

**Batterers Intervention Program Standards Oversight Committee
Review Subcommittee**

Meeting Minutes: March 24,2009

Attending: (6) Shelley Cortese, Assistant Administrator Probation & Parole/ BIPSOC Chair; Stephen King, RI Supreme Court/Co-Chair; Emily Daniels, BIPSOC/ Probation & Parole; Micheline Lombardi, Supervisor Probation & Parole; Sharon Schawtz-Vanderhoff, Probation & Parole; Sage Bauer, RICADV.

Meeting called to order at 2:25pm.

Program under review: Renewed Comprehensive Certification

o RI-BIP

Group Observation Report

„a Micheline Lombardi & Emily Daniels reported on group observation of the woman's Warwick group held Tuesdays 5-7pm. Groups were observed on 2/10/2009 & 2/24/2009. Observers noted the facilitator did not challenge statements or confront reported abuse at the 2/24/2009 meeting. The facilitator had challenged and confronted abusive behavior and statements at the 2/10/2009 meeting. The discrepancy in accountability will be brought to the attention of George Sheehan at the meeting between George, Director of RI-BIP, and Emily, BIPSOC Coordinator, to review the

Comprehensive Certification summary report.

„a Emily Daniels reported on group observation of the men's East Providence group held Tuesdays 5-7pm. Groups were observed on 3/3/2009 & 3/10/2009 by Emily Daniels & Kevin Mulcahey. Observers noted the groups were co-facilitated but that one facilitator was the primary lead facilitator and the second contributed minimally. The lead facilitator did an excellent job of keeping group members focused as well as challenging and confronting inappropriate statements and reported abuse. Emily is to follow-up with George, Director of RI-BIP, on the facilitator status (trainee or seasoned) of the second facilitator.

„a Steve King & Sage Bauer reported on group observation of the men's Urban League group held Tuesdays 5-7pm. Groups were observed on 2/24/2009 & 3/3/2009. Steve & Sage reported there needs to be clarification of group start and end time as they were under the impression group would run from 5-7pm, but on the 2/24/2009 the group was to begin at 4:45 pm and end at 6:45pm. Observers reported the facilitator had a good rapport with the group and maintained focus of the group creating an open and productive group dynamic. Observers noted that the facilitator modeled respect by referring to significant others as 'partner' but did not consistently hold group participants to this practice.

„a Steve & Sage reported the facilitator engaged them in the group

process during observation and informed the group of Sagej's place of employment. Steve suggested a clear guideline on group observation etiquette for observers and facilitators be drafted.

Document, Curriculum & Record Review Summary

„a Judith Willard & Emily Daniels reviewed the intake packet documents and curriculum submitted by

RI-BIP. Emily reported the documents and curriculum meet all requirements set by the Comprehensive Standards. Emily reported Judith has suggested

RI-BIP add a question regarding elder abuse to the intake assessment. Emily is scheduled to perform a record audit at RI-BIPj's Cranston location on 3/25/2009.

Facilitator Qualification Forms

„a Emily reported an initial review of facilitator qualification forms had been done and RI-BIP has been notified of the facilitators whose forms need addition clarification:

„X George Sheehan

„X Christopher Frenier

„X Auelina Rocchio

„X Danielle Barron

„X Linda Hurley

„X Sharon Turner

The requested information will be submitted by RI-BIP on 4/1/2009.

After review of qualification forms presented to the Review Subcommittee; the subcommittee recommends Sharon Pine complete the description of trainings on the qualification form. The subcommittee finds these qualification forms to meet requirements:

„X Christine Barrett

„X Victoria Frackos

„X David Florio

„X Gail Reynolds

„X Carrie Barboza

„X Rocio Perez

„X Dana DiBiasio

Submitted Facilitator Qualification Forms:

o FVI

Submitted form appears to meet all but the 100 hour group observation and co-facilitator requirement (Comprehensive Standard 7.3.5)

Emily is to follow up with Bryan Riley, Director of FVI, regarding the applicant's progress with completing the 100 hours of observation and co-facilitation.

Misc. Issues:

BIPSOC Appointee/Alternate:

o Shelley reported Deb DeBare, Director of RICADV, submitted a letter selecting Mary Osborne of Kent House as the BIP representative on the Oversight Committee and Bryan Riley of FVI as the alternate.

Vantage Point, Inc.:

o Vantage Point submitted a request for clarification, by formal letter, to Shelley Cortese, BIPSOC Chair, and the Oversight Committee members. The letter requests clarification of the Comprehensive Standards requirement of obtaining police reports and the obligation of Probation & Parole Officers to supply these reports upon referral of a client. Shelley reported the Oversight Committee has no jurisdiction over the practice and procedure of the Department of Probation & Parole. The Comprehensive Standards apply to certified batterers intervention programs and the requirement to obtain police reports and maintain them in the client file is the responsibility of the certified agency. Shelley reported a Department of Corrections response, addressing the continuation of the 'common practice' of Probation & Parole Officers to forward police reports to programs when available and concerns regarding facilitator safety brought forth in the Vantage Point request, will be sent by Department of Corrections legal counsel Patricia Coyne-Fague to Dr. Carty prior to the next Oversight Committee meeting. Shelley also reported Richard Delfino, Probation & Parole Assistant Administrator, will be present to answer any inquiries regarding the Department of Probation & Parole.

Steve King, BIPSOC Co-Chair, will serve to respond to any inquiries regarding the jurisdiction of the Oversight Committee.

o The Vantage Point request for clarification will be included in the April 6, 2009 Oversight Committee agenda. Dr. Carty will be notified prior to the meeting of the inclusion of her inquiry on the agenda.

Meeting adjourned at 4pm.

Next Meeting:

Tuesday 6/23/2009 2pm

Minutes prepared by Emily Daniels