

Circles of Support & Accountability: Building Communities While Managing Risk

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In this highly interactive workshop, participants will have the opportunity to gain understanding of a wide variety of concepts associated with professionally-facilitated, volunteer-driven community management of persistent sexual abusers. The presenters will utilize a multimedia approach in which group discussion, slide presentation, role-play, guidebooks and other literature, and audiovisual demonstrations will assist participants in developing a knowledge base that will prepare them for promoting COSAs in their own jurisdictions.

Specific topics of discussion will include:

- Restorative justice approaches to offender management in community settings
- Project development and management
- Volunteer recruitment, screening, and training
- Establishing a pool of supportive expertise (e.g., psychology, psychiatry, correctional case management, social services, law enforcement)
- Volunteer and law enforcement perspectives
- Core member (offender) identification and selection
- Building working relationships with community partners (e.g., police, media, politicians)
- Liability and managing failure (i.e., recidivism by a Core member)
- Funding and project maintenance
- Research findings and applications