Department of Criminal Justice
Tom Ross, Commissioner
Phone: 801-538-1031
www.justice.utah.gov
Utah State Capitol Complex
Senate Building, Suite 330
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114

Meeting Minutes (DRAFT)
Sex Offense Management Advisory Committee (SOMAC)
Wednesday, June 24, 2026
10:00am - 12:00pm

Legislative Updates & Data Collection

1. **Monitoring Program for Individuals Without Permanent Residence (HB 370):**
    a. Legislation requires individuals without a permanent residence who are required to register to be placed into a monitoring program (likely GPS monitoring).
    b. Once residency is established and verified, a process will allow removal from the program.
        i. Implementation details and processes remain pending, though a legislative tracker is actively monitoring updates.

2. **Risk Assessment Standardization (Static/Stable Transition):**
    a. The Department of Corrections (UDC) is transitioning away from variable risk assessmentsto standardize on the Static/Stable assessment across Utah.
    b. UDC now has four dedicated trainers who have trained approximately 170 staff members and are expanding training to private/community providers.
        i. Benefits of this standardization include consistent data sets, improved report sharing across providers, and direct comparability with national research and other states.

3. **Data Integration & Software Challenges:**
    a. UDC is replacing its legacy system (O-Track/Web-Track) with a new system.
    b. New data collection structures are currently paused until the software system transition is completed.
    c. Data sets have been shared with CCJJ for preliminary analysis, though minor gaps remain while waiting for complete community provider integration.

4. **Contextualizing Incarceration Rates & Recidivism:**
    a. Discussions highlighted that sex offender incarceration numbers show a ~500% increase since 1996.
        i. However, raw figures fail to account for overall population growth, expanded reporting laws, and legal changes.
    b. UDC's tracked recidivism rates remain in the 2% to 4% range.

Organizational Restructuring (Department of Criminal Justice)

5. **Structural Changes:**
    a. Effective July 1st, CCJJ is transitioning under the newly established Department of Criminal Justice (DOCJ).

6. **Operational Impact on SOMAC:**
    a. SOMAC will maintain its existing role as a policy advisory and "think tank" group.
    b. There are ongoing internal discussions regarding potential consolidation or alignment of offender management roles (such as domestic violence offense treatment and sex offense task force responsibilities) under DOCJ.

7. **Legislative Engagement & Strategic Planning:**
    a. Members discussed strategies to prevent friction with the legislature and avoid feeling "under fire".
        i. **Proposed Approach**
            1. Develop a master strategic plan or vision for offender management and treatment standards. Present study topics during legislative interim periods to seek legislative buy-in and select co-identified policy priorities.
    b. Focus on positioning SOMAC as an expert resource for evidence-based treatment standards and fidelity, which are generally non-political and do not always require statutory changes.

Sex Offense Task Force Updates

8. **Role Clarification:**
    a. While SOMAC functions as a research and policy advisory body, the Sex Offense Task Force operates as the "boots on the ground" handling provider certifications, background checks, treatment standard enforcement, and site spot-checks.

9. **Evaluations & Sexual Interest Measures:**
    a. SOTF is refining policies regarding when sexual interest measures are necessary during offender evaluations.
    b. Issues noted include the time-intensive nature of testing, redundant testing when offenders already admit to specific sexual interests, and how testing applies to family reunification decisions.

10. **Polygraph Requirements & Operational Concerns:**
    a. Current policy requires sexual history polygraphs upon release from prison, which clients must pay out-of-pocket ($350–400 each).
    b. **System Issues Identified:**
        i. Performing sexual history polygraphs *after* prison/treatment is poorly timed for treatment utility.
        ii. Performing polygraphs prior to release/treatment would require UDC to fund hundreds of thousands of dollars for waitlisted individuals.
        iii. In-prison polygraphs can cause stress and fracture the essential therapeutic alliance between clients and clinicians.
    c. SOTF is reviewing whether the focus should shift toward single-issue maintenance/compliance polygraphs during parole rather than extensive post-release sexual history polygraphs.

Public Comment & Adjournment

11. Public comment was opened.
    a. Following no public comments, members of the public were asked to log off so the board could transition into a closed session.

Next Meeting:
Wednesday, November 21, 2026
1:00pm - 3:00pm
Virtual Only