

DOMESTIC/FAMILY VIOLENCE COMMITTEE MEETING
10-17-07
MINUTES

The committee initiated the meeting discussing where all of the members were at in terms of Domestic Violence Supervision. In our "roundtable" type discussion, it was learned that approaches and standards varied statewide. We then discussed the assessment tools used within the state. Most counties have yet to adopt an ancillary/trailer tool for Domestic Violence offenders and are solely using the LSI-R. However, in Cook County, the SARA (Spousal Assault Risk Assessment) is being used and in Madison County, the ODARA (Ontario Domestic Assault Risk Assessment) has been implemented.

The majority of the meeting was dedicated to a guest speaker, Dr. Jeremy Jewell. He is a Clinical Psychology professor at Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville. He has served as a consultant to Madison County Probation and Court Services. He is responsible for introducing Madison County to the ODARA and has served in validating the YASI within Madison County. He spoke primarily about the ODARA, including its strengths and weaknesses. The ODARA is a public domain assessment and can be used or implemented by any correctional or law enforcement professional. It also is not necessary for the offender to be present at the time of the assessment, which does away with the justifications and minimizations that are so common from domestic violence offenders. It can only be used, however, with intimate male/female relationships and they must co-inhabit the same residence for some period of time.

Dr. Jewell will be presenting a workshop for the spring 2008 conference in Springfield that will discuss the ODARA in more detail, but will also explore other trailer tools that are on the market. The next Domestic/Family Violence Committee Meeting will be held in January at the Government Center in Bloomington, IL.