**Batterer Intervention Program Advisory Committee**

**Meeting Minutes**

**January 28, 2022; 9:00 am to 11:20 am  
Remote video meeting**

**In Attendance:**   
Amy Benedum, Don Chapin, Melissa Erlbaum, Aaron Hartman, Chris Huffine, Maureen Lowell, Eric Mankowski, Marci Nelson, Shannon Sivell

**Absent:** Vivien Bliss, Susana Escobedo, Nathaline Frener

**Minutes:** Sherree Rodriguez

**Welcome/Opening**

Eric welcomed the group and introductions were done.

**Minutes Approval** – The Batterer Intervention Program (BIP) Advisory Committee (AC) approved the minutes of the October 21, 2021, meeting with some amendments, which will be posted to the Department of Justice website.

**Women Who Use Force Subcommittee Update**

The group has met twice since October. They have decided that the Oregon Administrative Rules (OARs) related to Batterer Intervention Programs need to be updated overall, in addition to the legislative assignment to establish rules for women who use force. The group decided to use the term, “resistive violence” or some variation, rather than “secondary aggressor.” They have determined that the best course of action will be to use the men’s group guidelines as a template, with some updates. Most changes will be made to recommendations for women’s curriculum.

The AC noted the need to create a concept paper related to LGBTQIA+ domestic violence. Though the challenge of minimal expertise to draw from on the subject remains in place. BIPs have difficulty finding adequate participants to run such groups.

**COVID Practices Survey Subcommittee Update**

The COVID Practices Subcommittee has created a survey of several questions to gather information about BIP practices since the pandemic began. They have not yet distributed it.

The group discussed the challenges of BIP practice while holding meetings by video conference, or in person with masks in place. In some ways, remote meetings have been beneficial. While domestic violence been negatively impacted by the pandemic, BIP practices do not seem to have been a factor.

**AC Membership – Vanessa Timmons, Marci Nelson**

Steve Berger is preparing for retirement and the Oregon Association of Community Corrections Directors has appointed Dr. Marci Nelson to take his place on the committee. Marci is Program Manager and oversees the Victims’ Services Program at Washington County Community Corrections.

Vanessa Timmons is Executive Director of Oregon Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence. The AC has invited her to become a member and she has accepted, though she was unable to be present for today’s meeting. The AC formalized her membership.

**Jurisdiction Conflicts**

The question of conflicts of jurisdiction between states and other countries was raised. This can arise when an offender is court-ordered to a BIP and moves to another state or country before completion. The group discussed this briefly and determined to continue the conversation at the next meeting.

**BIP Practices in Other States**

Chris and Eric are conferring with BIP leaders from other states to discuss state policies. This came out of the Batterer Intervention Services Coalition of Michigan Conference and is expanding to include more states. The larger group will meet monthly, for the first time in February.

A November national conference Chris attended had a wide range of presentations, including sexual assault in the context of intimate partner violence.

**Strength At Home Demonstration Project**

Though the Strength at Home program, out of Lane County, requested a Demonstration Project application in spring of 2021, it has not yet been submitted. The AC has significant concerns with the model and determined to learn more about it.

**ACTION STEPS:**

* Sherree will process appointment letters for Vanessa Timmons and Marci Nelson.
* Chris will consult with David Garvin about jurisdiction processes with international participants.
* Chris will send the group the definition of sexual consent that was established in Atlanta.
* Shannon will contact Lori Silano for more information about Strength at Home.
* Eric will contact Joe Vigil for more information about Strength at Home.

**Upcoming meeting topics –**

* *Jurisdiction Conflicts – Address in OARs or otherwise*
* *Strength at Home Demonstration Project*

*Meeting adjourned at 11:20*