

Formal Meeting Minutes: Sex Offense Management Advisory Council (SOMAC) — June 24, 2026

1. Administrative Overview and Attendance

The Sex Offense Management Advisory Council (SOMAC) functions as a specialized "think tank" for the State of Utah, tasked with synthesizing clinical data and legislative trends into actionable offender management strategies. As the Council navigates its transition into a new departmental structure, maintaining a rigorous administrative record is paramount for institutional memory and ensuring policy continuity.

Attendees Present	Absentees
Michele (Chair), Jared, Tyler, Carter, Jesse, Melissa, Kevin, Jennifer, Dan, Mark <i>Online Participants: Austin, Aubrey</i>	Josh Draper, Matt, Liliana

Administrative Items:

- **Recording:** Danica confirmed the initiation of the digital recording at the start of the proceedings.
- **Meeting Format:** Chair Michelle noted the hybrid nature of the meeting (in-person and online). She outlined the session structure, consisting of an open public session followed by a closed session for private deliberations. With administrative formalities concluded, the Council transitioned to a strategic review of the legislative landscape.

2. Legislative Session Review: Implementation and Future Planning

Monitoring the implementation of legislative mandates is a strategic necessity to ensure statutory intent aligns with operational reality. The Council utilizes an internal Legislative Tracker—maintained by a rotating team of approximately ten contributors—to monitor the responsiveness of the Department of Public Safety (DPS) and the Department of Corrections (UDC). This proactive oversight allows SOMAC to provide the Legislature with evidence-based feedback rather than reactive commentary. **House Bill 370: Monitoring Program for Registrants without Permanent Residence** A primary focus remains the implementation of HB 370, which mandates a "monitoring program" (likely GPS-based) for sex offenders lacking permanent residency.

- **Key Provisions:** The bill requires placement on monitoring for those without an address, but provides a pathway for removal once residency is verified.
- **Implementation Status:** Despite the statutory mandate, there are currently no visible steps toward implementation by DPS or UDC. The specific administrative processes for removal from the program remain undefined, a gap the Council continues to monitor via the internal tracker. **Strategic Direction for Future Legislation** The Council is shifting away from aggressive legislative "pushing" in favor of a sophisticated, data-driven advisory role. This approach is a direct response to the "myopic views" and frequent "misunderstanding" of data often displayed in political arenas. By presenting objective

data sets that compare Utah's outcomes with national benchmarks, SOMAC aims to correct legislative misconceptions and shift the narrative toward long-term public safety efficacy. This strategic pivot relies on the technical requirement for standardized, interstate-comparable data collection.

3. Data Collection and Risk Assessment Standardization

The strategic importance of "speaking the same language" through standardized risk assessments cannot be overstated. Establishing a uniform diagnostic framework ensures data integrity and allows Utah to defend its policy decisions with scientific rigor. **Status of Static/Stable Risk Assessment Rollout** The transition to the Static/Stable assessment framework is progressing through a structured implementation plan:

1. **Trainer Capacity:** Four dedicated trainers, including UDC personnel, are now certified.
2. **Staff Competency:** Since March 2026, over 170 staff members have been retrained to ensure assessment consistency.
3. **System Expansion:** Training has successfully branched out from state agencies to include private community treatment providers. **Administrative Moratorium on Data Collection** The Department of Corrections is currently undergoing a total system replacement of the legacy O-Track/WebTrack platforms. Consequently, a formal administrative moratorium has been placed on the creation of new data collection tools until the transition is complete. This has resulted in a temporary "data hole," with new, organized data sets not expected to be fully accessible until potentially July of the following year. **The "So What?" Layer: Recidivism vs. Perception** High-level stakeholders must distinguish between population growth and recidivism. Since 1996, the sex offense population in Utah has increased by 500%; however, this is driven by legislative expansion of registrable offenses and general population growth—not a surge in new crimes. Actual recidivism rates in Utah remain consistently low at 2% to 4%. Correcting the public and legislative perception that the system is "out of control" is a primary strategic goal for the Council. This standardized data will serve as the bedrock for the Commission's new organizational identity.

4. Organizational Restructuring: Transition to the Department of Criminal Justice (DOCJ)

Effective July 1st, the Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice (CCJJ) will transition into the Department of Criminal Justice (DOCJ). This restructuring offers a significant opportunity for functional alignment, potentially merging SOMAC's oversight with the Domestic Violence Offender Treatment (DVOT) area to create a unified offender management hub. **The "Ideal State" and Tactical Diplomacy** To ensure the Council remains the "neck that turns the head" of the Legislature, SOMAC is developing a strategic plan for an "Ideal State" of offender management.

- **The "Menu" Approach:** In April, the Council will present the Legislature with a "menu" of expert-vetted study items. By allowing lawmakers to select the topics they wish to prioritize, the Council secures early political "buy-in."
- **Securing Credible Messengers:** This deferential tactic is designed to cultivate "champions" within the Legislature—credible messengers who can bridge the gap between clinical experts and policymakers. This strategy is essential to prevent the

Council from having its "neck chopped off" by political opposition or being dismissed as an interest group with a hidden agenda. This broad agency restructuring will directly inform the operational mandates of the Sex Offense Task Force.

5. Sex Offense Task Force: Policy and Clinical Standards

While SOMAC serves as the strategic think tank, the Sex Offense Task Force acts as the operational arm, managing implementation, provider certification, and clinical fidelity.

Sexual Interest Measures

The Task Force is refining standards to balance clinical depth with resource efficiency:

Evaluation Context	Strategic Utility
General Evaluations	Often redundant if the offender has already admitted to specific interests; may be omitted to save resources.
Family Reunification	Non-negotiable; essential for safety planning when an offender seeks to re-enter a household with children.

Deep-Dive Analysis: Polygraph Utility and Fiscal Realities The Council conducted a strategic review of polygraph application, noting a tension between clinical ideals and fiscal constraints:

- **Sexual History Polygraphs:** These tests cost approximately \$350–\$400 per session. Current policy generally requires them post-release, which creates a "threat effect" that encourages truth-telling. However, conducting these in a prison setting can fracture the clinician-client relationship—the single highest predictor of treatment success.
- **Legal Context:** A law passed 2–3 years ago prohibits self-incrimination during these tests. Consequently, they are used as a treatment fidelity and discovery tool (identifying uncharged victims for treatment planning) rather than a mechanism for new convictions.
- **Fiscal Reality:** If conducted during prison-based treatment, the State would incur an estimated \$500,000 expense. The current system remains solvent by requiring offenders to pay for their own tests post-release, despite the clinical "strangeness" of the timing.
- **Maintenance Polygraphs:** These remain a high-reliability tool for Adult Probation and Parole (AP&P), focusing on single-issue compliance (e.g., unauthorized contact with minors) during community supervision.

6. Public Comment and Adjournment of Public Meeting

Following the operational updates, the Chair initiated the transition protocol to conclude the public portion of the meeting.

- **Public Comment:** A formal call for public comment was made. No comments were offered by those present in the gallery or online.
- **Adjournment:** In accordance with protocol, members of the public and online attendees were instructed to disconnect to allow the Council to move into its closed, executive session. The public session was formally adjourned at the conclusion of these items.