

**BATTERERS INTERVENTION PROGRAM STANDARDS
OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE**

Meeting of December 6, 2010

Open Session

Voting Members Present: Shelley Cortese, RIDOC/Chair; Deb DeBare, RI Coalition against Domestic Violence; Elaine Bucci, RI District Court; Anthony Ward Smith, Justice Assistance; Mary Osborne, BIP representative; Elaine Dorazio, Supreme Court; Beatriz Perez, RI Dept. of Health

Seats Not Represented: Supreme Court Domestic Violence Training & Monitoring Unit; Urban League; Governor's Office; RI Justice Commission; RI Police Chief's Association; RI Supreme Court

Additional Participants: Sharon Schwartz-Vanderhoff, Probation and Parole; Bryan Riley, FVI; Jessica Seitz, RI Coalition against Domestic Violence; George Sheehan, RI BIP; David Spencer, Tri-Hab Division Gateway Healthcare,

Materials Distributed:

Meeting Agenda-December 6, 2010

Meeting Minutes-October 4, 2010

Flyer-RI Jail Diversion and Trauma Recovery Program

Shelley Cortese, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order stating that this was not a voting meeting.

Review of Minutes

Minutes of the October 4, 2010 were reviewed and a motion was made at the end of the meeting to accept the minutes with minor corrections. The motion was carried with all votes in favor.

Guest Speaker: Corinna Roy

Shelley introduced guest speaker Project Director Corinna Roy, of Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals (DBHDDH).

Corinna discussed efforts being made by the RI Jail Diversion and Trauma Recovery Program (RIJDTR) to respond to the needs of a growing population needing specialized treatment. This program was derived from a four year trauma grant funded by Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) extending through September of 2014. Their goal is to create awareness within the criminal justice system of the connection between post-traumatic stress and high incidence of incarceration. While the focus at this

time is on returning veterans, the program is geared to include other individuals who have suffered childhood or adult trauma. Judge Erickson and Judge DeFazio are now involved with the program and Deb Stacey is serving on the advisory council.

RIJDTR started its pilot program in Kent County and has plans for statewide expansion. It should be noted that this program begins at the pre-trial stages of adjudication and does not supersede current statutory requirements for Domestic Violence offenders. It is a twelve session program designed so that the first six sessions provide treatment for individuals or in pairs and the second set of six sessions would become group sessions. The program provides treatment to both active and inactive service people. In Rhode Island it is mostly the National Guard due to their many deployments. Curriculum focus is prevention achieved in part by helping veterans recognize the triggers that lead to behavioral issues. Corrina stated that a lot of veterans are prescribed heavy meds, especially sleep medications.

She stated that studies are concluding that traumatic brain injury (TBI) has been under diagnosed and as a result domestic violence and major crimes are being associated with returning war veterans. She informed members of the meeting of a domestic violence program called Strength at Home that specifically targets this population. Strength at Home is directed by Matt Santos and Sarah Kryll and involves family members of veterans. Corinna suggested

that both Matt and Sarah would be a good choice to be guest speakers at future meetings.

Review Subcommittee Report

The vote for renewed certification of Tri-Hab is slated for the February 7, 2011 Oversight Committee meeting. Group observations have been completed and a record review by Micheline Lombardi and Shelley Cortese has been scheduled. Sharon Schwartz-Vanderhoff will be submitting a written report.

Member Issues/Announcements

A Batterers Intervention for Repeat Offenders is ready to begin. The 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. meetings will be held at 941 Park Avenue in Cranston. Bryan announced that referrals are now being taken and they will start with a group of eight participants. Sessions will be open ended.

Judge Bucci commented that it would be good to wait until the end of January. (Program start date to follow). She requested the creation of a quick reference guide with bullet points highlighting the differences/advantages between Batterers Intervention for Repeat Offenders and the standard Batterer's Intervention Program. She

stated that technical violators could receive a stayed sentence with a second opportunity to comply with counseling and added that judges can hold without bail on a technical violation.

Sharon brought attention to the fact that the biggest factor for dropping out of classes is lack of money. Shelley stressed the importance of not losing sight of the fact that this most of this population consists of repeat domestic violence offenders who we want to best up for success toward ending their violence against victims.

Upcoming Meetings

Review Subcommittee:

Monday, February 7, 2011 at 2:00 p.m. – 2nd floor Conference Room/Dix Building

DV Critical Case Review Team:

Tuesday, January 11, 2011 at 3:00 p.m.

Oversight Committee:

Monday, February 7, 2011 at 2:00 p.m. – 2nd floor Conference Room/Dix Building

Meeting Adjourned

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30.

Respectfully Submitted,

LuAnn Klick, Probation & Parole SWPT