

**BATTERERS INTERVENTION PROGRAM STANDARDS
OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE**

Meeting of August 5, 2013

Open session

Minutes Draft

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; Jeff Weisinger, Tri-Hab; George Sheehan, RI-BIP; Deb Ferrente, EBCC; Jessica Rogers, EBCC.

Materials Distributed:

Meeting Agenda: August 5, 2013

Meeting Minutes: June 3, 2013

Shelley Cortese, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 2:08 pm.

Review of Minutes

Minutes from the meeting of June 3, 2013 were reviewed.

Deb DeBare made a motion to adopt the June 3, 2013 minutes. Anthony Ward-Smith seconded the motion. All votes in favor; none opposed. Motion carried.

Review Subcommittee Report

Emily reported the Comprehensive Certification process for Tri-Hab and RI-BIP have been completed. The Review Subcommittee asked for clarification of trainings from facilitator Janet Rogers of Tri-Hab. The updated forms were submitted at today's meeting. The Review Subcommittee is recommending a vote to grant Comprehensive Re-Certification for Tri-Hab.

Deb DeBare made a motion to grant Renewed Comprehensive Certification to Tri-Hab. Anthony Ward-Smith seconded the motion. All votes in favor; Mary & Beatriz abstained; no objections. Motion carried.

Deb Ferrante reported she and Jessica observed RI-BIP Warwick women's groups and noted the facilitator was able to engage group members in discussion while also holding them accountable for abusive behavior and victim blaming. Emily reported she and Sonia Mendoza of Adult Probation & Parole observed the Providence men's group on Thursday mornings and noted the group members challenged one another and seemed comfortable to share differing opinions with one another and the facilitator. Group members and the facilitator all modeled respectful communication within the group.

Emily reported that facilitator forms from seven facilitators were still outstanding. The issue was discussed with George Sheehan and it was agreed that completed forms would be submitted prior to the next scheduled Oversight Committee meeting on 10/7/2013. Based on this the Review Subcommittee is recommending a vote to grant Comprehensive Re-Certification for RI-BIP. Deb DeBare stated she did not feel comfortable voting to grant Re-Certification based on the number of outstanding forms and would like to vote to extend Certification until the next Oversight Committee meeting. George commented that in the past programs have been granted Comprehensive Re-Certification with outstanding forms. George also stated the hours of training have been completed the forms just need to be submitted and in some cases the forms have been submitted they just need additional clarification. Deb asked if the vote could be to grant Comprehensive Re-Certification pending on the submission of the forms. George asked if there is a difference between granting

Re-Certification pending receipt of the forms and an extension. Beatriz stated she feels comfortable going ahead with a vote for Re-Certification based on the Review Subcommittee's recommendation. Veronica asked what would happen if the forms are not submitted. Emily stated that if the forms do not get submitted the agency must submit a plan to come into compliance and a vote for an extension would be held. A vote for Comprehensive Re-Certification would be held after the agency had come into compliance.

Beatriz Perez made a motion to grant Renewed Comprehensive Certification to RI-BIP pending the receipt of outstanding facilitator forms. Anthony Ward-Smith seconded the motion. All votes in favor; Mary abstained; no objections. Motion carried.

Member Issues/Announcements

DV High Risk/Critical Case Team:

The second planning meeting for the High Risk/Critical Case Team was held on July 17th.

Emily reported discussion at the planning meeting included the case selection process and the area from which the cases would be selected. It was decided that the case area would be the entire state. Selection of cases will be based on referrals by probation & parole,

victim advocates and police departments. Initially cases will be selected from a list of ACI releases with domestic violence being the lead charge. The list will be generated by Re-Entry Services and forwarded to Emily who will identify the supervising P.O., the arresting police department, the victim and status of the NCO. This list will then be sent to all Probation & Parole Officers and team members. Members of the team will then distribute the list to Re-Entry Coordinators and Law Enforcement Advocates. Flagged case will be sent to Emily who will compile offender and offense information and complete a dangerousness assessment to be presented at the next team meeting.

Upcoming Meetings

Review Subcommittee:

TBD.

(post meeting-scheduled for 9/10/2013 9am)

DV High Risk/Critical Case Team:

Wednesday September 4, 2013 at 3:00pm in Dix Building, Cranston, RI.

Oversight Committee:

October 7, 2013 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 2:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Emily Daniels, Probation & Parole Officer

Batterers Intervention Program Standards Oversight Committee