



Training and Continuing Education for Approval Status

Purpose:

To establish guidelines for approval, training, and continuing education for all Approved Evaluators and Providers.

Clinicians seeking TSOTB Approved Provider Status

- Providers seeking TSOTB approval for the first time will attend the annual New Provider Training followed by the plenary session of the annual TSOTB training program.
- Applications for providers seeking to be approved by the TSOTB are taken within 60 days of completing the new provider training.
- Applications may be presented throughout the year for those who are seeking reciprocity licensure in TN with sex offender treatment provider credentials in their licensing state.
- All applications must be received a minimum of two weeks before the scheduled board meeting. All applications received after that period will be reviewed at the next regularly scheduled board meeting.

Clinicians seeking TSOTB Approved Evaluator Status

- Applications for Approved Evaluators are taken on an as-needed basis. A formal announcement of applications being accepted will be emailed to all current TSOTB-approved providers and placed on the public website.
- All applications must be received a minimum of two weeks before the scheduled board meeting. All applications received after that period will be reviewed at the next regularly scheduled board meeting.
- For those seeking initial approval as an evaluator, applicants will be required to submit to an interview panel that concentrates on the applicant's knowledge of sex offender dynamics, risk factors related to sexual re-offense, clinical interview standards, concerns related to community placement, objective testing, and the ability to use clinical expertise to calculate risk. Additionally, applicants will be interviewed on their understanding of risk recommendations specific to reducing sexual offenses and their knowledge of how the evaluation impacts sex offender treatment. The interview panel will include the Presiding Officer and no more than four additional persons, chosen by the Presiding Officer, with experience and expertise in risk evaluations.
- For current TSOTB Approved Evaluators seeking approval to complete Release from Community Supervision for Life evaluations, applicants will be required to submit to an interview panel that concentrates on the applicant's knowledge of the sexual offense cycle, cognitive distortions, common thinking errors, negative behavior patterns, and risk factors related to sexual re-offense. Additionally, the panel will focus on the applicant's clinical interview standards, their understanding of the dynamics required for the client to safely and successfully self-regulate and self-monitor their behavior in the community without supervision, and their ability to determine an accurate level of victim empathy and truthfulness of the client. The interview panel will include the Presiding Officer and no more than four additional persons, chosen by the Presiding Officer, with experience and expertise in risk evaluations.



Required annual training for Approved Evaluators and Approved Providers

- Current approved providers and approved evaluators will be required to attend a minimum of eight (8) TSOTB monthly Lunch & Learn sessions offered virtually during the FY23/24 training year. In-person (live) attendance is highly encouraged for all training, however, if the provider/evaluator cannot attend a particular session in person, the provider/evaluator shall email the Presiding Officer and request a recording of the presentation. Upon completion of the training, whether live or via video recording, the provider/evaluator will submit a completed test for understanding the material taught. Providers/Evaluators may be mandated to participate in a specific session to assist with competency and/or understanding of a particular area if deficits are noted during the clinical audit.
- For the FY23/24 training year, the monthly Lunch & Learn sessions will provide one (1) clinical continuing education credit at no cost to the provider/evaluator if participation in the training is done during the live session. Any training completed with the recorded version will also be free of charge but will not be eligible for education credits.
- Current approved providers and approved evaluators will be required to attend quarterly training as determined through the clinical audit process. This quarterly training will address any deficit areas or areas in which the provider needs continuing training. All attempts will be made to hold the quarterly training within the region where the provider/evaluator resides to limit travel expenses by the provider.
- All currently approved providers and evaluators will be required to attend the annual TSOTB training.
- All currently approved evaluators will be required to attend the annual TSOTB evaluator training.
- Providers may request an exception to the mandatory attendance requirement for the annual conference within 30 days before the training program. Requests for exceptions will be considered on a case-by-case basis. The Board reserves the right to grant or deny any request for exception. Requests shall be submitted to the Presiding Officer via email. The request shall include the provider's request for absence. The decision by the Board will be in writing. The board recognizes that emergencies do occur, therefore emergency requests will also be considered on a case-by-case basis.
- All providers who are excused from attending the annual training shall be required to attend a comparable training instead of the annual TSOTB training. The Provider shall include the proposed training in the request for absence. The Provider will be notified in writing of approval. Upon completion of the alternative program, documentation shall be submitted to the Presiding Officer. Documentation shall include the name of the conference or training program attended, the names of the workshops/seminars attended, and the name of the presenter. The training program must occur within the same calendar year, or within the first sixty days of the following calendar year to be accepted.

*****Approved November 17, 2023*****