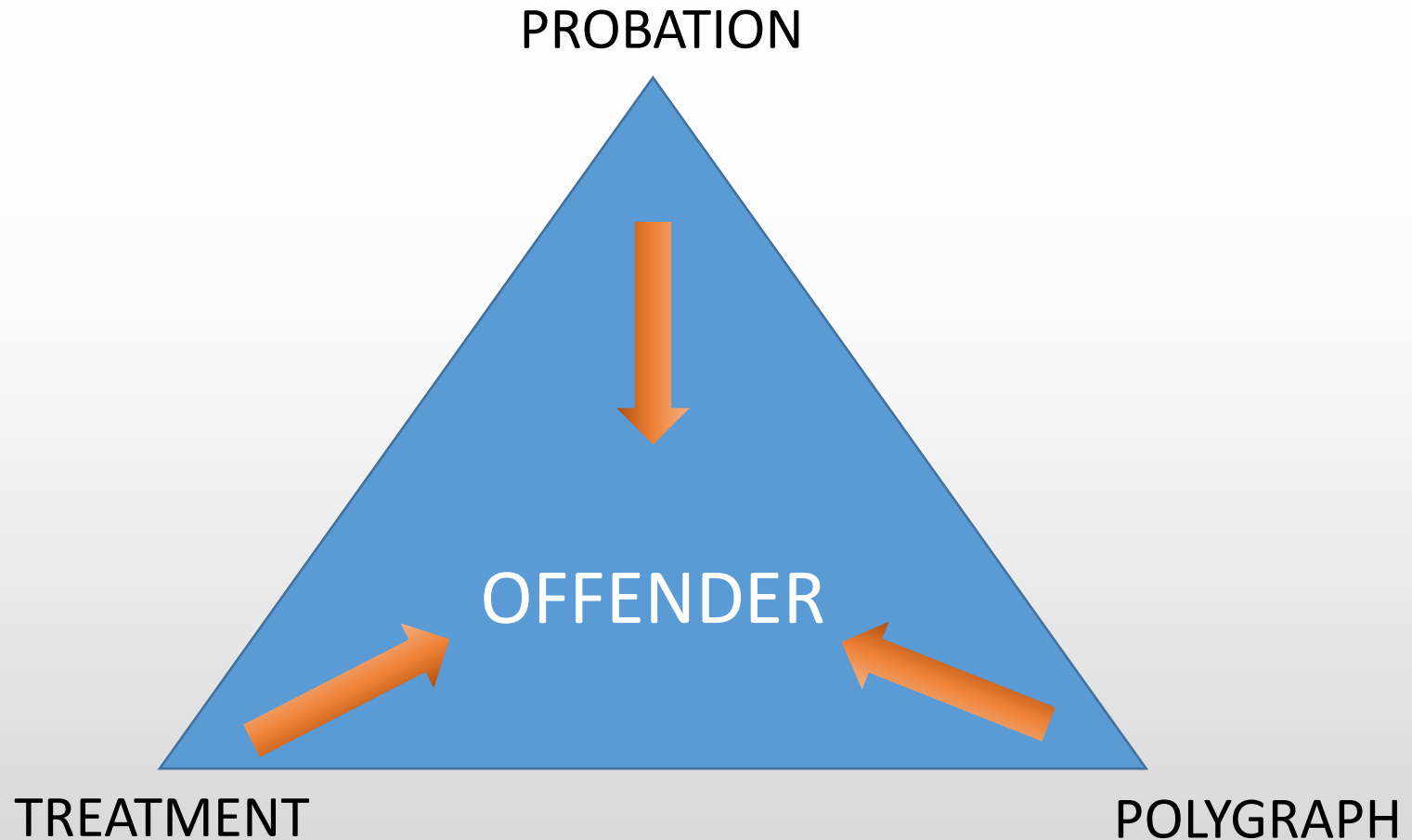
Court Support Services Division

Adult and Bail Services





Containment Model





Collaborative Model

- A mutually beneficial and well-defined relationship entered into by two or more organizations to achieve common sex offender supervision outcome goals. This type of relationship develops between supervising officers, treatment providers, polygraph examiners, victim advocates.
- Improves communication/sharing of information/decision making
- Less intrusive response to victim
- Promotes the exchange of ideas
- Provides ongoing support
- Fosters a unified and comprehensive approach
- Increase understanding of duties



