

# **BATTERERS INTERVENTION PROGRAM STANDARDS OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE**

**Meeting of August 3, 2015**

**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; Anthony Ward-Smith, Justice Assistance; Mary Osborne, Batterers Intervention Program Representative.**

**Seats Not Represented (7): RI District Court; 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 (3): Dan Dupuis, Probation & Parole Officer; Emily Daniels, Probation & Parole/BIPSOC; Rachel Orsinger, RI Coalition Against Domestic Violence**

**Materials Distributed:**

**Meeting Agenda: August 3, 2015**

**Meeting Minutes: June 1, 2015**

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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 June 1, 2015 were reviewed.**

**Deb DeBare made a motion to adopt the June 1, 2015 minutes. Anthony Ward-Smith seconded the motion. All votes in favor; none opposed. Motion carried.**

### **Review Subcommittee Report**

**Rachel Orsinger reported that the proposed change to 12-29-5 Section 1 of the RIGL was passed in the RI House but was not presented in the RI Senate.**

**The proposed amendment is below:**

**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.**

## **Rules & Standards Subcommittee Report**

**Shelley began the discussion with an update on what is current in community corrections nationwide. Shelley stated there is a move toward using evidence based practice with in community corrections and that Rhode Island is also adopting these practices. One of the evidence based practices is the Risk Need Responsivity Model (R-N-R). This model utilizes an individual assessment and treatment based on the assessment findings. One of the components to R-N-R is skill building and it has been shown to be effective in reduction of recidivism. Currently the batterer's intervention programs in RI do not do risk assessments to determine the needs of the client.**

**Mary stated she has always been under the impression the role of batterer's intervention was to promote victim safety and hold offenders accountable by changing the offender's belief system that blames others for their actions and circumstances and supports their abusive behavior.**

**Rachel stated that individuals may have many needs that could be met through services but questions whether Batterer's intervention is the proper setting to provide the skills to address those needs.**

**Anthony asked if there is an assessment that other states use during the intake process that determines the level or type of intervention.**

**Mary stated that Bridgemark does use an assessment tool and makes recommendations for treatment based on the assessment but clients don't follow through with the recommendations if there is not a court order to fulfill the counseling suggested.**

**Currently RI uses a model of intervention that is Duluth based and although there is an assessment process within the Duluth Model DIAP does not separate clients into different intervention groups based on the assessment. All male clients go through the same program regardless of the severity of their crime or whether or not they have previously completed the program.**

## **Member Issues/Announcements**

## **Upcoming Meetings**

### **Review Subcommittee:**

**TBD**

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

**Thursday September 10, 2015 at 1:00pm in Dix Building, Cranston, RI.**

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

**Wednesday September 16, 2015 at 3:00pm in Dix Building, Cranston, RI.**

### **Oversight Committee:**

**Monday October 5, 2015 at 2:00pm in Dix Building, 18 Wilma Schesler**

**Lane, Cranston, RI 02920.**

**(Post meeting the Oversight Committee Meeting was cancelled)**

**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 3:05 p.m.**

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**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Emily Daniels, Probation & Parole Officer**

**Batterers Intervention Program Standards Oversight Committee**