Batterer Intervention Program Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
May 8, 2020; 10:30 am to 1:30 pm
Remote video meeting

In Attendance:
Amy Benedum, Steve Berger, Vivian Bliss, Don Chapin, Melissa Erlbaum, Aaron Hartman, Chris Hoy, Chris Huffine, Maureen Lowell, Eric Mankowski, Shannon Sivell, Jeremiah Stromberg,
Minutes: Sherree Rodriguez

Welcome/Opening

Senate Bill 1543 Response and Implementation Plan
The group commenced the review of the Batterer Intervention Program (BIP) standards for application to cisgender heterosexual female defendants. This work must be submitted for the 2021 Legislative session. The best practice paper, “Considerations for Responding to Cases Involving Women Arrested on Domestic Violence Charges” will be used as a resource for the work.

The group is challenged to create this standard, though there is limited research to draw from. This may necessitate a best practice paper rather than new standards, depending upon what is found. The documented results will be presented to legislature.

Discussion points included:

- Differentiation between primary and secondary female defendants
- Assessments as a part of the process
- History of perpetration of abuse, including referrals from Child Welfare
- Curriculum for female defendants
- Importance of a trauma-informed assessment of participant history for women
- Modification of terminology used as it differentiates violence across genders
- Social context and ecology of women
- Accountability plans
- Leaves of absence
- Facilitator training – inclusion of trauma-informed care and recognition of impact of domestic violence and trauma upon women
- Facilitator gender recommendations, considering limited availability of facilitators vs. the needs of women
- Inclusive language across gender, class, and race

Department of Corrections staff may be available to assist with the work as they have a good deal of experience with this population.

Minutes Approval – The Batterer Intervention Program (BIP) Advisory Committee (AC) approved the minutes from the meeting on February 13, 2020, which will be posted to the Department of Justice website.
ACTION STEPS:

- Maureen will review available research in preparation for the June meeting.
- Vivien will review the research paper done in the 80’s in preparation for the June meeting.
- Sherree will conduct a Doodle poll to schedule a date for a meeting in June.

Adjourned at 1:30pm

2020 Scheduled meetings
June meeting to be scheduled
July 23
October 22