

BATTERERS INTERVENTION PROGRAM STANDARDS OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Meeting of April 6, 2015

Open session

Minutes Draft

Voting Members Present (6): Shelley Cortese, RI Department of Corrections/Chair; Rachel Orsinger, RI Coalition Against Domestic Violence; Veronica Hobbs, Supreme Court Domestic Violence Training & Monitoring Unit; Anthony Ward-Smith, Justice Assistance; Judge Bucci, RI District Court; Mary Osborne, Batterers Intervention Program Representative.

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

Additional Participants (5): Karen Lubo, Probation & Parole Supervisor; Emily Daniels, Probation & Parole/BIPSOC; Dan Dupuis, Probation & Parole; Jessica Rogers, EBCC;

Materials Distributed:

Meeting Agenda: April 6, 2015

Meeting Minutes: December 1, 2014

Summary of Survey Results

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

Review of Minutes

Minutes from the meeting of December 1, 2014 were reviewed.

Rachel Orsinger made a motion to adopt the December 1, 2014 minutes. Veronica Hobbs seconded the motion. All votes in favor; none opposed. Motion carried.

Review Subcommittee Report

No report at this meeting.

Rules & Standards Subcommittee Report

The results of the survey sent by the Subcommittee were discussed. Overall there was a positive response to having the groups be co-facilitated. Respondents reported they do think there should be a change in the curriculum for women's groups. Jessica stated the Duluth Model has a separate curriculum for women. Many times women are in group due to resistive violence and not because they

are the primary aggressor. Both Rachel and Jessica agreed that many women are in group because of the mandate that everyone adjudicated under 12-29-5 attend BIP even when the familial relationship is not an intimate partner.

Judge Bucci expressed that there are many cases that involve family members; brother/brother, mother/daughter, that may have other underlying issues not addressed in BIP but the statute does not allow for discretion in imposing the attendance of BIP.

Whether or not an assessment process to determine an appropriate group for an individual would be possible and/or practical was discussed but a conclusion was not reached. Dan reported that the EMERGE program does offender assessments and also has victim contact during the offender's participation in group. During the April 2nd Subcommittee Meeting it was determined, that due to the work schedules of BIP staff and the potential for victims to show up at the group site when unable to reach a staff member, that contact regarding group attendance and progress should remain between the assigned Probation & Parole Officer and the victim.

Member Issues/Announcements

Upcoming Meetings

Review Subcommittee:

TBD

Rules & Standards Subcommittee:

Thursday May 7, 2015 at 2:00pm in Dix Building, Cranston, RI.

DV High Risk/Critical Case Team:

April 22, 2015 at 3:00pm in Dix Building, Cranston, RI.

Oversight Committee:

Monday June 1, 2015 at 2:00pm in Dix Building, 18 Wilma Schesler Lane, Cranston, RI 02920.

Meeting Adjourned

Judge Bucci made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Veronica Hobbs seconded the motion. All votes in favor; none opposed;

no abstentions. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 3 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Emily Daniels, Probation & Parole Officer

Batterers Intervention Program Standards Oversight Committee