

Proposal Element 2: PROBLEM/NEED DATA

1. TDCJ-CJAD planning staff will gather additional problem/need data from the MCSCR, Offender Profile Data, and CSTS to establish need.
2. Indicate Historic/Programmatic Information that substantiates your jurisdiction's need for this program (optional). (See appendix __ for an example)

The Specialized Sex Offender Unit was established to provide close, knowledgeable supervision of offenders placed on Community Supervision for sexually related offenses, and to maintain this supervision for the duration of the offender's term of Community Supervision. The unit also refers offenders who must provide a DNA sample as a condition of community supervision to a Department approved vendor. This type of holistic supervision will enable the offender to complete sex offender therapy, remain in compliance with the State Sex Offender Registration Law, and reduces the risk the offender poses to the community by close adherence to the Conditions of Community Supervision. This type of supervision will also enable the Community Supervision Officer to identify those offenders who continue to pose a high level of risk to the safety of the community and bring those individuals back to the attention of the Courts.

Currently, the Sex Offender Unit supervises 344 sex offenders (292 maximums and 52 mediums), leaving approximately 165 (86 direct and 79 indirect) sex offenders being supervised by regular field officers in the field satellite units. These regular field officers have not received the specialized training to deal with the sex offender issues that the specialized officers have received. While these sex offenders on regular field caseloads are supervised as closely as possible, the regular field officers have, on average, around 126 direct offenders to supervise. When compared to the average specialized caseload size of 38 offenders per officer, it is apparent that the sex offenders in the regular field units are not receiving the close, specialized supervision from a highly trained officer that they would if they were being supervised in the Sex Offender Unit. It is the Department's goal to have all sex offenders assigned to the Sex Offender Unit and participate in court-ordered therapy as soon as possible. It is also anticipated that inter-departmental program initiatives will impact the number of sex offender cases placed under Community Supervision. Due to the work of the Travis County Child Protection Team, which investigates sexual child abuse cases more quickly allowing law enforcement to make arrests more rapidly, the Appropriate Punishment Team is able to prepare the case for disposition in a timely manner. By expediting these programmatic initiatives, there continues to be the need for continued services for the sex offender population. For the indigent sex offender, subsidized sex offender therapy is needed to meet court-ordered treatment conditions. The Department contracts with approved sex offender therapists for services to indigent sex offenders.

3. What **other services**, that meet this need, are available to the offender in this jurisdiction?

The Department refers to approximately 20 sex offender therapists who provide on-going sex offender treatment. The Department utilizes standardized service agreements with all sex offender therapists to whom the Department makes referrals. The Department annually conducts audits on all service agreements and holds an annual sex offender therapist meeting to address any service delivery issues.

Individual sex offender therapists may have a sliding scale fee structure to assist sex offenders in receiving therapy. Additionally, the Department, through Sex Offender Therapist referrals, coordinates services with polygraphers to assist in monitoring sex offenders. MR sex offenders are supervised by the MR Specialized caseload in the Mental Health Unit and receive treatment services through specialized sex offender therapists in the community.

Proposal Element 3: TARGET POPULATION

Please note that the Target Population element does not require narrative description. TDCJ-CJAD staff will gather additional information from the MCSCR, Offender Profile Data, and CSTS.

- a. Felony only Misdemeanor only Both
- b. Male only Female only Both
- c. Age restriction? No Yes

If yes, describe: _____

d. Offense-related characteristics or exclusions Any misdemeanor or felony offender granted Community Supervision for a sexual offense in the Travis County jurisdiction. Any misdemeanor or felony offender being supervised as a courtesy case for other counties or states may also be supervised under this proposal.

- e. Are participant referrals accepted from outside your jurisdiction? No Yes

If yes, what proportion are from other jurisdictions 9.3 %.

- f. Is this program designed to serve any specific cultural, ethnic, or gender group?