Collaborative Supervision Team



Primary Members



Secondary Members





Victim-Centered Approach

- In the victim centered-approach, victim and community are identified as the client.
- Note: The offender is still our client and we must be equally committed to their success.
- Success is defined as the offender's ability to live in the community **without** perpetrating again.
- Offender success = NO MORE VICTIMS



Victim Advocate (Alliance to End Sexual Violence)

- Liaison with the victim
- Provide additional information about the offense
- Keep victim informed to the extent desired
- Provide victim with access to resources
- Liaison with the criminal justice system
- Victim empathy education and awareness
- Assist in formulation a safety plan for the victim and the victim's family
- Assist in re-unification meetings.



Connecticut Sentencing Commission Report Recommendation:

- 14. Otherwise, collaboration between community-based groups appears to be functioning relatively well. Of particular interest is the inclusion of victim services in the multidisciplinary case management team. I have stated elsewhere in this report that I view this as a best practice element; however, some personnel interviewed expressed concerns that victim interests sometimes take precedence over community reintegration interests for offenders. While it is certainly not my intention to diminish the concerns felt by victims when offenders return to the community, **it is not always possible to honor requests made by victims that are contraindicated by offender case management concerns.** In the end, the probation or parole officer must be the final authority. (Wilson R. 2017)



Demographics

- 2389 Offenders supervised in sex offender units as of January 5th, 2019.
 - 1732 (72.5%) are on the CT Sex Offender Registry

Supervision Criteria:

1. Offender's current offense is statutorily subject to registration as required by CGS 54-250.
2. When granted authority to by the court
3. *Circumstances of the instant offense are sexual motivated, but the conviction/charge is not subject to registration.
4. *Offender who are currently subject to registration for a prior conviction

*3,4 require approval from the court.

