

**Where the Rubber Hits the Road  
Safer Options: Moving from Statewide Training to Implementation**

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Safer Options is supporting the implementation of community-based comprehensive residential sex offender treatment programs for people with developmental disabilities.

Pennsylvania's Safer Options project has developed a network of approximately forty trained individuals from across the Commonwealth. These individuals support teams that include the person, staff, family, direct care staff, probation & parole, case managers and therapists. Safer Options continues to identify, recruit and train therapists to provide individual therapy and the facilitation of therapeutic support groups for people who have developmental disabilities. The Safer Options participants are providing on-going assessment of the offenders and their teams\* as well as monthly training related to sex offending behavior and treatment. The Safer Options Curriculum Manual includes 20 lessons about Sex offending behavior and people who have developmental disabilities and is used to teach teams and others about best practices treatment for sex offender behavior.

Quarterly regional Safer Options meetings are held and facilitated by the three coordinators in order to build grass roots knowledge regarding support for sexual offenders who have developmental disabilities. In addition to the Participants, invitees include representatives of mental health, mental retardation, probation & parole, provider agencies, regional and county offices.

\*Haaven's Risk Manageability Guide