No Yes

If yes, please identify and cite proportions, if applicable. _____

- g. Is this program designed to serve MHMR participants? No Yes

- h. Are participants who are not on community supervision accepted in this program? (e.g. pre-trial, jail inmates, state jail confinees, family members, or others) No Yes

If yes, please identify. _____

- i. Do participants meet specifications in TX Government Code §76.017 Treatment Alternative to Incarceration Program (TAIP)? {This applies to **TAIP** programs **ONLY**} No Yes N/A

Proposal Element 4: PROGRAM DESCRIPTION AND PROCESS

REQUIRED STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES

Participants eligible for Sex Offender Unit supervision are misdemeanor and felony sex offenders who are placed on Community Supervision by the Court and have committed any sex offense. Sexual behavior must be the primary problem area. All participants must be Court-ordered into the specialized caseload. In Travis County, a Pre-Sentence Investigation Officer has been designated to conduct all PSIs on sex offenders. A detailed PSI is completed and recommendations are made to the Courts. Sex offenders are then placed on a SCP (Specialized Caseload) for sex offenders. Probation conditions mandate participation in sex offender treatment services (group and individual).

There are six (6) Sex Offender Specialized Caseloads for Sex Offenders, one (1) maintenance Sex offender Caseload and two (2) Senior CSO caseloads. Currently the Sex Offender Field Unit requires three face-to-face contacts per month (two office and one field), two collateral contacts (one with family members, significant others, friends or employers and one with agency or community services provider) per month. It also requires that offenders attend a cognitive program with an assessment before they start and after they finish the program. Caseload size is limited to forty-five clients. The caseloads are designed to address criminogenic needs of offenders such as criminal thinking errors, education, and employment and substance abuse needs, if applicable.

The Department has centralized all of the specialized sex offender caseloads into one location. Currently, the total number of sex offenders under direct specialized supervision is 344, which averages out to 38 per specialized CSO, 52 for the maintenance CSO and 13 for the Senior Sex Offender Officers. The Department has identified approximately an additional 165 sex offenders within the Department, who are currently being supervised on non-specialized, regular caseloads who need to be moved to maintenance caseloads. Each maintenance caseload will supervise up to 90 offenders. The Department is proposing to move all of these sex offenders into the specialized unit and is requesting an additional two (2) officers to supervise these cases. Sex Offender Caseloads will supervise offenders as either maximum level cases (specialized) or medium cases (maintenance). Having all sex offenders housed in one unit will facilitate consistency and effectiveness in supervision strategies. It will also allow the Unit to enhance monitoring of sex offender therapist programmatic service delivery through annual site visits and service agreement compliance review. Documentation of offender compliance to conditions of supervision is completed by the supervising CSO.

This proposal, if fully funded, would provide the following:

1. Adequate staffing for current and additional sex offenders;
2. Increased specialized supervision resulting in:
 - a. Increased public safety
 - b. Victim protection
 - c. Reparation for victims
 - d. Increased effective agency coordination and multi-disciplinary partnerships
 - e. Increased efficiency in the delivery of services to sex offenders
 - f. Increased consistency and accountability in the overall supervision of all sex offenders in the Department.

Increased Specialized Supervision is a critical goal for the Department in the supervision of sex offenders. The additional staff, when combined with the existing centralized location, would greatly enhance the Department's ability to achieve this goal. This is especially important in meeting the requirements of the law, e.g., registration of sex offenders, DNA sampling, child safety zones, public notification issues and the relationship between the CSOs, the sex offender therapists, and local law enforcement entities. Collateral contacts occur at least twice a month. Additionally, all sex offenders could benefit from participation in the mandated cognitive program. Due

to very long-term sex offender treatment requirements, approximately 10% of this supervised population are even eligible to successfully complete specialized supervision.

In Travis County, the Sex Offender CSOs and the MR/DD Specialized Caseload CSOs work together very closely to provide appropriate case management and treatment to MR/DD sex offenders. The Department contracts with Sex Offender Therapists, who specialize in treating this population, as this population tends to be more indigent than non-MR/DD sex offenders are. These therapists utilize a curriculum designed for this population. Documentation of offender compliance to conditions of supervision is completed by the supervising CSO.

The Sex Offender Unit would institute a "Lights Out Program" where Community Supervision Officers would make unscheduled field visits on some of their high-risk clients during the evening hours, on weekends and holidays. These unscheduled visits would be made in pairs of CSOs or with one of the following law enforcement agencies: Austin Police Department's Sex Offender Registration Unit, Travis County Sheriff's Department, or Texas Department of Public Safety. This program establishes a proactive stance for the Sex Offender Unit, in that its goal is to identify non-compliant offenders before that non-compliance results in re-offense.

