

**BATTERERS INTERVENTION PROGRAM STANDARDS
OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE**

Meeting of April 5, 2010

Open session

Minutes Draft

Voting Members Present (6): Shelley Cortese, RI Department of Corrections/Chair; Stephen King, RI Supreme Court/Co-Chair; Deb DeBare, RI Coalition Against Domestic Violence; Judge Elaine Bucci, RI District Court; Mary Osborne, BIP Representative; Elaine Dorazio, Supreme Court Domestic Violence Training & Monitoring Unit; Anthony Ward-Smith, Justice Assistance.

Seats Not Represented (6): RI Department of Health; Governor's Office; RI Justice Commission; Urban League; RI Police Chiefs Association; Office of the Attorney General.

Additional Participants (7): Emily Daniels, Probation & Parole/BIPSOC; George Sheehan, RI-BIP; Jessica Seitz, RI Coalition Against Domestic Violence; Micheline Lombardi, Supervisor Probation & Parole; Sharon Schwartz-Vanderhoff, Probation & Parole; Bryan Riley, FVI; Anita Corley, EBCC.

Materials Distributed:

Meeting Agenda: April 5, 2010

Meeting Minutes: December 7, 2010

Duluth Model Training Information

Materials Made Available:

Shelley Cortese, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 2:10 pm and noted that a voting quorum had been met.

Review of Minutes

Minutes from the meeting of December 7, 2009 were reviewed.

Deb DeBare made a motion to adopt the December 7, 2009 minutes. Judge Bucci seconded the motion. All votes in favor; none opposed. Motion carried.

Review Subcommittee Report

Shelley thanked volunteers for assisting in the certification process. She acknowledged there is consistent participation from both Probation and Parole and representatives from victim advocacy agencies. Ongoing participation from the offender rehabilitation and advocate perspective provides a good balance for the oversight

process. Shelley discussed that during the observation process the Review Subcommittee has received some concerns and feedback from programs regarding the role of observers in the review process. When volunteers observe the group process they are serving as representatives of the Review Subcommittee and while a brief explanation of why we are present is provided by the program we play no role in the group process. Shelley stated in many cases observers play a dual role as Probation Officers and Review Subcommittee Representatives and while this may be problematic in a clinical setting this is not the case with Batterers Intervention. Batterers Intervention is not a clinical setting but a psycho-educational model in which public safety plays a larger role than an individual's right to confidentiality. Offenders should be made aware at intake that Batterers Intervention is a coordinated response and as such offenders should be made aware of the limitations on confidentiality and the possibility of individuals from the Oversight Committee or Probation could be observing the group. George Sheehan stated he has not had a report of any issues with offenders when having observers present during group. Shelley stated there is also an explicit expectation that if unsafe behaviors are reported

Member Issues/Announcements

Upcoming Meetings

Review Subcommittee:

April 20, 2010 at 3:00pm in Bernadette Building

DV Critical Cases Review Team:

April 13, 2010 at 3:00pm in Bernadette Building

Oversight Committee:

**August 2, 2010 at 2:00pm in Bernadette Building, 15 Fleming Rd.,
Cranston DOC.**

Meeting Adjourned

Deb DeBare made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

**Judge Bucci seconded the motion. All votes in favor; none opposed;
no abstentions. Motion carried.**

Meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Emily Daniels, Probation & Parole Officer

Batterers Intervention Program Standards Oversight Committee