

MINUTES

Sexual Offender Risk Review Board (SORRB)

Date | time 12/19/2024 11:00am Meeting called to order by Frank Mullis, Board Chair

In Attendance

Note Taker: Destinie Gallon

Members in Attendance: Elizabeth Bigham, Ezell Brown, Jerry Bruce, James Chafin, Katie Gropper, Frank Mullis, Meghan Thurmond

Members Absent: Mindy Ackerman, Robbie Frederick, Jim Morton, Bert Reeves, Lori Rozier

Staff in Attendance: Tracy Alvord, Richard Hammond, Callin Rossi, Markus Wiegel, Amanda Aten, Russell Finley, Destinie Gallon

Legal Representative in Attendance: Elizabeth Crowder, Office of the Attorney General

*The public can view the meeting via YouTube

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from 11/14/2024 were voted on - all were in favor - Motion Carried.

Reports of Officers and Standing Committees

There are currently no active committees.

Unfinished Business

- **2025 Retreat:** Tracy submitted a printout to the Board Members of possible locations for the Annual Retreat. The Board voted for Blue Ridge, Georgia Hampton Inn on April 23, 2025-April 25, 2025.

New Business

There was no new business.

Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Tracy Alvord presented her report:

- **New SORRB Website:** Tracy asked SORRB's Deputy Director, Richard Hammond to update the Board about SORRB's website. Richard stated that in October he and Tracy researched revamping the SORRB's website and reached out to the Georgia Technical Authority (GTA) who will give SORRB a ".GOV" domain name. In November, they met with GTA to determine what's needed. As of today, SORRB is anticipating it to go live in January 2025. He stated that Tracy has sent the link to the Board Members so they can see the progress. He also mentioned that compared to other agencies like GBI and DCS, it's more interactive and has more information for the public,

offenders and victims. The maintenance of the website will be on the state side, and they will provide training to SORRB with maintaining the content.

- **Database Revision Update:** Tracy asked SORRB's Deputy Director, Richard Hammond to update the Board about SORRB's database. Richard stated that SORRB is working with Invictus to update our internal database, such as statistical, data keeping, reports, etc.. SORRB should have the quote from Invictus sometime next week. Once finalized, SORRB will move forward. SORRB will then move hosting to GTA (currently hosted by Invictus). That way we will have ongoing support for continuity. Lastly, Richard stated that once we get all the information, he will pass it on to the Board.
- **Staffing Updates:** Tracy mentioned that there is still turnover with Part Time Evaluators. Some applicants assume that the position is simple and then realize that it isn't. Some of them didn't have the proper writing skills and/or the ability to formulate the information. Others found it difficult to juggle 2 jobs. Tracy applauded SORRB's Research and Legislative Analyst Markus Wiegel with training the new Evaluators and SORRB's Evaluator Supervisor Amanda Aten with gauging their progress. Tracy mentioned that she has merged 4 Part Time Evaluator positions to 2 Full Time positions in hopes of getting more experienced people. She will also be interviewing for one additional Full Time Evaluator. She expects everyone to be in place by the beginning of 2025. Amanda added that the new Evaluators are at different stages, and this is where she can determine if they are a good fit. There are some who are getting closer and working on their own, others who are catching up and some who have just come from training with Markus. She also stated to the Board that they will be seeing new names on the reports each month. SORRB's Board Chairman Frank Mullis asked what was the total number of Evaluators? Tracy replied that there are approximately 10-11 Full Time Evaluators and approximately 6-8 Part Time Evaluators. She added that she will be participating with the Appropriations Subcommittee Hearing and will share that information. She also mentioned that beginning in January 2025 that Markus Wiegel, Amanda Aten and SORRB's Chief Investigator Russell Finley will be joining the monthly Board Meetings. Markus will resume monthly Board Member training in January/February. Amanda will discuss what's going on with evaluations and numbers, and Russell will discuss what's going on with investigations and numbers. Tracy stated that the numbers will still be low because we are still in the training process. Hopefully by July 2025 (which will be the 1-year mark from the initial hire) the numbers will increase. Russell Finley added that the 5 Investigators who were hired in July are pretty much up to speed. As of a couple of days ago, they closed approximately 80 cases for the month. There are 2 Investigators who just started and are not up to speed, however, more Immediate Priority cases are being closed.
- **Plans for Board Meetings beginning w/January Meeting:** Tracy reiterated that the individuals from Staff will be there from now on.
- **SORRB Office Update:** Richard informed the Board that GBA will be moving our furniture from the Agriculture Building to our new space at the West Tower the first week of January 2025. The issue is that the renovations in the new space will be occurring at the same time. He and Tracy will be figuring out how to make it a smooth process. Tracy added that they will keep the Board posted.
- **Request to move the Next Board Meeting from January 9, 2025, to January 16, 2025:** Tracy stated that she has a schedule conflict and asked the Board if the January meeting can be moved to January 16, 2025? All were in favor.