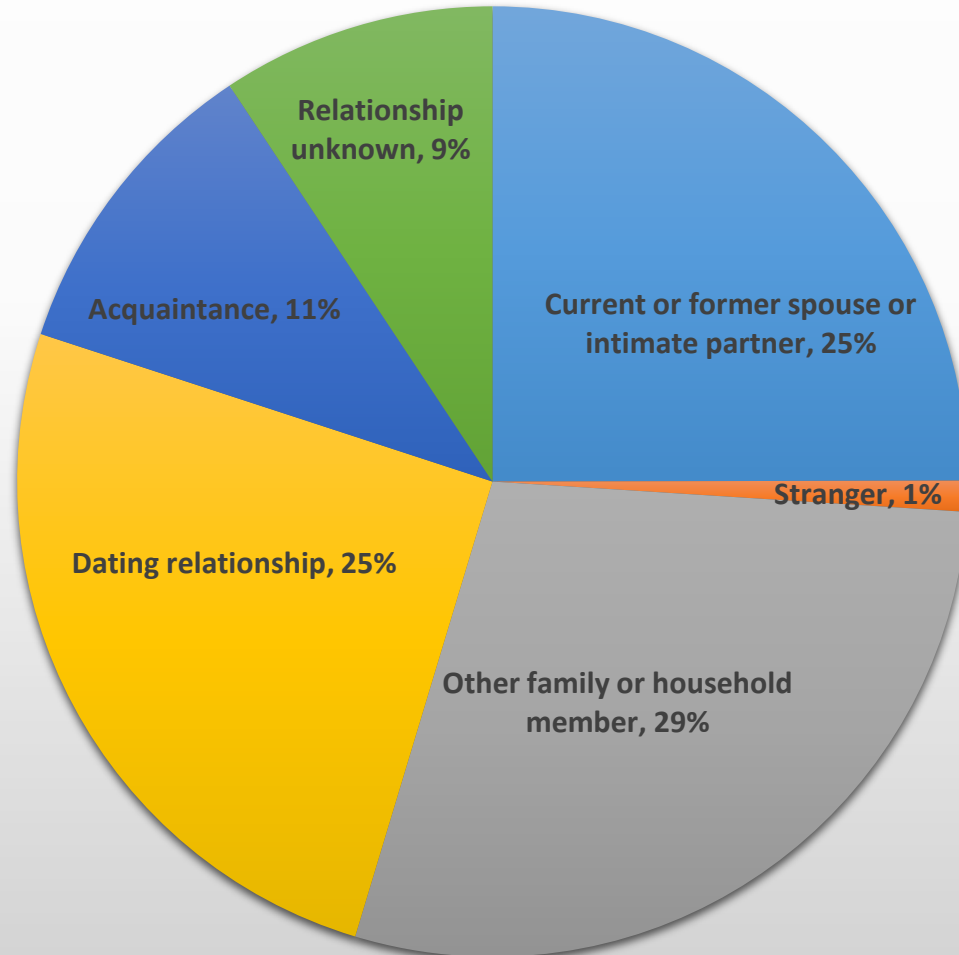


Victim Advocate Victim Services



