

Community Supervision of Sex Offenders

Update to 2005 Evaluation Report

Problems Identified

- **Inconsistency in Supervision Practices.** A variety of state and local corrections agencies supervise sex offenders in Minnesota, and we found that Minnesota had minimal state-level coordination of these activities. In many instances, corrections agents conducted a limited number of home visits, polygraphs, and reviews of offenders' computer use, and there were no state or national standards to indicate optimum levels of contact.
- **Inadequate Treatment Options.** Community corrections officials were widely dissatisfied with the availability of prison-based sex offender treatment, and relatively few offenders completed programs in prison. Funding for community-based treatment had declined and was insufficient to meet the needs of offenders released from prison or sentenced to probation.

Changes Implemented

- **Sex Offender Management Policies Drafted.** The Legislature required the Department of Corrections (DOC) to establish a working group on sex offender management. This group is preparing a report to the Legislature (due by February 15, 2007) that addresses policies regarding treatment, supervision, and polygraphs.
- **Information Provided to Supervising Agencies.** The Legislature required DOC to provide medical, mental health, and treatment information on sex offenders released from prison to the community corrections agencies that will be supervising them.
- **Additional Disclosures Required.** The Legislature amended state law to (1) require notification of care facilities about admissions to their facilities of registered predatory offenders, and (2) require notification of child protection agencies before offenders are authorized to live in households with children.

Action Needed

- **More Treatment Beds Needed.** DOC estimated in 2006 that it would need 250 to 400 additional beds to serve all sex offenders directed to prison-based programs. DOC received funding for 50 new treatment beds in fiscal year 2006, but the Governor's 2008-09 budget does not request additional funding for prison-based treatment.
- **Fund and Implement Improved Supervision.** The Governor's budget proposes to (1) add 40 "enhanced sex offender agents" around the state by 2009, (2) implement and evaluate sex offender management policies, and (3) increase sex offender assessment spending by 30 percent.