

BATTERERS INTERVENTION PROGRAM STANDARDS OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Meeting of December 7 October 17, 2011, 2009

Open session

Minutes Draft

Voting Members Present (76): Shelley Cortese, RI Department of Corrections/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 Domestic Violence Training & Monitoring Unit.

Seats Not Represented (75): Office of the Attorney General Justice Assistance; Urban League; RI Department of Health Beatriz Perez, RI Department of Health.; Governor's Office; RI Justice Commission; RI Police Chiefs Association; RI Supreme Court.

Additional Participants (46): Michelle Berkley, Supervisor Probation & Parole; Emily Daniels, Probation & Parole/BIPSOC; Jean Embrey, Supervisor Probation & Parole; Rachel Orsinger, RI Coalition Against Domestic Violence Bryan Riley, FVI; Ingrid Siliezar, Probation & Parole; George Sheehan, RI-BIP; Casey Taft, Ph.D., Suzannah Creech Ph.D. & Amy Rachiele, Veterans Affairs.

Materials Distributed:

Meeting Agenda: December 7, 2009October 14, 2011

Meeting Minutes: October 5, 2009August 1, 2011

Summary Comprehensive Re-Certification: Bridgemark,Inc.

BIPSOC Meeting Dates for 2010Bridgemark, Inc. Application for Renewed Comprehensive Certification*

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

Shelley Cortese, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 2:07 2:10 pm.

Review of Minutes

Minutes from the meeting of October 5, 2009August 1, 2011 were reviewed.

Deb DeBare Deb DeBare made a motion to adopt the October 5August 1, 2011 minutes. Mary Osborne Elaine Dorazio seconded the motion. All votes in favor; none opposed; Judge Bucci abstained. Motion carried.

Presenters- Strength at Home

Shelley introduced the presenters for “Strength at Home” a Batterers

Intervention Program through the Veterans Affairs; Casey Taft, Ph.D. Principal Researcher & Group Facilitator; Suzannah Creech, Ph.D. Providence Program Coordinator & Group Facilitator; Amy Rachiele, Community Outreach. Attendees introduced themselves to the “Strength at Home” staff.

Casey talked about the background of the “strength at Home” program, that it is funded by the Departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs to study the effect of intervention on future perpetration of abuse. Casey discussed the “Strength at Home” program approach to veterans who have committed domestic abuse. He stated veterans have a higher incidence of having risk factors for committing abuse and that though these factors are not an excuse or reason for the abuse they do indicate a higher risk of a person being abusive.

The program also has extensive perpetrator & victim assessment and follow-up for a year entering the program, this serves to provide information for the funded study.

The “Strength at Home” program differs from other certified Batterers Intervention Programs in that it must be ordered by the sentencing judge that an offender attend the VA program, there is no out of pocket expense to the attendees, a stipend maybe paid to both the perpetrator and/or victim if they agree and participate in the research aspect of the program, the program does not fall under oversight from the Batterers Intervention Program Standards Oversight

Committee.

Judge Bucci asked Casey if there are any issues with member participation. Casey stated they have yet to have an issue with the running program in Boston, MA; he believes the small group number (3-5 participants) aids in holding participants accountable for contributing to the group. Judge Bucci asked if there would be a requirement of “checking-in” weekly abuse. Casey stated each participant is required to complete a weekly log and to report at meeting the thoughts and feelings that contributed to abuse or conflict resolution.

Shelley asked when data would be available. Casey stated he believed it would be several years before the study data would be reported.

Ingrid asked if the Domestic Violence court calendar at Providence Superior Court is aware of the program and Casey said Amy would reach out to them.

Shelley thanked Casey, Suzannah and Amy for their time.

Review Subcommittee Report

Emily reported the Comprehensive Certification process for Bridgemark is underway. Bridgemark's Application for Renewed Certification is being reviewed and group observations have taken place. Shelley stated the Review Subcommittee is asking for an extension of the vote for Bridgemark's Comprehensive Certification. The vote is currently scheduled for the December 5, 2011 Oversight Committee meeting. If an extension is granted the vote for Recertification will be at the February 6, 2012 Oversight Committee meeting. Emily clarified that it is not Bridgemark seeking the extension but the Review Subcommittee requesting the extension to allow subcommittee members additional time to review the program's documentation.

Deb DeBare made a motion to grant an extension of Renewed Comprehensive Certification to Bridgemark until the BIPSOC meeting on 2-6-2012. Judge Bucci seconded the motion. All votes in favor; none opposed; Mary Osborne abstained. Motion carried.

Member Issues/Announcements

Repeat Offenders Program:

Shelley reported the program has not moved forward with referrals. Jean stated she had scheduled a meeting with the Public Defenders Office to discuss the program and no one attended the meeting. There is a Domestic Violence calendar in Providence Superior Court and it was suggested Jean and Shelley approach Judge McGuirl of Superior Court to discuss the Repeat Offender Program. Deb and Judge Bucci agreed it would be good to start in Superior Court as that is where many of the repeat domestic violence offender cases are heard. Jean and Shelley stated they would schedule an appointment to meet with Judge McGuirl.

Shelley stated it has come to Probations attention that clients are being accepted into Programs during the pre-trial court process. Shelley stated that BIPs are not to accept clients without referral source approval.

Deb announced there is a free, day long training on the Law Enforcement Lethality Assessment on Friday November 4, 2011.

Shelley stated the December 5th Oversight Committee meeting is cancelled and the next Oversight meeting will be held on Monday February 6, 2012.

