

BATTERERS INTERVENTION PROGRAM STANDARDS OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Meeting of August 4, 2008

Open session

Minutes Draft

Voting Members Present (7): Shelley Cortese, RI Department of Corrections/Chair; Stephen King, RI Supreme Court/Co-Chair; Deb DeBare, RI Coalition Against Domestic Violence; Janice Dubois, Supreme Court Domestic Violence Training & Monitoring Unit; Joseph Ben, Justice Assistance; Judge Elaine Bucci, RI District Court; Ed Degnan, Kent House/BIPs Representative.

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

Additional Participants (6): Emily Daniels, Probation & Parole/BIPSOC; Jen Rocha, Vantage Point; Dr. Kathleen Carty, Vantage Point; Jeff Weisinger, Tri-Hab; Bryan Riley, FVI; Micheline Lombardi, Probation Supervisor PDC; Sharon Vanderhoff, Probation & Parole; Sandra McLaughlin, Probation & Parole; Sage Bauer, RI Coalition Against Domestic Violence; Elaine Dorazio, Supreme Court Domestic Violence Unit.

Materials Distributed:

Meeting Agenda: August 4,2008

Meeting Minutes: June 2,2008

Summary Comprehensive Re-Certification: Vantage Point

Summary Comprehensive Re-Certification: FVI

Materials Made Available:

Vantage Point Application for Renewed Comprehensive Certification*

FVI Application for Renewed Comprehensive Certification*

Tri-Hab letter to BIPSOC

***for review only; in accordance with the Rules of Practice & Procedures**

Shelley Cortese, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 2:08pm and noted that a voting quorum had been met.

Review of Minutes

Minutes from the meeting of June 2, 2008 were reviewed and adopted.

Deb DeBare made a motion to adopt the June 2, 2008 minutes. Janice Dubois seconded the motion. All votes in favor; none opposed;

Judge Bucci abstained due to not being in attendance on June 2, 2008. Motion carried.

Review Subcommittee Report

Shelley reported the review process for Vantage Point's Renewed Comprehensive Certification is complete; a copy of the summary was distributed. Emily went over the main points of the summary including clarification of who conducted the trainings provided by Vantage Point for staff and the use of yelling by facilitators to illustrate a point about verbal abuse. The review subcommittee is asking for a vote granting Vantage Point Renewed Comprehensive Certification.

Deb DeBare made a motion to grant Renewed Comprehensive Certification to Vantage Point. Janice Dubois seconded the motion. All votes in favor; none opposed; Ed Degnan abstained. Motion carried.

Shelley reported the review process for FVI's Renewed Comprehensive Certification is complete; a copy of the summary was

distributed. Shelley noted that Emily abstained 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 reported the FVI summary. The review subcommittee is asking for a vote granting FVI Renewed Comprehensive Certification.

Deb DeBare made a motion to grant Renewed Comprehensive Certification to FVI. Janice Dubios seconded the motion. All votes in favor; none opposed; Ed Degnan abstained. Motion carried.

Bryan Riley of FVI asked if programs could receive feedback from reviewers before the Oversight Committee votes for Re-Certification. Bryan stated he would like feedback from reviewers in relation to how the program could implement more effective tactics, handouts, etc. based on the reviewers' observation of other agencies and the current agency. Shelley stated sharing of individual program procedures could be done between the programs themselves. Shelley suggested the programs may want to participate in cross-agency trainings. Kathy Carty stated she has offered other programs the opportunity to attend Vantage Point trainings in the past without any response. Deb DeBare clarified, stating she believed Bryan was looking to implement information sharing with other programs. Janice DuBois pointed out that four agencies are currently present; can they discuss getting together. Jeff Weisinger

stated he would be pleased to share information with other programs but noted that limited funds and time are obstacles. Jeff stated that many of his facilitators have full-time employment in addition to their work with Tri-Hab. He also mentioned program funds for facilitator compensation for additional meetings or trainings was limited due to the increase of clients who perform community service in lieu of payment for domestic violence counseling. Kathy concurred that Vantage Point has had an increase in clients performing community service in lieu of monetary payment. Janice stated that the suggestion for programs to collaborate has been proposed for many years but never acted upon. Kathy and Bryan discussed collecting program contact information and coordinating a meeting outside of the Oversight Committee meeting. A sheet was passed for the programs present to record their contact information.

Shelley stated the review subcommittee will be asking the Oversight Committee to grant an extension of Renewed Certification for Tri-Hab allowing Tri-Hab to address issues that have surfaced during the review process. Emily reported Tri-Hab submitted a letter to the review subcommittee outlining how the agency will come into compliance with the Standards over the next four months. Emily stated the Tri-Hab letter was available to voting members for their review before the vote. Steve asked Emily if the issues needing to be addressed posed any community or victim safety concerns. Emily responded the issues did not have community or victim safety

impact; they are administrative paperwork some of which has been delayed due to changes in the Gateway Healthcare staff.

Steve King made a motion to grant an extension of Renewed Comprehensive Certification to Tri-Hab until the BIPSOC meeting on 10-6-2008. Deb DeBare seconded the motion. All votes in favor; none opposed; Ed Degnan abstained. Motion carried.

Shelley updated the Oversight Committee on the review of MAP BIP. Shelley reported the curriculum has been reviewed and meets the Standards, group observation and record review will take place in September with a summary and review subcommittee recommendation to be presented at the next Oversight Committee meeting. Shelley thanked review subcommittee members; Sharon, Sandra, Steve, Sage and Micheline for volunteering their time to ensure the certification process is complete.

Member Issues/Announcements

Emily stated Jeff has reported an increase of clients being charged with violating no contact orders while enrolled in domestic violence counseling. Emily asked if such a trend is being observed by other programs. Kathy, Bryan, and Ed stated they have not observed an increase within their programs. Judge Bucci stated an explanation of a no contact order is verbally given by the Judge in court to each

offender and each offender is asked to verify they understand the parameters of the no contact order. Micheline and Joe stated that the presence of a no contact order and its meaning are discussed as part the offender intake process. Bryan stated no contact orders are a discussion point brought up by clients in each group session. Shelley mentioned this topic could be a good starting point for agency discussion.

Jeff reported he has received inquiries from clients about completing domestic violence counseling online. Emily stated she has contacted the provider to have Rhode Island removed as a cooperating state. Emily stated she has not had success; she has not been connected to a supervisor upon request or received a return call after leaving messages. Micheline inquired if the Attorney General's office should be notified. Judge Bucci stated referrals to an agency must be given by probation or Justice Assistance to a certified agency per the Standards, since the online class is not certified by the Oversight Committee they are not eligible for referrals; therefore would not fulfill the counseling obligation.

Shelley stated that she was informally notified this may be Janice DuBois last Oversight Committee meeting due to Janice's retirement. Shelley stated Janice's presence on the Committee will missed. Janice verified that she has not formally announced her retirement but her intended last day is September 26, 2008. Janice stated she intends to retire due to the Governor's changes in healthcare

benefits. Steve fondly shared his first and second meetings with Janice.

Upcoming Meetings

Review Subcommittee:

September 9, 2008 at 2:00pm in Bernadette Building

DV Critical Cases Review Team:

TBA

Oversight Committee:

October 6, 2008 at 2:00pm in Bernadette Building, 15 Fleming Rd., Cranston DOC.

Meeting Adjourned

Deb DeBare 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 3:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Emily Daniels, Probation & Parole Officer

Batterers Intervention Program Standards Oversight Committee