

**BATTERERS INTERVENTION PROGRAM STANDARDS
OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE**

Meeting of October 3, 2005

Open session

Minutes

Voting Members Present (9): Sisan Smallman, RI Department of Corrections, Chair; Stephen King, RI Supreme Court, Vice Chair; Deborah DeBare, RI Coalition Against Domestic Violence; Kristen Meuse, RI Justice Commission; Beatriz Perez, RI Department of Health; Janice Dubois, Supreme Court Domestic Violence Training & Monitoring Unit; Dennis Langley, Urban League; Ed Degnan, BIPs Representative; John Brennan, Justice Assistance.

Seats Not Represented (4): RI District Court; RI Police Chiefs Association; Office of the Attorney General; Governor's Office.

Additional Participants (7): George Sheehan, RIBIP; Kathy Carty, Vantage Point; Sharon Schwartz-Vanderhoff, Probation & Parole; Shelley Cortese, Probation & Parole; Brandi Campbell, Probation & Parole Intern; Sage Bauer, RI Coalition Against Domestic Violence; Laura Jaworski, BIPSOC.

Materials Distributed:

Meeting Agenda: October 3, 2005

Meeting Minutes: August 1, 2005

Certification Summary: Kent House

Updated By-Law revisions from August 1st, 2005 meeting

Sisan Smallman, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 2:10 pm.

Review of Minutes

Minutes from the meeting of August 1, 2005 were reviewed and adopted.

Steve King made a motion to adopt the August 2005 minutes. Dennis Langley seconded the motion. All votes in favor; none opposed; no abstentions. Motion carried.

By-Laws

The By-Laws, as approved and amended by the Committee at the August 1st, 2005 meeting were made available to members.

Review Subcommittee Report

Sisan Smallman nominated Laura Jaworski as Review Subcommittee Chair effective immediately. No objections made, nomination accepted.

Upcoming Renewal Applications:

- Laura Jaworski is working on different phases of the application process with each of the following programs:**
 - o Kent Center, expiring December 2005.**
 - o Family Violence Intervention, expiring February 2006.**
 - o Tri-Hab, expiring February 2006.**

Renewed Comprehensive Certification:

Ed Degnan was present on behalf of Kent House, Inc., whose existing Comprehensive Certification was scheduled to expire today. A program summary for Kent House was distributed and reviewed. Kent House is a private, non-profit agency which provides a batterers intervention program, as well as a comprehensive treatment program for alcohol and chemical dependency. Kent House operates four (4) batterers intervention groups per week (three for males, one for females) in Warwick. All groups are facilitated by one male and one female facilitator and follow a twenty week curriculum. 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.

Deborah DeBare made a motion to award renewed Comprehensive Certification to Kent House, Inc. Dennis Langley seconded the motion. Eight (8) votes in favor; none opposed; one abstention (Ed Degnan, BIP representative). Motion carried.

Member Issues/Announcements

Deb DeBare reported on the various activities that will be held throughout the month as October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. The theme of this year's campaign is "Domestic Violence: It's Closer Than You Think" and features individuals in diverse roles who are impacted by domestic violence. Campaign flyers and purple bracelets with the phrase "No Excuse for Abuse" on them were distributed to members. Information on events that will be held at all the member agencies is available at the Coalition's website: www.ricadv.org.

Sisan reported she, along with Laura Jaworski and Kathy Carty, will be attending the Batterers Intervention Services Coalition of Michigan Conference, "From Roots to Wings", will be held on November 2-4th,

2005, in Dearborn, Michigan. More information on the conference can be obtained at www.biscmi.org.

Sisan noted that EMERGE, a batterers intervention program in Massachusetts will be hosting a training for facilitators on three (3) different dates. Brochures are available with more information.

Upcoming Meetings

Rules and Standards Subcommittee

October 11th, 2005 at 2:30 in Bernadette Building, 15 Fleming Rd., Cranston DOC.

Review Subcommittee

October 25th, 2005 at 2:30 at Bernadette Building, 15 Fleming Rd., Cranston DOC.

DV Critical Case Review Team

November 22nd, 2005 at 2:00 in Pinel Building, 2nd Floor, Wilma Schlessler Lane, RIDOC Cranston.

Oversight Committee

MONDAY, December 5th, 2005, at 2:00 at DOA, Conference Room C .

Meeting Adjourned

Deb DeBare made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ed Degnan seconded the motion. All votes in favor; none opposed; no abstentions. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Laura Jaworski, Project Services Coordinator

Batterers Intervention Program Standards Oversight Committee