Case Review- Discussion and Vote

NOTE: cases are provided to the board members through the month prior to the board meeting, so the cases are read prior to the meeting. Each case is identified by number rather than name to increase objectivity. Any staff member or Board Member that has knowingly worked with the specific offender/court case has been recused and does not participate in the classification of that offender.

LEVEL 1 CASES - 11 cases presented for vote

- Discussion: None.
- Recusals: None
- Motion to Approve: Katie Gropper; Seconded: Elizabeth Bigham
- Roll Call - Number For: 7; Number Against: 0
- Conclusion: **Motion Carried to approve 11 Level 1 cases.**

LEVEL 2 CASES - 21 cases presented for vote

- Discussion: Tracy stated that Level 1 case 14028 was pulled from November's meeting for additional review and to determine if there was reason to increase above a Level 2. There were no concerns. Case 26353, Board Member Elizabeth Bigham stated that her concerns were the age of the victim, engaging in anal sex with a 4-year-old child, acting out sexually in prison, admitting to making inappropriate searches on his phone and not taking his parole/probation seriously. She was also concerned about his evaluations were based on self-report and no official documents were reviewed. She asked if he isn't owning up to what he has been convicted of, how can we trust what is disclosed in the self-reported evaluation? Board Member Meghan Thurmond asked due to the age of the victim would we have access of any information regarding how they are affected now since they are older, and it happened more than once. Tracy stated that due to HIPAA, we would not have that information. The Board agreed to pull this case for further review. Case 31331 (juvenile case) was pulled from November's meeting for more information. Board Member, Meghan Thurmond inquired about what lead the offender to his offenses. Amanda Aten stated that he has a history of being sexually abused. It was questioned if he was in sex offender treatment and Amanda verified, he is voluntarily attending treatment. It was noted that this is a proactive step on the offender's part. Board Member Jerry Bruce inquired about why the offender wasn't polygraphed and would it make the recommendation less reliable. Amanda stated that he was not court ordered to undergo a polygraph. Jerry voiced concern that he has not been monitored by polygraph and noted that this would have given the board better insight but understands since it is not required there is no additional information the board can obtain on this case. Meghan Thurmond pointed out that he appears to have demonstrated an ability to manage his behavior when no longer being in a controlled environment. Frank asked the Board if case# 31331 shall remain a level 2. All were in favor.
- Recusals: None
- **Motion to Approve pulling case 26353 for further review:** James Chafin; Seconded: Jerry Bruce
- Motion to Approve: Jerry Bruce; Seconded: James Chafin
- Roll Call - Number for: 7; Number Against: 0
- Conclusion: **Motion Carried to approve 20 Level 2 cases.**

SEXUALLY DANGEROUS PREDATORS (SOP) - 22 cases presented for vote

- Discussion: None
- Recusals: None
- Motion to Approve: Ezell Brown; Seconded: Katie Gropper
- Roll Call - Number for: 7; Number Against: 0
- Conclusion: **Motion Carried to approve 22 Level SOP cases.**

REEVALUATION CASES - 3 cases presented for vote

- Discussion: None.
- Recusals: None.
- Motion to Approve: James Chafin; Seconded: Ezell Brown
- Roll Call - Number for: 7; Number Against: 0
- Conclusion: **Motion Carried to approve 3 Reevaluation cases.**