The Department also refers those clients requiring submission of DNA samples to a nurse. This nurse then draws the blood, takes the fingerprints, and submits them to the Texas Department of Public Safety.

Unsuccessful discharge from the caseload will be defined as a subsequent offense leading to revocation or absconding. Non-compliance with administrative conditions which are indicative of needing additional services in the Department's continuum of sanction will not result in an unsuccessful discharge.

Contract Monitoring

The Department has an annual plan to monitor contracts for compliance using a standardized Site Visit process or desktop audit process. A Site Visit Team, composed of CSOs and Supervisors, will use a contract compliance monitoring instrument to monitor contracts based on vendor's service delivery compliance with the vendor's operational plan and other contractual requirements. Any identified deficiencies in contract compliance will result in specific recommendations to vendor(s) to achieve contract compliance. Vendors will be required to submit an Action Plan on how they will achieve contract compliance. The Department will provide technical assistance to the vendor as needed. Appropriate staff will complete documentation of offender compliance to program expectations.

Responsivity

This program recognizes the principles of responsivity in developing and implementing the program design. Responsivity issues are initially addressed during the screening/placement process. When appropriate, staff assignment will include the offender being matched with a CSO/Counselor/designated staff whose characteristics would be most effective in establishing rapport with the offender. All direct service staff will receive special needs population training to enhance responsivity and ensure effective service delivery. Additionally, staff will be trained in motivational enhancement techniques.

Tracking

On an annual basis, the Department will track program outputs and monitor outcomes to assess utilization of services and supervision activities.

SOP

Existing SOPs are on file and available for review. Enhanced SOPs will be available November 2005 if the proposal is fully funded.

REFERRAL PROCESS

Court Ordered

Assessment Process

Self Referral

Other: _____

PARTICIPANT ACTIVITIES

Sex offenders are Court-ordered to attend and participate fully in sex offender therapy, both individual and group. They are placed on the caseload by Court order and assessed for therapy by an approved therapist. Individual therapy is attended monthly while group therapy is attended weekly. In addition, sex offenders must adhere to all Conditions of Community Supervision, including state mandated sex offender registration on at least a yearly basis, provide a DNA sample, and submit to polygraph tests as directed. Offenders must maintain employment, pay Court-ordered monies, and must be seen by their Community Supervision Officer (CSO) at least three times a month. CSO counseling, Three way meetings, Supervisory Hearings, and Administrative Hearings are all used as sanctions prior to filing a violation report.

The Sex Offender must complete a designated treatment program to be transferred off the Sex Offender Specialized Caseload. A discharge form must be completed prior to the offender being discharged from the specialized caseload to the maintenance caseload.

A review of existing programs and the Standards of Practice adopted by the Texas Council on Sex Offender Treatment recommend that at least the following elements be included in a sex offender treatment program:

1. cognitive-behavioral group therapy;
2. relapse prevention;
3. individual therapy and coordination with community mental agencies;
4. community management/aggressive criminal justice supervision; and
5. Substance abuse treatment, if indicated.

Sex offenders are also referred to the Department's Cognitive Program and receive group and individual services from a contracted Sex Offender therapist. Offenders are assessed prior to placement in the Cognitive Program to determine appropriate referral to the Denial Cognitive Group or the Relapse Prevention Cognitive Group.

CHOICE OF PROGRAM DESIGN

Sexual offenses are a serious problem. "On any given day about 234,000 offenders convicted of rape or sexual assault are under care, custody, or control of corrections agencies" nationwide. (Bureau of Justice Statistics, Sex Offenses and Offenders, 1997). There were a total of 3,800 adults and 776 juveniles arrested for sexual offenses other than rape or prostitution in Texas during 2001 (Department of Public Safety, The Texas Crime Report, 2002).

There is conflicting information as to whether or not these crimes are increasing. Although the rate of conviction for these offenses has increased, the actual number of offenses may have decreased. This may reflect more appropriate sentencing and treatment of offenders. However, there are problems and ambiguities of crime reporting with the management of databases that may affect this data.

