

# **BATTERERS INTERVENTION PROGRAM STANDARDS OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE**

**Meeting of December 2, 2013**

**Open session**

**Minutes Draft**

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**Voting Members Present (6): Shelley Cortese, RI Department of Corrections/Chair; Deb DeBare, RI Coalition Against Domestic Violence; Veronica Hobbs, Supreme Court Domestic Violence Training & Monitoring Unit; Beatriz Perez, RI Department of Health; Anthony Ward-Smith, Justice Assistance; Mary Osborne, BIP Representative.**

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

**Additional Participants (6): Emily Daniels, Probation & Parole/BIPSOC; Dan Dupuis, Probation & Parole; Louise Fenno, FVI; Deb Ferrante, EBCC; Jessica Rogers, EBCC.**

**Materials Distributed:**

**Meeting Agenda: December 2, 2013**

**Meeting Minutes: August 5, 2013**

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

### **Review of Minutes**

**Minutes from the meeting of August 5, 2013 were reviewed.**

**Beatriz Perez made a motion to adopt the August 5, 2013 minutes with the correction that she did not abstain from the vote for Tri-Hab's Comprehensive Certification. Anthony Ward-Smith seconded the motion. All votes in favor; none opposed. Motion carried.**

### **Review Subcommittee Report**

**Emily reported on the Comprehensive Certification process for RI-BIP stating that not all forms were complete and the forms had been returned to the facilitator for completion. Deb stated she was not comfortable voting in favor of Comprehensive Certification as there is still missing information and the vote in August was contingent on the forms being submitted. Emily stated that all forms had been submitted but that one facilitator had not properly completed the form so it was returned for completion. Emily stated there were seven facilitators with outstanding forms at the August Oversight Committee meeting and that all had submitted the forms just one was**

not properly completed. Emily asked if it was reasonable to put a hold on the vote for only one facilitator. Deb DeBare stated she wants a letter to be sent to RI-BIP stating the forms must be completed and submitted prior to the next Oversight Committee meeting. Beatriz stated she was not comfortable waiting until the next meeting to have the matter resolved. She asked if the Oversight Committee could require the submission of the forms within the next week. Anthony asked if the vote could take place at this meeting without the facilitator forms. That the facilitator could submit them at a later date for approval as an individual can submit qualification forms for approval to facilitate groups for an agency when the program is not under review for Comprehensive Certification. Shelley stated that since the program is under review for Comprehensive Certification it is not unreasonable to require the agency have all of the forms properly completed and submitted as they are discussing the entire agency not just an individual.

Veronica agreed with Deb DeBare that a letter should be sent regarding today's decision. Deb added she would like it to be specified the forms are to be completed and submitted prior to 12/19/2013.

Deb DeBare made a motion to extend Comprehensive Certification to RI-BIP until the next Oversight Committee meeting pending the receipt of outstanding facilitator forms by 12/19/2013. Veronica Hobbs seconded the motion. All votes in favor; Mary abstained; no objections. Motion carried.

**Mary asked if the application for Comprehensive Certification has been sent to Bridgemark. Emily stated it was mail on Friday November 29th, 2013. Mary asked if she could give the Curriculum to Emily today. Emily stated yes and post meeting Mary provided Emily with the curriculum for Bridgemark's batterer's intervention program.**

## **Member Issues/Announcements**

### **Rules & Standards Subcommittee:**

**Shelley stated she would like to have the subcommittee reconvene due to it being seven years since the Comprehensive Standards were amended. Shelley states the purpose of the subcommittee would be to look at current best practice and recommend any amendments of the Comprehensive Standards to the Oversight Committee.**

**Anthony agreed it would be prudent to review the Comprehensive Standards in light of current best practice and stated he would like to be involved in the subcommittee. Rachel stated the National DV Resource has recently published articles about evidence based practice in batterer intervention. Shelley stated the National Institute of Justice produced a report of a 2009 roundtable where experts discussed if batterer's intervention has a measurable impact on domestic abuse. Shelley stated she would forward this report to Committee members. Deb DeBare stated an invitation to the subcommittee to be sent out to the Oversight Committee members**

not present. Deb Ferrante suggested other members of the Domestic Violence Community not involved in the Oversight Committee be invited to join the subcommittee. Rachel suggested the Public Defenders Office. Both Shelley and Rachel expressed the benefit of having a judge sit on the subcommittee.

Rachel, Veronica, Dan, Mary, Anthony, Deb Ferrante and Louise Fenno all expressed interest in becoming involved with the subcommittee.

#### **DV High Risk/Critical Case Team:**

Shelley reported the High Risk/Critical Case Team is up and running. Emily reported three meetings have been held, September 4, 2013; October 16, 2013 and November 20, 2013. A total of fourteen cases have been discussed with plans developed for each case. The Team has received referrals from EBC Center, RICADV, Adult Probation and Parole, the Attorney General's Office and the Blackstone Valley Advocacy Center.

## **Upcoming Meetings**

### **Review Subcommittee:**

**Thursday January 9, 2014 at 9:00am in Dix Building, Cranston, RI.  
(rescheduled for 1/14/14 9am)**

### **DV High Risk/Critical Case Team:**

**Wednesday January 8, 2013 at 3:00pm in Dix Building, Cranston, RI.**

### **Oversight Committee:**

**February 3, 2014 at 2:00pm in Dix Building, 18 Wilma Schesler Lane,  
Cranston, RI 02920.**

## **Meeting Adjourned**

**Anthony Ward-Smith made a motion to adjourn the meeting.**

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

**Meeting adjourned at 2:50 p.m.**

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**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Emily Daniels, Probation & Parole Officer**

**Batterers Intervention Program Standards Oversight Committee**