

Batterers Intervention Program Standards Oversight Committee

Review Subcommittee

Minutes

Meeting February 28, 2005

Attending: (6) Sisan Smallman (Chair), Probation & Parole; Shelley Cortese, Probation & Parole; Adrienne McGowan, Probation & Parole; Laura Jaworski, BIPSOC; Sage Bauer, RICADV; Steve King, RI Supreme Court.

Sisan called the meeting to order at 2:40pm. New members were introduced and welcomed by all in attendance. Members reviewed and approved the minutes from the October 26th, 2004 meeting.

Updates.

- CIS: There has been no contact from Lora Spalt, Program Manager at CIS regarding their provisional application.**

Programs Pending Review & Discussion.

- Feedback: Laura reported that she has been working with Bob O'Neil regarding Feedback's application for renewed comprehensive certification. Since Mr. O'Neil is not currently running any groups, the Review Subcommittee would not be able to complete the observation aspect of the renewed comprehensive certification process. However, Mr. O'Neil has been encouraged to complete the written aspects of the application (curriculum and handouts, facilitator/supervisor**

qualification forms) for review. The Review Subcommittee, barring any issues with the aforementioned materials, could recommend that the Oversight Committee grant a form of certification for six (6) months. This would enable Mr. O'Neil to gather referrals in an attempt to get some groups running. At that point, representatives from the Review Subcommittee could complete the observations and complete the comprehensive certification application. As of last week, Mr. O'Neil has continued to express interest in this option if he decides to pursue recertification at all. No application materials have been submitted as of today. Mr. O'Neil reported that he will be away on vacation for the first two (2) weeks of March; Laura reported that the application materials would need to be submitted before the next Review Subcommittee meeting in order to allow time for review by Subcommittee representatives. Further, if no materials are received by April 4th, 2005 (the next Oversight Committee meeting date), the comprehensive certification for Mr. O'Neil/Feedback would expire.

- **CODAC.** Laura reported that she has been working with George Sheehan regarding CODAC's application for renewed comprehensive certification. Sage Bauer and Shelley Cortese have been assisting in the process of reviewing the submitted materials, including curriculum and relevant handouts, and facilitator/supervisor qualification forms. The curriculum appears to address the majority of the Standards. A facilitator qualifications form was reviewed by members due to concerns regarding training and experience listed on the form. Reviewers noted that some questions in the curriculum

are contingent/can be answered through the group observation process; Laura, Sage, and Shelley have scheduled observations of four (4) group meeting locations (to be observed in pairs) during the month of March. Some discussion focused on the number of group observations required as part of the certification process. The Comprehensive Standards state that for programs with more than seven (7) groups, reviewers must observe a minimum of 2 group locations (to be observed in pairs). CODAC is currently running approximately 40 groups. Further discussion focused on the application process itself; for example, should the Review Subcommittee or its representatives suggest that a program strengthen or clarify particular areas of its curriculum, can the certification itself be placed on hold until this is addressed. Sisan is meeting with Mr. Sheehan this week and will bring concerns for discussion and further clarification.

Member issues.

- Some members reported that Monday afternoon meetings have become difficult due to work-related obligations. Group members decided that the meetings will be changed to Tuesday afternoons, beginning in March.

Meeting adjourned at 4:10pm.

Next Meeting:

March 29th, 2005 at 2:30pm-4pm (Sisan's Office)

Minutes: Laura Jaworski