



Batterer Intervention Program Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
October 21, 2021; 9:00 am to 11:00 am
Remote video meeting

In Attendance:

Amy Benedum, Steve Berger, Vivien Bliss, Susana Escobedo, Nathaline Frener, Chris Huffine, Maureen Lowell, Eric Mankowski

Absent: Don Chapin, Melissa Erlbaum, Aaron Hartman, Shannon Sivell

Guests: Pam Wiseman and David Garvin

Minutes: Sara Hoffman

Welcome/Opening

Eric welcomed the group and declared a quorum present. Steve introduced himself to Susana.

Minutes Approval – The Batterer Intervention Program (BIP) Advisory Committee (AC) approved the minutes of the July 23, 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 late August. They are using existing standards as the structure to customize standards for women who use force. They are looking for input from victim advocates, and plan to share the document with the AC for review when the draft is complete.

The AC discussed areas under consideration, which include possibly updating current standards for men. The impact on children is under review. There are unresolved questions about the process of updating standards with the legislature.

AC Membership Inquiry – Kathy Sias

The AC reviewed and considered the application of Kathy Sias to the membership. After reviewing her submission, the group declined to accept her membership request due to lack of experience working with abusive partners.

The AC clarified that membership expansion is to expand the group in victim advocacy, culturally relevant services, child welfare services, and the family court perspective that are in a spirit of collaboration and partnership with the Oregon Administrative Rules (OAR) governing BIP work. Rural representation is also sought, within the above parameters. Those interested should submit letters of reference regarding their relationship with current providers and how they are connected to their work.

Group Updates

- The last legislative session approved funding for community corrections to strategize handling of the OARs.
- Chris Huffine’s book, “Becoming Allies” has been published. It was written to be used as a textbook as a complement to any BIP curriculum.
- Eric will be presenting at the New Mexico Collation Against Domestic Violence Conference to be held in December.



COVID Update

A subcommittee has formed to work on a survey about the impact of COVID on BIP services. Chris, Maureen, Eric, and Ashley Webster have been working on the design of the survey. It will be delivered on a web-based platform. The group plans to bring their findings to the AC for further discussion in January. Ultimately, the survey will be shared with the community.

New Mexico Domestic Violence Intervention Guests

Pam Wiseman, Director of the New Mexico Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NMCADV) and David Garvin, Director of Battering Intervention Services, spoke to the AC.

Pam and David discussed ways in which they have been able to fund their work in New Mexico (NM), which allows for attendees to participate without payment. NM legislature has provided a domestic violence (DV) offender treatment fund. The fund receives misdemeanor crime fine payments. Suggestions for possible funding in Oregon include petitioning the legislature and/or governor. Funds would go through a state agency. They noted that Texas also funds DV treatment work. Texas initially had their work funded by grants but has moved toward a state funded insurance-type program that pays per participant. This adds an element of inquiry regarding BIP effectiveness, and extra requirements for programs.

Regarding asynchronous groups and their effectiveness, Pam and David expressed significant concerns regarding credentials.

Many survivor programs in NM also do BIP work. They feel this allows them to make a stronger case that BIP work supports survivors as well.

ACTION STEPS:

- Sherree will follow up with Eric about the corrections to previous meeting minutes.
- Sherree will reach out to Shannon to clarify the process of updating standards.
- The AC will notify Ms. Sias of their decision. Sherree will clarify how this will be done.

Upcoming meeting topic – Survey results

Meeting adjourned at 11:33