

**BATTERERS INTERVENTION PROGRAM STANDARDS
OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE**

Meeting of April 7, 2008

Open session

Minutes Draft

Voting Members Present (6): Shelley Cortese, RI Department of Corrections/Chair; Stephen King, RI Supreme Court/Co-Chair; Sage Bauer, RI Coalition Against Domestic Violence; Janice Dubois, Supreme Court Domestic Violence Training & Monitoring Unit; Joseph Ben, Justice Assistance; Beatriz Perez, Department of Health.

Seats Not Represented (7): Governor's Office; RI Justice Commission; Urban League; RI Police Chiefs Association; Office of the Attorney General; Kent House/BIPs Representative; RI District Court

Additional Participants (6): Emily Daniels, BIPSOC; Jen Rocha, Vantage Point; Dr. Kathleen Carty, Vantage Point; Jeff Weisinger, Tri-Hab; Micheline Lombardi, Probation Supervisor PDC; Sharon Vanderhoff, Probation & Parole

Materials Distributed:

Meeting Agenda: June 2,2008

Meeting Minutes: April 7,2008

BIPSOC letter to BIPs

Maureen Keough's letter to city solicitors

Materials Made Available:

Comprehensive Standards

Rules of Practice & Procedures

Shelley Cortese, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 2:20 pm and noted that a voting quorum had been met.

Review of Minutes

Minutes from the meeting of April 7, 2008 were reviewed. Micheline stated MBIP was scheduled to attend a PDC staff meeting, the minutes state she would like to schedule a meeting with MBIP, the minutes should be amended.

Steve King made a motion to adopt the April 7, 2008 minutes with Micheline's amendment. Janice Dubois seconded the motion. All votes in favor; none opposed; no abstentions. Motion carried.

Review Subcommittee Report

Shelley stated the review subcommittee will be asking the Oversight Committee to grant an extension of Renewed Certification for Tri-Hab allowing the subcommittee to address issues that have surfaced during the review process. Emily reported reviewers; Emily Daniels, Micheline Lombardi and Sharon Vanderhoff, noted observed groups of more than ten (10) did not utilize co-facilitators in accordance with Section 5.1.5 of the Comprehensive Standards. Emily stated she has spoken with Jeff Weisinger of Tri-Hab regarding this matter. Jeff explained that the co-facilitator was not present due to breaking her ankle and that he was unable to replace the co-facilitator in time for the group. Emily stated the reviewers will be observing an additional group to insure the standard regarding co-facilitation is met. Emily reported the application packet presented by Tri-Hab was incomplete in that all the facilitator qualification forms were not included. Emily stated she has discussed this with Jeff and he will submit facilitator qualification forms for all facilitators for the next review subcommittee meeting on June 17, 2008. Shelley stated more time is needed for reviewers to complete the on-sight and document assessment of Tri-Hab. Steve asked how much time would be needed to complete the review process. Shelley stated the review subcommittee would present a written summary for an Oversight

Committee vote at the next BIPSOC meeting on 8-4-2008. Steve clarified that Tri-Hab would be granted an extension of Renewed Comprehensive Certification until 8-4-2008. The review subcommittee is asking for a vote granting Tri-Hab an extension of Renewed Comprehensive Certification.

Sage Bauer made a motion to grant an extension of Renewed Comprehensive Certification to Tri-Hab until the BIPSOC meeting on 8-4-2008. Janice Dubios seconded the motion. All votes in favor; none opposed; no abstentions. Motion carried.

Shelley reported reviewers; Sage Bauer, Steve King and Sandy McLaughlin, have completed client record review and group observation of FVI. Shelley stated the Oversight Committee had granted FVI an extension of Renewed Comprehensive Certification until June 2, 2008 at the December 3, 2007 meeting. This extension was granted in anticipation of the adoption of the amended Comprehensive Standards. The extension was to allow FVI and Tri-Hab to come in compliance with the amended Comprehensive Standards. Shelley stated the review process begins three (3) months prior to the expiration of Comprehensive Certification: with review of the agency's application packet, on-sight observation and record audit, followed by a meeting between reviewers and the

agency to clarify any questions or concerns that surfaced during the review process before the summary is submitted to the Oversight Committee for a vote. Emily reported FVI submitted the application packet on May 27, 2008 and it was distributed to reviewers, Sage Bauer and Steve King, at the May 29, 2008 review subcommittee meeting. Emily stated the submission date of the application packet did not allow time for reviewers to study the packet and meet with FVI before today's Oversight Committee meeting. Shelley noted that Emily is abstaining from FVI's review process due to having worked for FVI within the past year, in accordance with Section IV-B.2 of the Rules of Practice and Procedure. Sage stated she has had the chance to look over the application packet and it is in good order to move forward. The review subcommittee is asking for a vote granting FVI an extension of Renewed Comprehensive Certification.

Steve King made a motion to grant an extension of Renewed Comprehensive Certification to FVI until the BIPSOC meeting on 8-4-2008. Janice Dubios seconded the motion. All votes in favor; none opposed; no abstentions. Motion carried.

Shelley updated the Oversight Committee on the review of MBIP. Shelley reported that the MBIP curriculum has been reviewed and meets the curriculum requirements. She reported that groups have not yet been established therefore the review process can not proceed until groups are established for group observation and client

record review. Micheline stated she believes that groups have begun.

Shelley stated that the program was to contact BIPSOC when the groups are established to schedule observation. Emily stated she would contact MBIP to inquire whether groups have been established and schedule observations.

Member Issues/Announcements

Maureen Keough's letter to city solicitors and the draft of the Oversight Committees letter to BIPs were reviewed.

Shelley asked if there were any members issues. Sharon Vanderhoff asked Jeff of Tri-Hab if there are any plans for a Portuguese speaking group because she has Portuguese clients she can not place in programs. Emily stated that there is often trouble starting these groups due to lack of qualified facilitators and referral numbers. Janice asked if there is a large need could probation combine areas allowing a program to open in a single group to serve this demographic. Kathy inquired what are of the state had this need and was it a sustainable number of clients. Jeff stated that sustaining the group is often the problem because there may be an occasional referral but not enough to maintain a scheduled group and paid facilitator. Sharon said that when a group facilitated in a particular language is not available she has referred that offender to an individual counselor that speaks the language in question. Emily stated that the amended standards require any change in referral and

counseling be referred back to the court for approval, it is no longer the sole decision of the referral source.

Upcoming Meetings

Review Subcommittee:

June 17, 2008 at 2:00pm in Bernadette Building

DV Critical Cases Review Team:

TBA

Oversight Committee:

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

Meeting Adjourned

Sage Bauer made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Shelley Cortese seconded the motion. All votes in favor; none opposed; no abstentions. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 3:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Emily Daniels, Probation & Parole Officer

Batterers Intervention Program Standards Oversight Committee