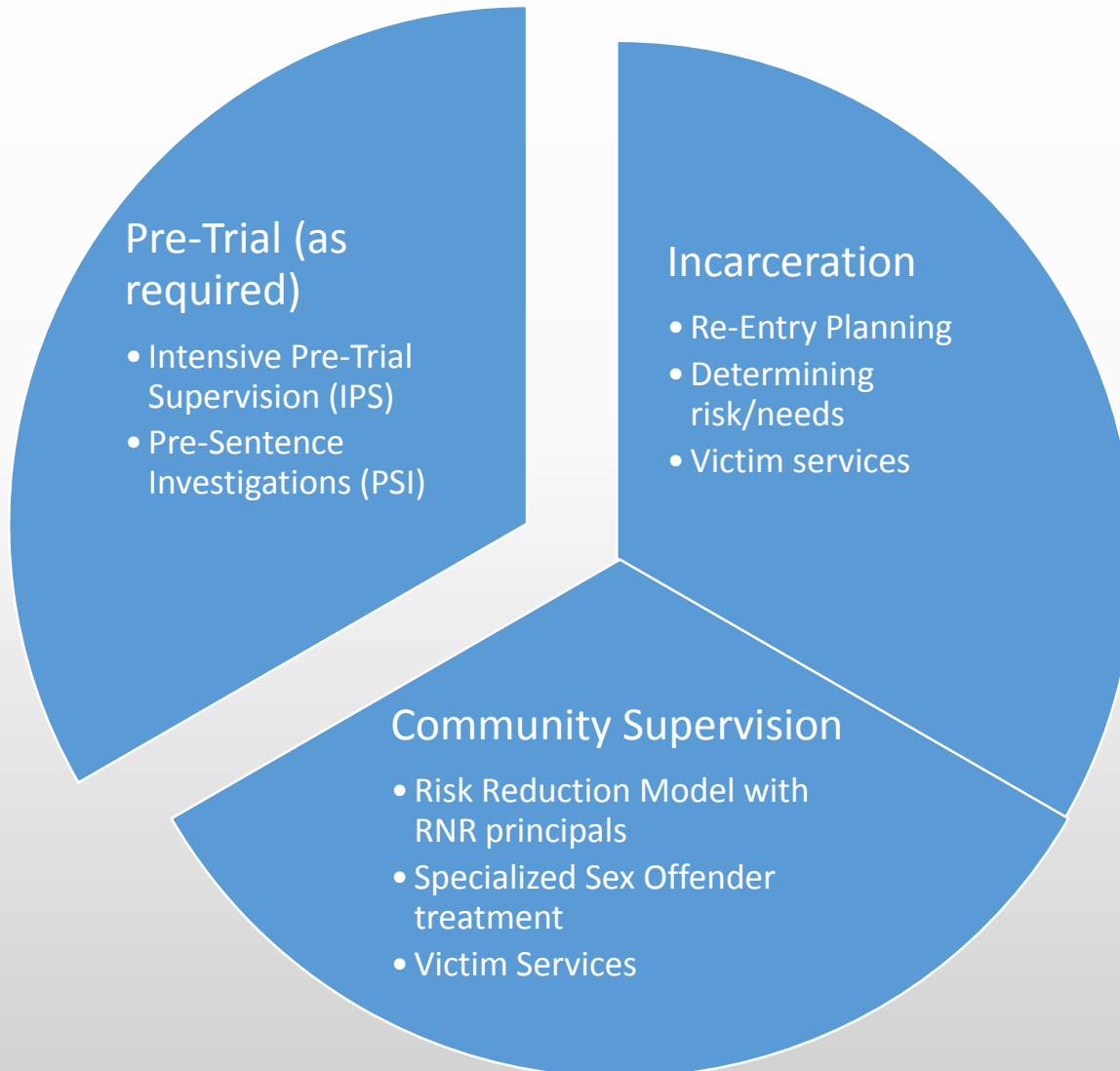
FY2018 Total
numbers of victims
served 1175

