

**BATTERERS INTERVENTION PROGRAM STANDARDS  
OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE**

**Meeting of December 3rd, 2007**

**Open session**

**Minutes Draft**

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**Voting Members Present (6): Shelley Cortese, RI Department of Corrections/Chair; Stephen King, RI Supreme Court/Co-Chair; Ed Degnan, Kent House/BIPs Representative; Deb DeBare, RI Coalition Against Domestic Violence; Janice Dubois, Supreme Court Domestic Violence Training & Monitoring Unit; Joseph Ben, Justice Assistance**

**Seats Not Represented (7): Governor's Office; Department of Health; RI Justice Commission; Urban League; RI District Court; RI Police Chiefs Association; Office of the Attorney General.**

**Additional Participants (7): Sisan Smallman; Emily Daniels, BIPSOC; Dr. Kathleen Carty, Vantage Point; George Sheehan, RI-BIP; Lionel Hernandez; MAP-BIP; David Spencer, Tri-Hab; Sage Bauer, RI Coalition Against Domestic Violence.**

**Materials Distributed:**

**Meeting Agenda: December 3rd, 2007**

**Meeting Minutes: October 2nd, 2007**

**Summary Provisional Certification: MAP-BIP**

## **Summary Comprehensive Re-Certification: Kent House**

### **Seasoned Facilitator Applications: Vantage Point**

#### **Materials Made Available:**

**Proposed Revisions: Comprehensive Standards**

**Proposed Revisions: Rules of Practice & Procedures**

**MAP-BIP Application for Provisional Certification \*for review only; in accordance with the Rules of Practice & Procedures**

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**Shelley Cortese, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 2:10 pm. Sisan noted that a voting quorum had been met. Shelley introduced Sisan as attending meeting to answer any questions regarding the proposed revision of the Comprehensive Standards and Rules of Practice and Procedure, and the upcoming public hearing. Shelley introduced Emily as having returned from maternity leave on a limited basis.**

#### **Review of Minutes**

**Minutes from the meeting of October 2nd, 2007 were reviewed and adopted.**

**Deb DeBare made a motion to adopt the October 2nd, 2007 minutes. Steve King seconded the motion. All votes in favor; none opposed; motion carried.**

## **Review Subcommittee Report**

**Emily reported that the issues discussed at the October 2nd, 2007 meeting regarding MAP-BIP provisional certification had been resolved; Lionel Hernandez has submitted a group schedule and fee scale. A copy of the summary of provisional certification was distributed.**

**Emily reported that the renewed comprehensive certification process for Kent House is completed. A copy of the summary was distributed.**

**Deb DeBare made a motion to grant comprehensive re-certification. Steve King seconded the motion. All votes in favor; none opposed; Ed Degnan abstained. Motion carried.**

**Shelley reported that the renewed comprehensive certification process for Kent Center has just gotten underway due to Sisan's retirement and Emily's maternity leave. Shelley asked that an extension of certification be granted to Kent Center. Sisan stated that**

**extensions are typically granted until the next meeting of the Oversight Committee. Kent Center comprehensive certification would be extended until February 4th,2008.**

**Steve King made a motion to grant an extension of comprehensive certification to Kent Center. Janice Dubois seconded the motion. All votes in favor; none opposed; none abstained. Motion carried.**

**Emily reported that Vantage Point had submitted two applications for seasoned facilitators and that these applications had been approved. Emily asked that agencies please note the changes to the qualifications needed for approval of facilitator trainee, seasoned facilitator and facilitator supervisor in the Revised Comprehensive Standards. Copies of the applications were distributed.**

**Emily reported that the next programs up for renewed comprehensive certification are FVI and Tri-Hab. The application package is expected to be returned at the beginning of February 2008, at which time the review process will begin. Current certification is scheduled to expire in February 2008. David stated Tri-Hab had received the application for comprehensive re-certification. Sisan asked if the programs would fall under the current or Revised Comprehensive Standards. Kathy suggested a grace period to allow the programs to come into compliance with the Revised Comprehensive Standards. Sisan asked how long after the public hearing would the Revised Comprehensive Standards take effect. Shelley stated that if there is no need to review**

any proposals presented in the public hearing that the Revised Comprehensive Standards and Revised Rules of Practice and Procedure would take effect twenty (20) days after being filed with the Secretary of States Office and that the revisions need to be filed within thirty (30) days of the public hearing. George and Steve suggest that an extension be granted to Tri-Hab and FVI allowing the programs to come into the Revised Comprehensive Standards if applicable. Steve proposes that the extension be granted until the June 2, 2008 Oversight Committee meeting.

Steve King made a motion to grant an extension of comprehensive certification to FVI and Tri-Hab. Deb DeBare seconded the motion. All votes in favor; none opposed; none abstained. Motion carried.

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

Shelley announced that the Public Hearing for the revisions in the Comprehensive Standards and the Rules of Practice and Procedure will be held Monday December 17th, 2007 5-9pm at the Arnold Conference Center, 111 Howard Avenue, Cranston, RI 02920. The hearing will be chaired by Shelley Cortese and Steve King with Sisan Smallman in attendance to outline the revisions and clarify any questions regarding the revisions.

### **Ad Hoc Legislative Subcommittee**

**Shelley reported that there has been no change in the RFP.**

### **Member Issues/Announcements**

**Shelley reported that the date for the DV Critical Case Review Team on the agenda is the November date and that the upcoming meeting is on January 15th,2008.**

**Shelley announced that there are ongoing changes in the Probation & Parole Department and that agencies will be notified of these changes as they become relevant.**

**Kathy Carty presented the results of five year study on domestic violence offenders in batterers intervention programs. Some of the key points: most offenders are not in an intimate relationship during attendance of program, this information suggests lessons should focus on abuse in all daily relationships; there should be a greater focus on substance abuse education as more than half the offenders were under the influence at time of incident; most offenders recognize overt sexual abuse but do not identify their tactics as abusive, focus on educating offenders on covert sexual abuse.**

## **Upcoming Meetings**

**Review Subcommittee:**

**TBA**

**Rules + Standards Subcommittee:**

**TBA**

**DV Critical Cases Review Team:**

**January 15, 2007 at 2:00pm at the Coalition Against Domestic Violence**

**Oversight Committee:**

**February 4th, 2008 at 2:00pm in Bernadette Building, 15 Fleming Rd., Cranston DOC.**

## **Meeting Adjourned**

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

**Meeting adjourned at 3:35 p.m.**

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**Respectfully Submitted,**

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**Emily Daniels, Probation & Parole Officer**

**Batterers Intervention Program Standards Oversight Committee**