

Batterers Intervention Program Standards Oversight Committee

Review Subcommittee

Minutes

Meeting March 29, 2005

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

Sisan called the meeting to order at 2:40pm. Members reviewed and approved the minutes from the February 28th, 2005 meeting.

Programs Pending Review & Discussion.

- CODAC. Effective April 1, 2005, CODAC has ceased operating its batterers intervention program. A new entity, RIBIP, has assumed the batterers intervention program functions formerly offered through CODAC. George Sheehan, formerly Director of CODAC's batterers intervention program, is now the Executive Director of RIBIP. In transitioning from CODAC to RIBIP, clients and referring agencies should experience little if any difference: there is no change in the curriculum, staffing, or meeting locations. Sisan reported that she has received an official letter from CODAC regarding this transition. The Oversight Committee will decide on the type of certification, namely "renewed comprehensive certification" or "comprehensive certification". Members reviewed the summary report prepared by**

Laura Jaworski, with input from Shelley Cortese and Sage Bauer. A statement at the beginning of the summary regarding the transition from CODAC to RIBIP will be added. Laura will follow-up with George for clarification on the issues identified through the certification process.

- Feedback. No application materials have been received from Robert O'Neil regarding certification of his program, Feedback. If no information is received by April 4th, 2005 (the next Oversight Committee meeting date), the comprehensive certification for Mr. O'Neil/Feedback would expire, making Feedback ineligible for court-mandated referrals.**

Programs with Applications due May 2005.

- The Center for Social Work Practice (CSWP) and Galilee Mission to Fisherman have applications due in May for renewed comprehensive certification. Laura will request volunteers to review these applications once they have been received.**

Application protocol discussion.

- Members discussed the review process in terms of facilitator/supervisor qualification forms. It was suggested that receiving the requested information has historically been difficult. Laura suggested following up with the programs for feedback after the certification process has been completed as a means to "streamline" this process.**

- **Members also suggested providing a description of the observation/application process for facilitators when a program is going through the certification process by representatives of the Review Subcommittee. Members have received feedback from facilitators that the process is “nerve-wracking” and they are unsure of what is involved. It was suggested that while the Review Subcommittee representatives can request programs inform and prepare facilitators for the observation process, we cannot control what information is presented to them. However, a description/outline of the process might prove beneficial for both the programs/facilitators and observers. Sisan reported that she has a possible description on file and will present it to members for review.**

Meeting adjourned at 4:05pm.

Next Meeting:

May 17th, 2005 at 2:30pm-4pm (Sisan’s Office)

Minutes: Laura Jaworski