

**BATTERERS INTERVENTION PROGRAM STANDARDS
OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE**

Meeting of February 4, 2008

Open session

Minutes Draft

Voting Members Present (7): Shelley Cortese, RI Dept. of Corrections/Chair; Deb DeBare, RI Coalition Against Domestic Violence; Janice Dubois, Supreme Court Domestic Violence Training & Monitoring Unit; Joseph Ben, Justice Assistance; Maureen Keough, RI Attorney General's Office; Beatriz Perez, RI Dept. of Health; Ed Degnan, Kent House/BIPs Representative.

Seats Not Represented (4): Governor's Office; RI Justice Commission; Urban League; RI Police Chiefs Association; RI District Court.

Additional Participants (6): Trisha Markman, RI Dept. of Corrections; Dr. Kathleen Carty, Vantage Point; Marie Kuhn, Tri-Hab; Sage Bauer, RI Coalition Against Domestic Violence; J. Bryan Riley, FVI; Micheline Lombardi, Supervisor PDC.

Materials Distributed:

Meeting Agenda: February 4, 2008

Meeting Minutes: December 3, 2007

2008 Meeting Schedule

Revised Comprehensive Standards

Revised Rules of Practice & Procedures

Materials Made Available:

Memo from Jonathan Houston, Justice Assistance

Batterers Intervention Program Schedule

Shelley Cortese, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 2:10 pm and noted that a voting quorum had been met. Shelley explained that Emily Daniels and Stephen King were both unable to attend this meeting. It was noted that Trisha Markman was in attendance to take minutes in place of Emily Daniels.

Review of Minutes

Minutes from the meeting of December 3, 2007 were reviewed and adopted.

Deb DeBare made a motion to adopt the December 3, 2007 minutes. Ed Degnan seconded the motion. All votes in favor; none opposed;

motion carried.

Review Subcommittee Report

Emily has recused herself from the FVI review and Stephen King, Sandi McLaughlin and Sage Bauer will be involved with the FVI review. A Group observation will be done in March. The Subcommittee will be looking to have volunteers for group observation at Tri-Hab at the meeting on March 25, 2008.

Shelley reported an extension is needed to complete the re-certification process for Kent Center. The process will be accomplished by the April, 2008 Oversight Committee meeting. Kent Center's second and final extension is to be granted to the April meeting.

Janice Dubois made a motion to extend certification of Kent Center. Beatriz Perez seconded the motion. All votes in favor; none opposed; 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 was held on Monday December 17, 2007. A letter of support from

Michael Diluorio was shared with the attendees. The Comprehensive Standards and the Rules of Practice and Procedure as Amended are in effect as of January 27, 2008. Hard copies were handed out of both documents to attendees.

Ad Hoc Legislative Subcommittee

Shelley reported that the funding has been cut from the RFP contract. Vantage Point may reduce the number of hours, currently at 12 hours, to 10 hours. Regarding the 10 hours of credit, it was clarified that this credit is not automatic nor is it all inclusive. The credit is at the discretion of the PO in regards to how many hours of the total (10) that the offender will get credit for. Also, repeat attendees are not eligible for this credit a second time.

Member Issues/Announcements

Sage Bauer reported on a recent DV Critical Case Review Team case.

Shelley will remind the DV Specific Caseload POs that the review team can be a valuable resource for them. The next meeting for the DV Critical case Review Team is scheduled for March 18, 2008.

Kathy Carty stated that the “Access to Recovery” program was now moved up to some time in March 2008. This is a federally funded

program designed to facilitate treatment for children, parents, inmates and those at the DCYF training school.

The target population has been changed several times. For now, is only for those in Max and High Security who meet the criteria of 1) being a substance abuser and 2) have no insurance.

Kathy Carty spoke with a gentleman in Washington, DC, regarding this program and he advised her to speak to the “powers in RI”. Discussion ensued regarding possible involvement of the Oversight Committee in getting this program to include Domestic Violence offenders.

A memo from Jonathan Houston, Executive Director, Justice Assistance, regarding a motion for BIPSOC to formally notify the District Court, the defense bar and the state and local prosecutors that the practice of tabling a domestic violence sentence is in violation of the intent of RIGL 12-29 was introduced to the meeting as a handout for discussion.

Bryan Riley, FVI, stated that defense attorneys are now calling to make referrals for offenders and asked if anyone else was experiencing the same in their offices. It was suggested that Batterer Intervention Programs organize and stand together to address this issue.

The committee suggested that Shelley reach out to Judge Bucci for her thoughts on this as the designated BIPSOC judiciary representative. Maureen Keough will send out letter to discourage this practice.

Upcoming Meetings

Review Subcommittee:

March 25, 2008 at 2 p.m. at the Bernadette Building, 15 Fleming Road, Cranston DOC.

Rules + Standards Subcommittee:

TBA

DV Critical Cases Review Team:

March 18, 2008 at 2 p.m. at the Coalition Against Domestic Violence

Oversight Committee:

Tuesday, April 8, 2008 at 2:00pm in Bernadette Building, 15 Fleming Rd., Cranston DOC.

Meeting Adjourned

Beatriz Perez 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 3:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

**Emily Daniels, Probation & Parole Officer
Batterers Intervention Program Standards Oversight Committee**