

BIPSOC RULES & STANDARDS SUBCOMMITTEE

Meeting of January 23rd, 2007

MINUTES

Present: (8) Sisan Smallman, Probation & Parole; Laura Jaworski, BIPSOC; Adrienne McGowan, Probation & Parole, Sharon Schwartz-Vanderhoff, Probation & Parole; Sage Bauer, RICADV; Jen Fiore, Vantage Point; Michael DiLauro, Public Defender's Office; Lola Lange, Public Defender's Office.

Materials Distributed:

- Minutes from October 10th, 2006 meeting.**
- Agenda for January 23rd, 2007 meeting.**
- Comprehensive Standards draft revisions (dated January 23rd, 2007)**

Sisan called the meeting to order at 2:40p.m. Minutes from the October 10th, 2006 meeting were adopted without change.

Sisan reported that the Rules and Standards Subcommittee had been relatively inactive recently due to the creation of the Ad Hoc Legislative Subcommittee and the momentum to focus on work related to the proposed legislation of allowing credit for batterers intervention program participation in the ACI. Laura and Sisan have continued to work on the Comprehensive Standards and have made a

draft available for Subcommittee members to review. Procedurally, once the Subcommittee has reached consensus on a version of the draft revisions, it will be forwarded to the Oversight Committee for review and potential approval. The final steps involve a public hearing and review by both the Attorney General's Office and the Secretary of State's Office, respectively.

The major change that Subcommittee members will notice on the latest draft revision of the Comprehensive Standards is the new format change. Sections are referenced by a series of numbers, which will ideally result in a more user-friendly document. Notable sections where revisions have occurred are as follows:

1.060: Recognizes the importance of Comprehensive Standards as outlined by the Oversight Committee; however a degree of flexibility for the batterers intervention programs is essential as well.

Discussion: Mike DiLauro requested an example of a situation whereby this Standard would be applied. Sisan reported a case where a year-round resident of Block Island was court-ordered to attend a batterers intervention program. No certified BIP exists on Block Island, and a hardship would be created in the regular travel back to the "mainland" to attend a BIP. A therapist who was familiar in the dynamics of domestic violence was identified (and travels weekly to Block Island to provide counseling services) and was willing to provide individual counseling to the individual.

4.200-4.400: The original Comprehensive Standards did not explicitly identify the certification process. Additional details have been included in the revisions to the Rules of Practice and Procedure.

5.000 The “Program Content” section has been revised in various areas, including fee collection, breaks, difficulty in attending BIP regularly due to employment types, co-facilitator and group issues, and the creation of safety plans in the ACI program which carry-over to community program.

Discussion: Lola questioned if alternatives are offered for non-English speaking clients. Sisan reported that many programs offer groups in Spanish and occasionally Portuguese. One program also has a facilitator who knows American Sign Language. Lola also questioned how programs address the differences that exist for men and women in various cultures. Sisan reported that every program addresses gender roles within mainstream society, as well as additional cultures that may be represented in the particular group. Jen Fiore reported that Vantage Point utilizes a two (2) session module that discusses this issue. Adrienne McGowan reported that as a Probation Officer, she reinforces the message that is delivered by programs regarding the role of females and seeks to build on the positive contributions of their culture of origin.

6.113 Addresses issues resulting from client inappropriateness for a group setting.

6.215 Addresses the issue of “program shopping” (when a client moves from program to program) is not allowed, except in extraordinary circumstances.

6.427 Addresses client compliance and payment of fees.

6.713-6.714 Addresses discharge summary requirements.

7.111 Addresses diversity of program staff.

Mike asked for clarification on the role of this Subcommittee, which he believed was to be responsible for making recommendations to the Oversight Committee regarding revisions to the Comprehensive Standards if the proposed legislation is implemented. Sisan reported that the Ad Hoc Legislative Subcommittee decided that work would be a part of their responsibility. That Subcommittee would discuss potential areas that would require revisions, draft said areas, and forward to the Oversight Committee for approval of the concepts. The Oversight Committee could then pass that information/work to either the Ad Hoc Legislative Subcommittee or the Rules and Standards Subcommittee as appropriate. The next Ad Hoc Legislative Subcommittee meeting will focus some discussion on the issue of possible revisions to the Standards.

Meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

UPCOMING SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS:

February 20th, 2007

Conference Room, 1st Floor, Bernadette Building

RIDOC

15 Fleming Road

Cranston, RI

NEXT BIPSOC MEETING:

February 5th, 2007 @ 2pm

Department of Administration, Conference Room C

One Capitol Hill

Providence, RI

Minutes Prepared by Laura Jaworski