**Victim/Survivor Relationship
to Offender(N=761)**





Management Process





Management Process





Determining the Levels of Supervision

- Supervision levels are consistent with the Risk Need Responsivity (RNR) Model
- Risk is determined through actuarial risk assessment tools
 - Level of Service Inventory (LSI-R)
 - Clinical Tools
 - Static 99
 - SOTIPS
- Level of supervision is based overall relevant risk to re-offend sexually and non-sexually
- Risk can change over time



Connecticut Sentencing Commission Report Recommendation:

- 5. While Connecticut states on paper that it adheres to the prescriptions of the Risk-Need-Responsivity model, there are issues in need of attention:
 - b. Interventions for offenders at the lower end of the risk continuum should reflect their risk and need status. **The temptation to view all sexual offenders as being at elevated risk simply as a byproduct of abhorrence of the details of their offenses leads to both over-supervision and over-treatment**,...(Wilson R. 2017)

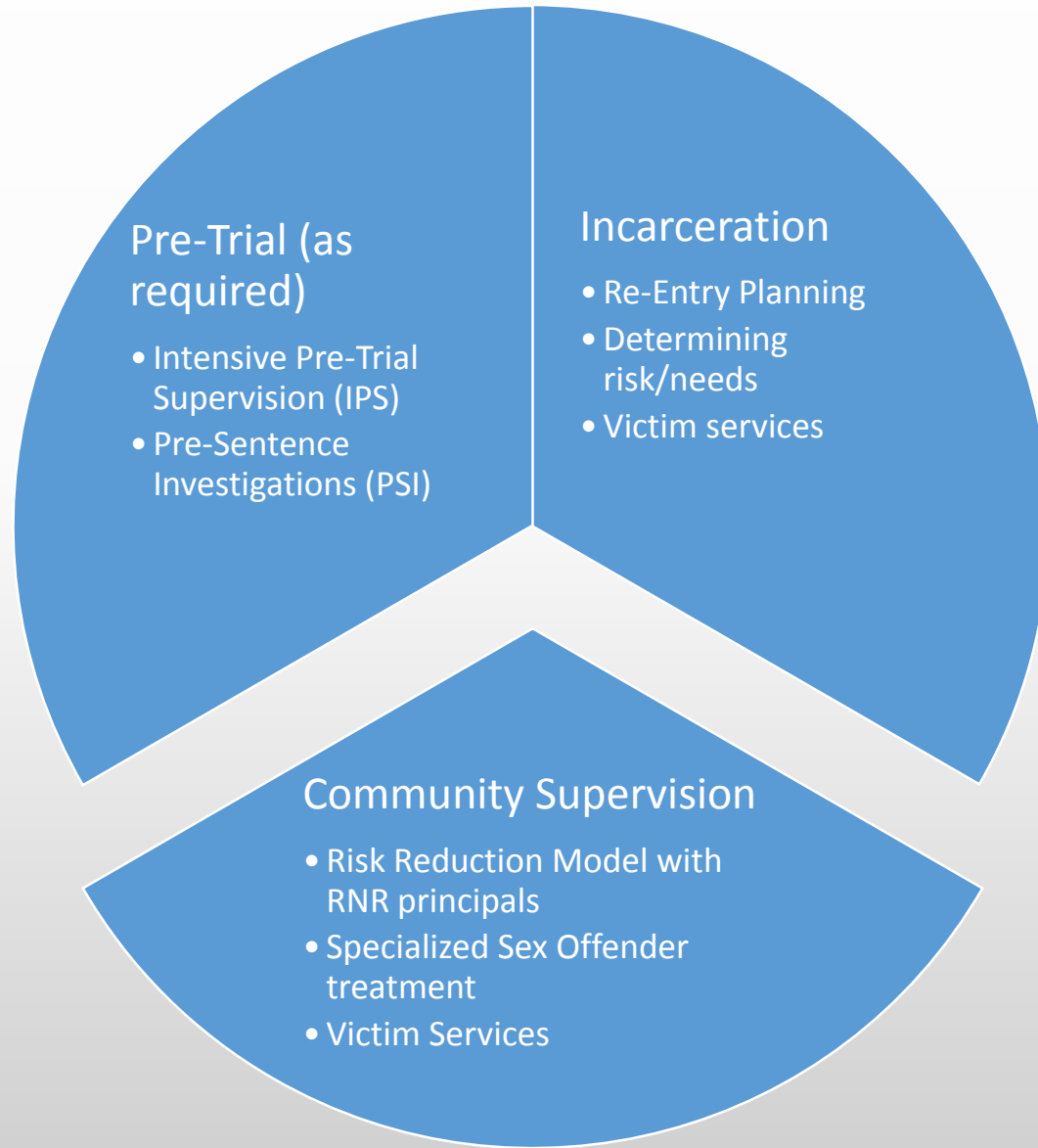


Connecticut Sentencing Commission Report Recommendation:

- 15. Probation staff noted during this evaluation that homelessness has dropped considerably with increased access to agency housing in CT; specifically accommodations through REACH and Chrysalis. Across the country, homelessness for released sexual offenders remains an area of considerable concern. Some of this is due to residence restrictions. In keeping with Levenson et al. (2016), **I would advocate for either the abolition of residence restrictions or a risk-based framework governing where certain offenders are permitted to reside.** Otherwise, continued partnership with community-based housing providers will decrease the amount of community destabilization felt by some returning offenders solely as a result of few options for housing. (Wilson R. 2017)



