

BIPSOC: AD HOC LEGISLATIVE SUBCOMMITTEE

WORKING GROUP

Meeting of February 15th, 2007 DRAFT

MINUTES

Present: (3) Laura Jaworski, BIPSOC; Michael DiLauro, Public Defender's Office; Sage Bauer, RICADV.

Materials Distributed:

- **Agenda for February 15th, 2007 meeting.**
- **Draft suggestions for revisions**

Laura called the meeting to order at 10:15am. Working group members reviewed the purpose of this meeting, which is to draft revision to the Comprehensive Standards as related to implementation of a prison-based batterers intervention program.

Group members reviewed draft revisions as suggested by Sisan Smallman. Sisan proposed a Section 4.900 be added, titled "Special Program Issues", which would briefly state issues from other sections. Further, a Section 8.0, titled "Special Issues", would address split program completion both in the community (Section 8.1) and in the prison setting (Section 8.2).

Discussion raised by review of draft:

- 1. Addition of “community-based” to heading of Section 8.1; title would read “Split Program Completion—Community- based”.**
- 2. Use of term “under sentence” in Section 8.2. Mike questioned whether prison –based batterers intervention program would be available to pre-adjudicated individuals, namely at the Intake Service Center. Laura stated that this specific section addresses incarcerated individuals who are under court order to attend. Laura also stated that it may simply be the issue that the program is not available in that specific building, for a number of reasons (staff availability, lack of meeting space, etc.), or it is more effective to provide those services to individuals who will be held in a location for a specific period of time. Mike was concerned if an incarcerated individual begins attending a batterers program before a court order is in place, that individual would not receive credit for time attended pre-adjudication.**
- 3. Mike expressed concern about the notice process that would be implemented to inform inmates of possibility to receive credit for attendance at a prison-based batterers intervention program. Mike stated that Sisan had previously mentioned that she would work with the Department of Corrections to address this issue. Laura reported that she will clarify this with Sisan.**
- 4. Mike reported concern regarding verification of attendance at a prison-based batterers intervention program by the supervising Probation or Parole Officer. He suggested wording be added that this would be completed after meeting with the offender/probationer. Laura reported that it would be part of a discharge summary**

prepared by the counselors/discharge planner within in the prison. Further, addition of this language would be more appropriately addressed through Probation protocols/SOPs.

Sage suggested that group members begin to think about an implementation strategy related to this issue. Laura reported that this may be more appropriate for the Ad Hoc Legislative Subcommittee to discuss. Group members collectively decided that Laura will insert comments and suggestions from today's meeting onto the draft revision handout that was created by Sisan. The handout will then be distributed for feedback to the currently certified batterers intervention programs, with a request for a response by March 1st. Laura will then take the appropriate feedback and bring it to the Ad Hoc Legislative Subcommittee's next regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, March 8th.

Meeting adjourned at 1 p.m.

UPCOMING SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING:

Thursday, March 8th, 2007 at 1pm

RI Department of Corrections

15 Fleming Road

Bernadette Building-First Floor

Cranston, RI 02920

Minutes Prepared by Laura Jaworski