

# FLORIDA FORUM

Winter 2006-2007



A T S A

**FLORIDA ASSOCIATION FOR THE TREATMENT OF SEXUAL ABUSERS**

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## **Announcement of New FATSA Board President**

**By Denise Hughes-Conlon**

It is my pleasure to announce that our new President Elect is Dr. Eric Imhoff. The election was very close as we had two very qualified and dedicated candidates.

Dr. Imhoff took the initiative this past year to work with The Florida Boards regarding standards for Qualified Practitioners. He spent a great deal of his own time and dedicated countless hours of hard work ensuring treatment standards for sexual offenders in the state of Florida. I am confident he will continue his dedication to FATSA as our president.

### **ABOUT ERIC A. IMHOFF, PSY.D.**

Dr. Imhof received his doctoral degree in clinical psychology from The Virginia Consortium Program in Clinical Psychology in Virginia Beach, Virginia in 1996 with a concentration in personality assessment. In 1997, he completed his residency at The Pines Residential Treatment Center –

Behavioral Studies Program, a 150 bed residential juvenile treatment center and obtained licensure as a Clinical Psychologist in Virginia. The following year he completed advanced training in sex offender evaluation and treatment and was certified as a Sex Offender Treatment Provider by the Virginia Board of Psychology. In 1999, he relocated to Florida and obtained his Florida license.

In 1997, he accepted a position as Assessment/Research and Outcomes Coordinator and worked with a team of professionals to develop system wide program evaluation for Alternative Behavioral Services. During this tenure, Dr. Imhof also maintained a position as an Assistant Professor with Eastern Virginia Medical School. In 1999, Dr. Imhof accepted the position of Program Director at the Elaine Gordon Treatment Center, a 50 bed sexual offender treatment facility operated by the Brown Schools of Florida. In February 2000, he was promoted to the position of Director of Assessment/Research and Outcomes for the Brown Schools of Florida. In June 2000, he established Specialized Treatment and Assessment Resources, a practice focusing on sexual offender evaluation and treatment.

In his private practice, Dr. Imhof has contracted with the Florida Department of Children and Families to conduct Sexually Violent Predator Evaluations and with the Broward County Courts and the Brown Schools of Florida to conduct competency evaluations. He has served as a consultant to Three Springs of Broward County and the Peninsula Therapy Center, and has provided individual and group treatment to juvenile and adult sexual offenders. In July 2005, he was appointed by Governor Bush to the Task Force on Juvenile Sexual Offenders and their Victims.

Dr. Imhoff's vision for the next two years is to increase the visibility of FATSA as a resource to the community, our colleagues, and legislators. "We need to focus on educating the community and key legislators about effective sex offender management and treatment practices. These activities require not only financial resources but a dedicated membership. Legislation continues to be proposed that will impact the clients we treat and the practice of our profession. While the proposed legislation appears well intended, those who sponsor and vote on this legislation are poorly informed regarding current research and theories on sex offender treatment and management. As an organization, we need to continue to build upon the gains we have made in networking with legislators and other organizations working on issues related to sex offenders and community safety. We need to focus on educating the community and key legislators about effective sex offender management and treatment practices. These activities require not only financial resources but a dedicated membership."

**Florida ATSA and Sexual Abuse  
Intervention Network (SAIN)  
Joint Conference**

**May 17 and 18**

The 2007 conference and membership meeting will be held in conjunction with SAIN in Tampa on May seventeenth and eighteenth. Final arrangements are

in the making and you will be receiving final conference and CEU information and registration forms in the near future.

There is much enthusiasm about our two planned keynote speakers; Dr. David Finkelhor and David Prescott, LICSW. David Finkelhor is Co-Director of the Family Research Laboratory and Professor of Sociology at the University of New Hampshire. He has been studying the problems of child victimization, child maltreatment and family violence since 1977. He is well known for his conceptual and empirical work on the problem of child sexual abuse, reflected in publications such as *Sourcebook on Child Sexual Abuse* (Sage, 1986) and *Nursery Crimes* (Sage, 1988).

Dr. Finkelhor has also written about child homicide, missing and abducted children, children exposed to domestic and peer violence and other forms of family violence. In his recent work, he has tried to unify and integrate knowledge about all the diverse forms of child victimization in a field he has termed *Developmental Victimology*. He is editor and author of 10 books and over 75 journal articles and book chapters. In 1994, he was given the Distinguished Child Abuse Professional Award by the American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children.

According to his website, David Prescott has worked specifically with individuals who have sexually abused since 1987. He has a strong interest in sharing resources, networking, and training to increase knowledge in these fields.

Mr. Prescott has published articles on risk assessment, interviewing, and providing residential treatment to youth, and is the editor of recent books on

youth who have sexually abused. He has presented on these topics around North America and in Europe. He is also President Elect of the Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers (ATSA), and former editor of *The Forum*.

His published works focus on Risk assessment, Interviewing, Residential treatment for youth and Youth who have sexually abused. He has presented on these topics around North America and in Europe.

Workshop topics will include: Introduction to Motivational Interviewing, The Current State of Adolescent Risk Assessment, Current Trends in Adult Risk Assessment and Implementation of Sexual Violence Policies, including the Adam Walsh Act into clinical practice, among others.

The Wyndham Westshore in Tampa has reserved a block of rooms at a very special price of \$88. This will increase significantly after April 16, 2007, so you are encouraged to reserve your room soon.

Further conference information and registration forms will be mailed to all FATSA members.

### **Legislative News**

**Leo P. Cotter, Ph. D.**

This legislative session FATSA will not be initiating any recommendations for change in laws involving sexual abuse. I will be providing information on the FATSA web site on new bills filed this legislative session and links to Florida Statutes regulating sex offender supervision and tracking.

Currently there are several bills worth tracking. HB 157 has innovative ideas to track transient sex offenders and establish no loitering zones. This bill also allows evaluations for treatment and a restriction from children for failure to register cases. Of concern are SB 98 and SB 512. SB 98 expands the resident restriction from 1000 feet to 2500 feet and includes public school bus stops. SB 512 expands the requirement for community registration from a person who has been released from sanctions on or after 10-1-97 to anyone who has been released from sanctions.

Please check the FATSA web site for a detailed listing of bills and links.

### **ATSA Annual Conference**

**October 31 - November 3, 2007  
San Diego, California**

Once again the ATSA annual conference will offer unequalled opportunities for learning, professional growth, networking and the dissemination of the latest research findings with regard to the prevention of sexual abuse through effective interventions with identified and potential abusers. Like its predecessors, the 2007 conference will feature the field's top researchers and practitioners providing state-of-the-art knowledge focused on increasing public safety by improving assessment, treatment, and management of sexual abusers along with associated activities.

The theme for this year's conference is "Partners, Policies and Practices: Making Society Safer." All submissions related to the prevention of sexual abuse and the assessment, treatment and management of sexual abusers are welcome. Information regarding the conference and submissions is available from the ATSA website.