

Batterer Intervention Program  
Advisory Committee  
November 4, 2010

**Members:** Cynthia Stinson, Audrey Broyles, Vivian Bliss, Hardy Myers, Don Chapin, Michael Davis, Carol Krager, Steve Berger, Becky Orf, Walt Pesterfield, Priscilla Marlowe, Jayne Downing, Chris Huffine, Chiquita Rollins

**Guest:** Phil Broyles

Before we started the meeting and picked up reviewing the Rules, Cynthia reminded the AC that we are a state-wide AC, we need to come to a conclusion on the number of weeks that is good for the state as a whole – while it may not work for your county or another county, it needs to work for the majority. SB 81 asked us to look at victim safety as the number one priority. Cynthia summarized the different discussions that we have had as a group over the years. We are probably not going to suggest 0 weeks but we will probably not stay at 48 weeks.

Section 137-087-0065

The Rules Subgroup took on a survey with judges to see if 48 weeks – did not want to give the judges the feeling they could “vote” on the number of weeks and then the BIP Committee would go with that choice. Becky does not feel there has been good response to judge surveys in the past so this survey may not be accurate. If we got feedback during the public hearing from judges it may not represent state-wide either. The Subgroup had trouble determining where to start without getting the lesser amount of weeks. Jackson Co is not referring even felonies due to length of time.

Is there a concern if we don't get any comments from judges at this stage of the game? Cynthia would like judges to look at all of the changes and not just focus on the length of intervention. Judges in Marion Co don't want to pick the number of weeks. That is why they have gone to a third party evaluator. Having a third party evaluator comes with its own issues. There is no clear evidence in picking the number of weeks. Trying to merge victim safety and offender treatment.

What would happen if we went to 48 sessions based on the recommendation of the county or the court? As we have seen in longer programs, BIPs have made their curriculum 48 weeks long. What happens when they have someone that is required to only do 12 weeks? You don't even have a chance to get to know the offender? Trying to help these men live differently in the world – they did not become this way overnight. There are longstanding beliefs that have to be broken through. Offenders are choosing jail time over paying for treatment programs – the option of “earning” your way out of a weekly program and going to a monthly check-in. Minimum principles are 32-36 weeks and then followed under supervision or with the program for x number of months for aftercare.

We could modify the minimum to 36 weeks but leave the curriculum as goal based.

What about the court (bench) probation issue? Would court probation not have aftercare? The recommendation is a BIP would do aftercare for remainder of 18 months. Walt gave an example with a provider (Stacy) based on the Maryland model. Clients referred to Stacy end up attending weekly sessions for 32-36 weeks and then once a month for the remainder of 18 months. What has to happen during the 32-36 weeks? Curriculum, one-on-ones, and certain goals set by the provider.

Priscilla does not find aftercare practical. She finds that they don't show up. Response was that then they don't complete treatment. Michael has found aftercare to work, put them in different groups than they have been attending.

Set re-evaluation times where more than BIP involved verifying meeting goals of completion of curriculum. How do we include victims' voice in this part? This way challenges BIPs to work with Community Corrections.

Cynthia made modification to Rules to incorporate minimum of 18 month with minimum of 36 weekly group sessions – may transition the participant to monitored aftercare program.

Displaying a minimal cognitive understanding of curriculum and in accordance with probation. Sufficient number of sessions during the first number of weeks.

A small subcommittee composed of Jane, Michael (he would like to include Jacquie Pancoast as well), Vivian, Priscilla, Walt, Chris, and Chiquita to work on the following language: “the participant must demonstrate cognitive change, non-offensive behavior and compliance with all court orders and conditions of supervision.” Phil Broyles would also like to be informed of when the group meets.