



**Batterer Intervention Program Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
October 16, 2020; 9:00 am to 11:00 am
Remote video meeting**

In Attendance:

Amy Benedum, Steve Berger, Vivien Bliss, Don Chapin, Chris Huffine, Maureen Lowell, Eric Mankowski, Shannon Sivell

Absent: Melissa Erlbaum, Nathaline Frener, Aaron Hartman

Minutes: Sherree Rodriguez

Welcome/Opening

Eric welcomed the group and declared a quorum present.

Minutes Approval – The Advisory Committee (AC) approved the minutes of the September meeting, which will be posted to the Department of Justice (DOJ) website.

COVID Update - The AC discussed concerns related to COVID-19 effects on domestic violence circumstances.

- Data gathered while updating the Batterers' Intervention Program (BIP) directory indicates about a 20% decrease in active programs in 2020 from 2016.
- BIP groups overall are seeing a significant reduction in participation and the ability to offer classes without significant limitations.
- Criminal Justice referrals were down until August, when there seems to have been a significant increase. The overall need for domestic violence intervention has not diminished and a great backlog of need for response is building.
- To further complicate the situation, there has been a significant uptick in Assault 4 cases.
- The delay of prosecution creates distance that makes personal change for offenders less likely.
- The group has concerns about the overall effect on early childhood development that may bring generational repercussions.
- Courts have a current backlog of approximately 26 thousand cases that need to be rescheduled; all the while new cases are being added to the dockets.
- There are very significant safety concerns overall. This is partially due to the violation of restraining and no contact orders.
- Elder and child abuse cases are up and under-reported.
- An estimated 50% of substance abuse cases are refusing treatment, which indicates an increase of substance abuse.

BIP training updates

Criminal Justice Commission (CJC) contact Ken Sanchagrin has indicated that there are no current trainings scheduled. At this time, a partnership with CJC as a training sponsor is not ruled out.

Chris and Eric presented at the Oregon District Attorney Association training, sponsored by DOJ. They shared about BIP Standards, with around 120 participants present and a positive response to the training.

Membership updates

The AC continues the search for new members reflecting cultural diversity, and in the area of advocacy. There are no recruits to report.



Future research presentation – females arrested for DV

Vivien Bliss participated in a years-long research project in the 1980's that explored the circumstances surrounding females arrested for intimate partner violence. In addition, her non-profit organization, Solutions Domestic Violence Intervention, has worked in the field for many years. She offered to have her team provide a presentation on this area of expertise as it would help inform the work of the AC on the matter. The group accepted the offer, requesting to have the presentation at the next meeting if possible.

Formation of subcommittee

The AC is forming a subcommittee to complete the final work of updating the BIP Standards for cisgender, heterosexual females who use violence in intimate relationships. Eric will convene the meeting, Chris and Maureen volunteered participation. Vivien suggested Trista Davis, her program manager, for the role. The group asked Steve to reach out to a parole officer working with this group of offenders for possible membership. Don will ask a tribal member who is a former DV shelter director. The inclusion of others with expertise in the field was invited; particularly persons of color as the need for diversity is keen.

ACTION STEPS:

- Vivien will follow up on the date of the Solutions presentation and report back to Sherree for scheduling.
- Shannon will follow up with a potential AC member and report back to the group.
- Vivien, Steve and Don will reach out for potential subcommittee members and report back to group with the results.
- Eric will schedule and convene the subcommittee before the holidays if possible.

Upcoming meeting topics

- Membership
- COVID updates
- Subcommittee updates

Meeting adjourned at 10:50 am