Additional Discussion

Katie Gropper stated that she met with some local Delegation for the new legislative session and one of the things that came up were the inconsistencies in the law and she mentioned to them the changes that were made last year. Georgia Code 42-1-19, regarding petitioners being removed from the Registry and what we know about years free in the community in terms of reducing risk and the inconsistency with Georgia Code 17-10-1, which is the statute that gives offenders behavioral incentive dates (BID). If they are sentenced and not sentenced to at least one year in prison (which most sex offenders are not), 17-10-1 gives a BID not to exceed three years. Sex offenders who are not given at least one year in prison are eligible for a BID under the law. She is interested in looking at acknowledging the fact that offenders need to be free in the community for a longer period to accurately assess their risk and to hopefully create an exception in 17-10-1 as it relates to offenders who are required to register pursuant to 42-1-19. This will give more assurance that they are being properly monitored and assessed. She stated that from a Prosecution standpoint, that it is frustrating for the community to believe that an offender is going to be monitored for a specific period of time and it's actually significantly less. Time being free in the community is the most significant risk reducing factor and if their supervision is terminated sooner than that timeframe, this makes it inconsistent and increases the risk to the community.

Next Meeting

January 16, 2024@ 10:00am

The December 19, 2024, meeting was adjourned at 10:51am



R. Frank Mullis, Jr., Dcou, LPC
Board Chairman

Tracy Alvord
Executive Director

SEXUAL OFFENDER RISK REVIEW BOARD

www.SORRB.org

December 19, 2024

12 LEVEL ONE CASES

1	7510	1	KL
2	13198 Error - removed	1-CR-NC	KL
3	19121	1	JC
4	20243	1	JLP
5	24700	1	JS
6	25197	1	DD
7	26303	1	JC
8	26335	1	JP
9	29365	1	KL
10	31848	1	MW
11	32115	1	KL
12	32116	1	KL

22 LEVEL TWO CASES

1	8867	2	KL	12	26353 REMOVED Committee Review	2	JS
2	14028 Resubmitted	2	KL	13	27023	2	DD
3	15597 JM Recused	2	JC	14	27851	2	DD
4	19151	2	DD	15	28043	2	JP
5	19934	2	KL	16	29303	2	KS
6	22918	2	JC	17	29458	2	JP
7	24420	2	DD	18	31183 JM Recused	2	JC
8	25495	2	DD	19	31331 Resubmitted	2	JP
9	25644	2	JC	20	31572	2	JS
10	25940	2	JC	21	32236	2	JS
11	26350	2	JP				

22 SEXUALLY DANGEROUS PREDATOR CASES

1	3010	SDP-RL-I	JP
2	11485	SDP	MA
3	12549	SDP	JC
4	14275	SDP	KL
5	16573	SDP	MA
6	18642	SDP	JS
7	19498	SDP	JP
8	21917	SDP	JS
9	22071	SDP	JC
10	24393	SDP	JLP
11	24417	SDP	DD
12	25951	SDP	JLP
13	27161	SDP	MW
14	27203	SDP	JS
15	29578	SDP	JS
16	29991	SDP	JP
17	30721	SDP	JC
18	30794	SDP	KL
19	31439	SDP	JP
20	32111	SDP	MA
21	32233	SDP	MA
22	12561	SDP-RL-I	KL

REEVALUATION CASES

1	3945	2-R-NC	JC
2	4232	2-R-NC	JC
3	31432 <i>JM Recused</i>	2-R-NC	JP

CASE TOTALS

LEVEL 1 CASE TOTAL	12
LEVEL 2 CASE TOTAL	21
SEXUALLY DANGEROUS PREDATOR CASE TOTAL	22
REVALUATION CASE TOTAL	3
OVERAL TOTAL CLASSIFIED BY VOTE	58
CASES CLASSIFIED AS A CANNOT LEVEL	2
TOTAL OVERALL CLASSIFIED 12/19/2024	60
CASES REMOVED	13198 (error); 26353 (committee review)
NEW TOTAL (BY VOTE)	58

BOARD MEMBER VOTE

	BOARD MEMBER	ATTENDED	1ST	2ND	LEVEL 1	1ST	2ND	LEVEL 2	1ST	2ND	SDP	1ST	2ND	REEVAL
1	Mindy Ackerman <i>Absent</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2	Elizabeth Bigham	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3	Ezell Brown	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4	Jerry Bruce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
5	James Chafin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
6	Robbie Frederick <i>Absent</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7	Katie Gropper	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
8	Jim Morton <i>Absent</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9	Frank Mullis	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
10	Bert Reeves <i>Absent</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11	Lori Rozier <i>Absent</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12	Meghan Thurmond	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	TOTAL PRESENT	7			7			7			7			7

***7 is a quorum; 8 if there is a recusal**