

BATTERERS INTERVENTION PROGRAM STANDARDS OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Meeting of June 1, 2015

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; 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 (2): Karen Lubo, Probation & Parole Supervisor; Emily Daniels, Probation & Parole/BIPSOC

Materials Distributed:

Meeting Agenda: June 1, 2015

Meeting Minutes: April 6, 2015

**Rules & Standards Subcommittee Proposed changes to sections 5.1;
5.1.5.1; 5.1.6 of the Comprehensive**

Standards

Shelley Cortese, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 2:04pm.

Review of Minutes

Minutes from the meeting of April 6, 2015 were reviewed.

Anthony Ward-Smith made a motion to adopt the April 6, 2015 minutes. Mary Osborne seconded the motion. All votes in favor; none opposed. Motion carried.

Review Subcommittee Report

Vote to amend the agenda to include discussion of a proposed change to RIGL 12-29-5 Section 1.

Deb Debare made a motion to amend the agenda. Anthony Ward-Smith seconded the motion.

All votes in favor; none opposed. Motion carried.

A proposal to change 12-29-5 Section 1 of the RIGL was introduced to the RI General Assembly on April 16, 2015.

The court may permit a resident of the town of New Shoreham to

complete a court-approved counseling program administered by a court-approved provider that provides services in the town of New Shoreham.

Shelley states the Comprehensive Standards Section 6.1.3.1 allows for the referral source to bring individual cases before the Court when there is an issue with an individual being able to attend a certified batterer's intervention program. She believes this allows exceptions to be made on a case by case basis with the referral source informing the Court of the issue and alternative approach. Judge Bucci stated she has some concern with the language of the proposed change, the "court-approved program...court-approved provider".

Deb states providers can be approved by the Oversight Committee. Does this open up the possibility of circumventing the certification process? Put the Court in the business of assessing providers and programs? Shelley asked if there is a motion to vote Shelley, as Chair of the Oversight Committee; notify RIDOC Legal Department that the Oversight Committee has concerns about the proposed change to RIGL 12-29-5 Section 1.

Deb Debare made a motion to Shelley inform RIDOC Legal Department on behalf of the Oversight Committee. Mary Osborne seconded the motion.

All votes in favor; none opposed. Motion carried.

Rules & Standards Subcommittee Report

Shelley stated that the subcommittee has prepared proposed changes to Comprehensive Standards Section 5.1. Member of the subcommittee present at this meeting are, Mary Osborne, Anthony Ward-Smith, Veronica Hobbs and Emily Daniels.

Emily stated that the proposed change is to require co-facilitation of groups, preferably by a male/female team. Mary asked if the proposal is evidence based or antidotal. Mary also stated it is not realistic to expect each group to have 18 members. Judge Bucci stated 18 in group may be too many even with two facilitators. Veronica pointed out that 18 group members is not the requirement but the maximum size for the group. Mary states that with any less than 18 in a co-facilitated group the programs may lose money. The change is a financial burden on the programs. Is there evidence that co-facilitated groups are more effective than groups run by a single facilitator? Anthony asked if it would be possible to ask a program to run a pilot group with co-facilitators to research the outcomes from group members.

Deb asked why the recommendation of co-facilitation was being brought to the Oversight Committee and what evidence the subcommittee had used to inform the proposal.

Shelley stated that research has been inconclusive on the effectiveness of programs.

Judge Bucci stated that the research she has read indicates that the length of the program seems to have the most influence on change in behavior. With longer programs producing a more positive result.

Mary stated she has no issue with implementing co-facilitation if it can be shown to be more effective than the current practice of using a single facilitator.

Judge Bucci stated she was under the impression the new proposals would provide more flexibility to the programs and the ones brought today are more restrictive. Judge Bucci would like to see a more holistic approach.

Veronica stated an assessment would be needed to identify individual needs and wondered what agency would conduct the assessment and provide the Court with results within the time frame of the typical case process.

Anthony stated the survey results from facilitators were positive regarding co-facilitation, with those who have worked with a co-facilitator stating it was beneficial to the process.

Emily stated the reasons the Duluth Model uses co-facilitation of groups is to; model male/female equality, reduce possible collusion, and increase participation of group members through better observation of the group's demeanor.

Deb stated she would like the subcommittee to inform the Oversight Committee of what supporting material was used to support the changes being proposed. Did the subcommittee review other states' standards? Did they do a literature review? The subcommittee should not be bringing proposals to the Oversight Committee without this information.

Emily stated the subcommittee did review other states' standards in addition to being informed through training of the current practices

used by Duluth and EMERGE. The list of state standards and literature reviewed can be brought to the Oversight Committee.

Member Issues/Announcements

Upcoming Meetings

Review Subcommittee:

TBD

Rules & Standards Subcommittee:

Thursday June 11, 2015 at 1:00pm in Dix Building, Cranston, RI.

DV High Risk/Critical Case Team:

Wednesday June 24, 2015 at 3:00pm in Dix Building, Cranston, RI.

(Post meeting the DV High Risk/Critical Case Team was cancelled and rescheduled to July 29th)

Oversight Committee:

Monday August 3, 2015 at 2:00pm in Dix Building, 18 Wilma Schesler Lane, Cranston, RI 02920.

Meeting Adjourned

Deb DeBare made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Judge Bucci seconded the motion. All votes in favor; none opposed; no abstentions. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 3:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Emily Daniels, Probation & Parole Officer

Batterers Intervention Program Standards Oversight Committee