

**BATTERERS INTERVENTION PROGRAM STANDARDS
OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE**

Meeting of August 1, 2005 DRAFT

Open session

Minutes

Voting Members Present (7): Sisan Smallman, RI Department of Corrections, Chair; Stephen King, RI Supreme Court, Vice Chair; Kristen Meuse, RI Justice Commission; Beatriz Perez, RI Department of Health; Janice Dubois, Supreme Court Domestic Violence Training & Monitoring Unit; Toni Roderick, Urban League; Ed Degnan, BIPS Representative.

Seats Not Represented (6): RI Coalition Against Domestic Violence; RI District Court; RI Police Chiefs Association; Justice Assistance; Office of the Attorney General; Governor's Office.

Additional Participants (7): Ray Dussault, Galilee Mission; Debra Parente, RIBIP; Kathy Carty, Vantage Point; Sharon Schwartz-Vanderhoff, Probation & Parole; Shelley Cortese, Probation & Parole; Kevin Murphy, Tri-Hab; Audrey Shaw, Adult Probation & Parole.

Materials Distributed:

Meeting Agenda: August 1, 2005

Meeting Minutes: June 2005

Certification Summary: Galilee Mission to Fishermen

By-Laws Section I., Article V., pertaining to Meetings (specifically quorum);

Sisan Smallman, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 2:13 pm. She noted for the record that Laura Jaworski, Project Services Coordinator, is not able to attend as she is in Scotland.

Review of Minutes

Minutes from the meeting of June 6, 2005 were reviewed and adopted.

Steve King made a motion to adopt the June 2005 minutes. Janice Dubois seconded the motion. All votes in favor; none opposed; no abstentions. Motion carried.

By-Laws Amended

There was brief discussion of an amendment to the By-Laws, Section

I, Article V, as proposed at the last meeting and distributed in advance to all voting members. This amendment would change how a quorum is determined, in the event that one or more voting seats on the Oversight Committee is unrepresented for three (3) or more consecutive meetings. The number required to constitute a quorum to enable the Committee to conduct business and take votes would be reduced by one (1) for each such unrepresented seat, except that in no event shall a quorum consist of less than five (5) representative seats. The purpose is to enhance the ability of the Oversight Committee to conduct normal business. (The full text of Article V. of the By-Laws is attached).

Beatriz Perez made a motion to adopt the proposed amendment to the By-Laws. Steve King seconded the motion. All votes in favor; none opposed; no abstentions. Motion carried.

A full text of the amended By-Laws will be sent out to all voting members.

Rules & Standards Subcommittee Report

Sisan reported that the Rules and Standards Subcommittee is working on several draft changes to Standards based on suggestions brought to the group by Ray Dussault of Galilee. The changes could be described as relating to prevention of “program shopping,” when

clients move from program to program in order to avoid accountability, challenging group issues, imminent discharge, or other problems. While some program transfers are inevitable – and are based on legitimate client needs, program logistics, or other issues discussed among the parties – changes are being proposed that would reduce the likelihood of the kinds of moves that disrupt client progress and have a destructive impact on the groups as a whole. Sisan invited all interested persons to attend and participate in meetings.

Review Subcommittee Report

Renewed Comprehensive Certification:

Ray Dussault was present on behalf of Galilee Mission to Fishermen, whose existing Comprehensive Certification was scheduled to expire today. A program summary for Galilee Mission was distributed and reviewed. It is a residential substance abuse program for men. Galilee does not ordinarily accept outside referrals, and only some of the residents are court-mandated to attend batterers intervention. However, the program rules require all residents to complete the full 26 week, 40 hour program. All groups are facilitated by one male and one female facilitator. Group observation and review of the curriculum, staff qualifications, supervision records, case files, and other documents were described in the summary, which indicated that the Review Subcommittee recommends renewed certification for

two years.

Janice Dubois made a motion to award renewed Comprehensive Certification to Galilee Mission to Fishermen. Toni Roderick seconded the motion. Six (6) votes in favor; none opposed; one abstention (Ed Degnan, BIP representative). Motion carried.

Program Expiration:

The Center for Social Work Practice is scheduled today for expiration of its certification as a batterers intervention program. Richard Lapierre indicated partway through the application process that he had decided not to pursue renewed Comprehensive Certification. Therefore, with regret, Sisan and the Oversight Committee took notice that CSWP is no longer a certified program. Sisan and Laura will notify referral sources and other recipients of the list of certified programs that CSWP is no longer eligible for referrals.

Sisan noted Mr. Lapierre had been advised to work with the referral sources to ease the transition for active clients to other programs, but that details were not available as to how many active clients CSWP had referred elsewhere. Dr. Kathy Carty stated that her program had taken on some of the clients.

Sisan expressed appreciation for Richard's long service to domestic violence clients, as well as his past service as a voting member on

the Oversight Committee and member and facilitator of the Rules and Standards Subcommittee.

Upcoming Renewal Applications:

Laura Jaworski is working on different phases of the application process with each of the following programs:

- Kent House, expiring October 2005.**
- Kent Center, expiring December 2005.**
- Family Violence Intervention, expiring February 2006.**
- Tri-Hab, expiring February 2006.**

Member Issues/Announcements

Kathy Carty asked if there was any more available information on the batterers program conference (From Roots to Wings: the Future of Batterer Intervention) scheduled for November in Detroit. No one present had any updates. However, Kristin Meuse indicated that she expects to hear soon on renewed funding of GTEAP, from which some travel funds might be made available.

Upcoming Meetings

Rules and Standards Subcommittee

August 9, 2005 at 2:30 in Bernadette Building, 15 Fleming Rd.,

Cranston DOC.

Review Subcommittee

**August 30, 2005 at 2:30 at Bernadette Building, 15 Fleming Rd.,
Cranston DOC.**

DV Critical Case Review Team

**September 20, 2005 at 2:00 in Pinel Building, 2nd Floor, Wilma
Schlessler Lane, RIDOC Cranston.**

Oversight Committee

MONDAY, October 3, 2005, at 2:00 at DOA, Conference Room C .

Meeting Adjourned

**Beatriz Perez made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Janice Dubois
seconded the motion. All votes in favor; none opposed; no
abstentions. Motion carried.**

Meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sisan Smallman, Chair

Batterers Intervention Program Standards Oversight Committee