Management Process

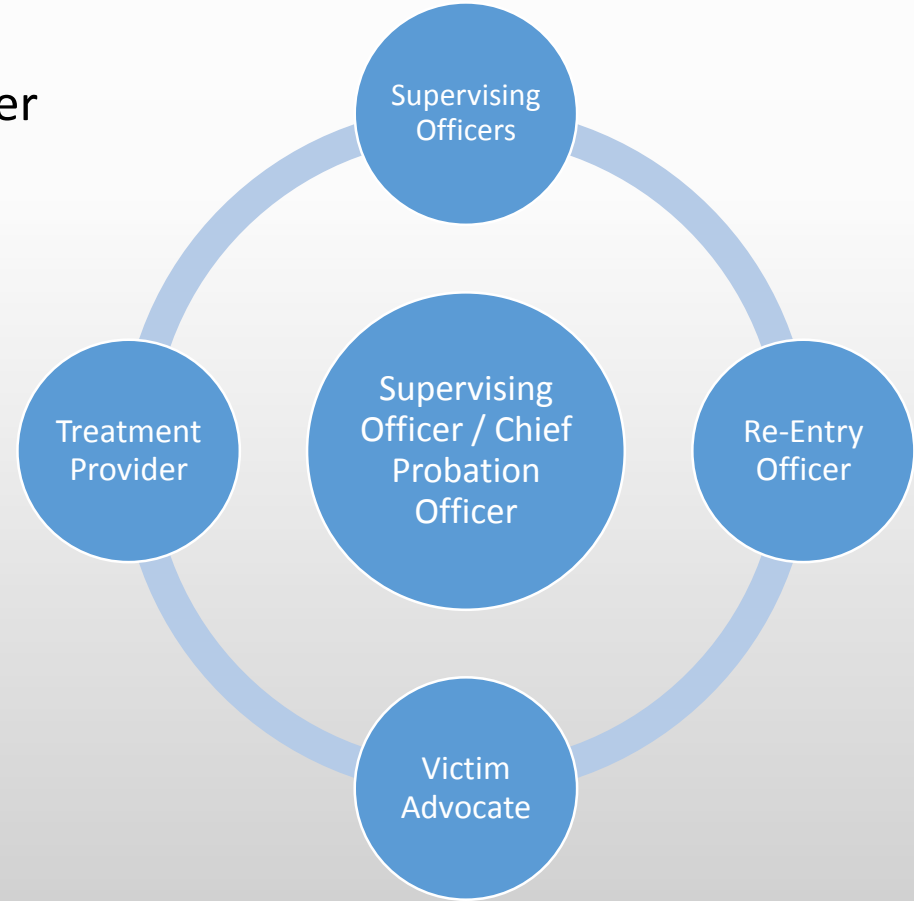




Team Approach

- Meet formally on a regular basis
- Discuss risk factors
- Exchange information about the offender
- Meet in probation office if possible
- Let the offender know the team meets
- Make team decisions when feasible

Primary Members





Post Conviction Sexual Assault Polygraph Examiner

- Instant Offense:
 - Assists treatment and supervision officer break down the offender's minimizing/denial of offense
- Full Sexual History:
 - Provide information regarding the offender's full sexual history
- Maintenance
 - Provide independent verification regarding the offender's activities and behavior while under community supervision



Sex Offender Treatment

- Provider must have a clinical or associate membership with (ATSA) or (CATSO) and show expertise in the field
- CATSO Membership Requirements (<http://www.catso.org/membership.html>)
 - Masters degree or above in clinical field of study
 - Performed at least 1,000 hours of supervised clinical practice involving assessment and treatment of sexual offender
- 695 in sex offender treatment with contracted provider as of January 1st 2019.



Connecticut Sentencing Commission Report Recommendation:

- 10. Evidence-based assessment, treatment, and risk management of women who sexually offend is in its relative infancy in comparison to male sexual offenders. Cortoni et al. (2017) **assert that women who sexually offend are different from their male counterparts** and that they require different processes in risk management. Both institutional and community-based personnel are encouraged to remain abreast of the developing knowledge base in this regard. (Wilson R. 2017)



Impacts

“Knowing that the offender in my case was getting out of prison was overwhelming. The advocate was adequately able to listen and communicate my needs to the probation officer. The information, updates, and support that I received from the advocate was able to aid me in making sure that I felt informed and safe.”

“The advocate that was assigned to my daughter’s case was very supportive and helpful. We were kept up to date about any changes in the offender’s probation. As the parent of someone who was victimized, I also struggled with my own guilt about what happened, and the advocate was able to provide me with a referral for a support group for parents of survivors. I felt that this helped me better be able to support my daughter through this”.

“The advocate and probation officer that I worked with was very helpful in addressing safety concerns that I had about the offender in my case living in the same community as I live. I was worried that he would find out where I lived, and I was worried about running into him. The advocate and probation officer met with me and worked to develop a plan that would limit the chances of any interaction and assured me that my safety was a priority”



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Reference:

http://ctsentencingcommission.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/CT_Sentencing_Commission_FINAL_REPORT.pdf