The summary for Bridgemark, Inc. (formerly known as Kent House) Renewed Comprehensive Certification was distributed. Shelley asked the members to review the summary. Emily reported that all documentation including facilitator supplemental qualifications forms were submitted with the application and approved by the review subcommittee members. Emily noted that this is the first review in which she has participated in when the review subcommittee did not need to request further information for completion of facilitator qualification forms. Emily reported that group observations were completed by Sharon Schwartz-Vanderhoff, Judith Willard, Sandra McLaughlin and Emily Daniels. An audit of 12 active and 6 closed case files was performed on December 2, 2009. At this meeting with Mary Osborne, Director of Outpatient Services for Bridgemark, Emily also verified the supervision of facilitators and clarified the roles of those working within the Batterers Intervention Program branch of Bridgemark. The Review Subcommittee is asking for a vote granting Bridgemark Renewed Comprehensive Certification.

Deb DeBare made a motion to grant Renewed Comprehensive Certification to Bridgemark. Beatriz Perez seconded the motion. All votes in favor; Mary Osbrone abstained; no objections. Motion carried.

Emily Daniels reported that a probation officer had brought to her attention notified the BIPSOC that a probationer was claiming to be trained by MAP-BIP to become a group facilitator. Emily reported following up with Tina Romero of MAP-BIP regarding this information and was informed by Tina that the probationer in question was not being truthful. Emily reminded the BIP representatives present at the meeting and for the purpose of recording in the minutes that all people wishing to begin the process of facilitator training must complete a qualification form to be submitted to the BIPSOC Review Subcommittee for approval of Facilitator Trainee Status. Any program or individual may contact Emily for a copy of the form and/or requirements as set forth in The Batterers Intervention Program Comprehensive Standards Section 7. Emily Daniels contact information is as follows: edaniels@doc.ri.gov (401)458-3043.

Shelley reported that the APPA(American Probation & Parole Association) Training November 4th and 5th was attended by herselfshe and Emily Daniels as representatives of Probation & Parole, Jessica Seitz as representative of the RI Coalition Against Domestic Violence, and Sgt. Dennis Leahey of the Burrillville Police Department. The training consisted of over forty guidelines comprised by the APPA for best practice in community supervision of domestic violence offenders. Shelley reported that Rhode Island has the majority of these guidelines already in place. Shelley reported also stated that she was asked to assist in the writing of the APPA training manual for probation and parole officers with Domestic Violence specific caseloads. She also reported that the Rhode Island representatives felt Rhode Island, as compared with the other jurisdictions represented, has a very comprehensive response to domestic violence already in place. One main aspect of the Rhode Island system not in place in other jurisdictions is the Batterers Intervention Program Standards Oversight Committee and the review process for certification of batterers intervention programs. Beatriz asked how probation & parole's approach to supervision will change based on the training. Shelley responded that two key points taken from the training are; 1) to look into the need for a domestic violence specific parole supervision model and 2) to have all officers screen all female offenders for domestic violence victimization. Shelley also stated the hopeintention is to continue a comprehensive response with the growth of systems already in place such as the Domestic

Violence Critical Case Review Team. Beatriz stated she participates in the Child Fatality Review which explores steps that could have been taken to prevent the fatality and how the steps can be implemented within agencies affected. Shelley and Emily stated they would welcome Beatriz attendance and input at the next DVCCRT Meeting on Tuesday 1/12/2010. Emily stated that her approach since the training has been more victim centered. Emily further stated that while she has always been aware of and had contact with the victims of the offenders on her caseload she has approached her role more from an offender rehabilitation perspective and in doing so has put the assisting of offenders through the system as a priority. Since the training her approach is to place victim safety as the highest priority. Jessica stated that the training provided great insight into the Rhode Island approach to domestic violence and showed how progressive Rhode Island is in terms of a cohesive comprehensive and cohesive response to domestic violence. Jessica also stated that the relationship among agencies in Rhode Island is a valuable cooperative effort in comparison to the other the other jurisdictions represented at the training. Jessica stated that she left the training feeling there are many already well formed responses in Rhode Island though and guidelines could be implemented to enhance what is currently in place. Emily stated that increased involvement of the prosecutor and judicial representatives would greatly assist in the collaborative response to domestic violence.

Shelley thanked Deb DeBare of the Coalition Against Domestic

Violence for making attendance to the APPA training possible. Shelley also announced that the Coalition has made scholarship funding to a Duluth Model Training offered in Providence in March 2010 available to one representative from each Batterers Intervention Program and one representative from corrections. Shelley stated that this funding is a great opportunity to enhance program training on the Duluth Model, a model which the Comprehensive Standards for group format and curriculum are largely based.

Shelley announced Joe Ben of Justice Assistance has resigned from the agency and Anthony Ward-Smith will now be serving as the Oversight Committee designee for Justice Assistance.

Shelley announced the retirement of Steven King of the Rhode Island Supreme Court and Co-Chair of the Oversight Committee. Shelley noted it has been a pleasure to work with Steve and his knowledge and insight have been an excellent resource to the Oversight Committee. Judge Bucci stated Steve is an exemplary example of state service and his presence in the system will be greatly missed.

Upcoming Meetings

Review Subcommittee:

January 19, 2010 at 2 Monday, November 14, 2011 at 2:00pm in Dix Building, Cranston, RI.

(rescheduled for 11/30/2011)

DV Critical Cases Review Team:

TBD

Oversight Committee:

**February 1February 6, 2012 at 2:00pm in Dix Building, 18 Wilma
Schesler Lane, Cranston, RI 02920.**

Meeting Adjourned

Deb DeBareJudge Bucci made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Jessica Seitz

**Judge Bucci seconded the motion. All votes in favor; none opposed;
nono abstentions. Motion carried.**

Meeting adjourned at 2:55 3:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Emily Daniels, Probation & Parole Officer

Batterers Intervention Program Standards Oversight Committee