

**BATTERERS INTERVENTION PROGRAM STANDARDS  
OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE**

**Meeting of December 6, 2004**

**Open session**

**Minutes**

**Voting Members Present (4): Stephen King, RI Supreme Court, Vice Chair; Gwen Andrade, RI Coalition Against Domestic Violence; Honorable Elaine Bucci, RI District Court; Kristen Meuse, RI Justice Commission.**

**Seats Not Represented (9): RI Department of Corrections; RI Police Chiefs Association; RI Department of Health; Supreme Court Domestic Violence Training & Monitoring Unit; Justice Assistance; Office of the Attorney General, Governor's Office; Center for Social Work Practice/BIP Representative; Urban League of RI.**

**Additional Participants (8): Kathy Carty, Vantage Point; Sharon Schwartz-Vanderhoff, Probation and Parole; Shelley Cortese, Probation and Parole; Kevin Murphy, Tri-Hab; Laura Jaworski, BIPSOC; Susan Wilkie, Family Violence Intervention/Kent Center, David Tulli, Vantage Point; Sage Bauer, RI Coalition Against Domestic Violence.**

## **Materials Distributed:**

**Meeting Agenda: December 6, 2004**

**Meeting Minutes: October 4, 2004**

**Draft Standards revision section: Appendix P.: "Specialized Training/Experience"**

**Updated Batterers Intervention Program grid schedule with program contacts**

**Schedule of meetings for 2005**

**Steve King, Committee Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 2:10pm. New attendees were welcomed and introduced.**

## **Review of Minutes**

**Minutes from the October 4th, 2004 meeting were reviewed but not adopted due to lack of quorum at call to order. Minutes tabled until February 2005 meeting. [Note: August meeting minutes remained tabled.]**

## **Review Subcommittee Report**

**„X Sisan Smallman and Laura Jaworski were in contact with Lora Spalt, Program Director at CIS. A meeting had been scheduled for November 8th with Ms. Spalt to review the re-submitted provisional application. Ms. Spalt cancelled the meeting, and Sisan and Laura are awaiting contact from Ms. Spalt to re-schedule.**

**„X Applications for renewed comprehensive certification for CODAC and Feedback are due in January 2005.**

**„X Laura reported that NRI will no longer offer a batterers intervention program. The agency has ceased accepting new referrals, but will continue with the clients that are currently enrolled until they have completed the program. Any clients that have a significant number of weeks to complete will be referred to another program. NRI expects to close the batterers intervention program by January 2005, however they will continue to offer anger management classes and substance abuse counseling.**

**o Gwen Andrade reported that the RICADV will be in contact with Richard Lapierre from CSWP in regards to naming a BIP representative as an alternate [Steve Horovitz from NRI was the alternate]. Should Richard not have an alternate in mind to be nominated, the RICADV will send a letter to all of the programs as a means to seek an alternate voting member for the BIPs.**

### **Rules & Standards Subcommittee Report**

**Oversight Committee members were provided with Appendix P entitled „§Specialized Training/Experience: Seasoned Facilitators, Facilitator Trainees, Student Intern Facilitators“, which was drafted by the Rules and Standards Subcommittee. In preparation for discussion at today’s meeting, members were asked to review the Section VIII of the Standards revisions, specifically „§Facilitator Qualifications“.**

**Steve reviewed the process involved in accepting revisions to the Standards. The items that are presented for Oversight Committee input will be considered by the Rules and Standards Subcommittee for further development and discussion, if necessary. Any finalized revisions to the Standards would be considered by the Office of the Attorney General, public hearings, and the Secretary of State.**

**Laura reported on the changes to the “Facilitator Qualifications” section, which includes an appendix outlining facilitator training and experience. The current Standards briefly outline requirements for facilitators, with minimal descriptive information. This section in the revisions has further clarified the definition of facilitator to include “seasoned facilitator”, “facilitator trainee”, “student intern facilitators”, and “group observers”. Each section describes the background and training requirements for each type. Training topics for facilitators have been clarified and broken down into specific areas. Examples are given in the appendix outlining examples for each area on topics to be covered in training.**

**The Subcommittee also clarified the “Nature of Supervision for Facilitators” section. The original Standards maintain the requirement of four (4) hours/month of supervision; however the proposed revisions change this to one (1) hour/month of formalized supervision. Supplemental supervision can also be accessed by facilitators, and is outlined in this section. Guidelines for supervision modalities, topics, format, documentation, and records are**

established in the revisions.

Steve reported that the number of training hours have been reduced from forty (40) to thirty-five (35), however the requirements for training topics have been clarified. Further, of the one hundred (100) group hours required for facilitators, eighty (80) of these are to be spent actively facilitating groups, with the remaining twenty (20) hours dedicated to observation and/or writing tasks. "Supervision" was clarified as a specific time set aside for direct supervision, and not being utilized as staff meetings, etc. Steve reported that the Subcommittee is currently discussing the number of seasoned facilitators required to lead a group when a facilitator trainee is present for groups with ten (10) or more participants.

David Tulli requested clarification on the eighty (80) group hours that would be required for facilitators. Steve reported that this time would be spent actively facilitating groups. Kathy Carty further explained that the Subcommittee has been discussing tasks or other activities related to the one hundred (100) group hour requirement.

#### **Member Issues/Announcements**

Laura Jaworski distributed the Oversight Committee's meeting schedule for 2005. Laura noted that the meetings will still be held at the Department of Administration, but in Conference Room C. Group members suggested not only mailing the 2005 schedule, but initiating phone contact to encourage attendance by all members.

Laura proposed an ongoing training opportunity for the Oversight Committee's consideration. Laura requested that if any member(s) required training, additional information, or was curious about other programs, agencies, etc., to please contact her and so that she may arrange for a training/presentation. Laura suggested that members might be interested, for example, in a "BIP 101", "Probation 101", or "Court system 101" training. Laura also hoped that members might be interested, if applicable, in making one of these presentations. Trainings would be 10-15 minutes in length and would be at the beginning of the Oversight Committee meeting, approximately every other meeting (depending on topics to be covered).

## **Upcoming Meetings**

### **Rules and Standards Subcommittee**

**December 14, 2004 at 2:30 at Bernadette Building, 15 Fleming Rd., Cranston DOC.**

### **Review Subcommittee**

**TBA**

### **DV Critical Case Review Team**

**January 18, 2005 at 2:00 in Pinel Building, 2nd Floor, RIDOC Cranston.**

**Oversight Committee**

**MONDAY, February 7, 2005 at 2:00 at DOA, Conference Room C  
(note: conference room change).**

**Meeting Adjourned**

**Meeting adjourned at 2:40 p.m.**

**Respectfully Submitted,**

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**Laura Jaworski, Project Services Coordinator**

**Batterers Intervention Program Standards Oversight Committee**