Criminal justice and sex offender treatment professionals have been provided training and technical assistance by the Center for Sex Offender Management (CSOM) funded by the Center Effective Policy. CSOM has

recognized and encouraged the need for these two disciplines to work collaboratively to supervise and treat sex offenders.

Diverse treatment strategies are now used, and complex risk levels are better known. Previously, treatment focused on a particular type of male offender. More complex assessment is now available. Programs for developmentally disabled and mentally impaired are more accessible now as well as the utilization of structured cognitive curriculums.

PROGRAM STAFF AND PROGRAM STAFF ACTIVITIES

1. Staff (Title) Community Supervision Manager
Process activities: Responsible for oversight of the Sex Offender Unit including staff supervision, training, and program development. Establishes effective working relationships with law enforcement, therapists, parole and other resources in the community.
2. Staff (Title) Senior Community Supervision Officer
Process Activities: Assists with supervision of CSOs, audits files and violation reports, in addition to maintaining a supervision caseload.
3. Staff (Title) Specialized Sex Offender Community Supervision Officer
Process activities: Monitors and supervises sex offender probationer's response to Conditions of Community Supervision. Monitors compliance through drug testing, interviews, referrals, collateral contacts, family contacts, field visits and contacts with therapists. Utilizes community sanctions in the supervision of the probationers. Provides necessary documentation to court.
4. Staff (Title) Maintenance Sex Offender Community Supervision Officer
Process activities: Monitors and supervises sex offender probationer's response to Conditions of Community Supervision. Monitors compliance through drug testing, interviews, referrals, collateral contacts, family contacts, field visits and contacts with therapists. Utilizes community sanctions in the supervision of the probationers. Provides necessary documentation to court.
5. Staff (Title) Secretary
Process activities: Provide administrative support for the CSCD Sex offenders Field Unit. Will execute data entry related to Sex Offenders Field Unit database. Other clerical duties such as making copies, answering phones, setting appointments, etc.
6. Contract Sex Offender Therapist
Process activities: Provide individual and group sex offender therapy to indigent sex offenders as well as facilitate the Department's Cognitive Sex Offender Groups.
7. Contract Sex Offender Nurse
Process activities: Take DNA samples from clients and provide them to DPS along with fingerprints.

ADDITIONAL PROGRAM DATA

Please indicate that program design and/or staff training includes sensitivity to gender, race, ethnicity, culture and differing physical abilities. YES

Proposal Element 5. PROGRAM MILESTONES

Is this a new program? No Yes

If yes, please complete milestones chart. **If no, this element is optional. Do not insert if chart is blank.**

PROJECTED PROGRAM OUTPUTS/OUTCOMES FOR FY 2006 - 2007

DATA FORM

Program Title: Sex Offender Specialized Caseload

Chief CSCD County: Travis

Program Code: SCP X

Facility Category: NA

Data Contact Person: Lila Oshatz

Number to be served: 450

General Instructions: The purpose of this form is to provide projections for services that will be provided with funding obtained from the program proposal. Provide projections for the applicable information for the services offered to participants during the funding cycle. Only include services that will be paid for from the program proposal award. Do not include referrals or other services that will be provided to program participants outside the program proposal. Complete a separate form for each program code that was listed on the CSCDP Cover Sheet. Please provide counts, not percents, and make sure all blanks are filled. Answer with "N/A" if not applicable.

A. Group/Individual Counseling

Number of Participants

24

B. Urinalysis Tests

Number of Individuals Tested

NA-See Program Services Proposal

C. Academic Education Services

Number of Participants

N/A

Number Mandated by CCP 42.12 Sec. 11(g)

N/A

Number of GEDs obtained

N/A

D. Electronic Monitoring

Number of Participants

NA-See Program Services Proposal

E. Cognitive Training/Cognitive Behavioral

Number of Participants

450

F. Substance Abuse Education

Number of Participants

N/A

G. Employment Services

Number of Participants

N/A

Number who secured employment for 3 days or longer

N/A

H. Victim Services

Number of Victims Served

N/A

Number of Victim-Impact panels held

N/A

Number of Victim-Offender mediations completed

N/A

Outcomes – Successful Program Completion

Number of participants successfully completing the program

45

Date: March 1, 2005