



**Batterer Intervention Program Advisory Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
June 7, 2024; 10:30 to 11:45 am  
Remote video meeting**

**In Attendance:** Amy Benedum, Jon Hanson, Chris Huffine, Scott Hyde, Eric Mankowski, Shannon Sivell

**Absent:** Vivien Bliss, Saydyie DeRosia, Melissa Erlbaum, Maureen Lowell, Marci Nelson, Vanessa Timmons

**Guest:** Trista Davis

**Minutes:** Sherree Rodriguez

**Welcome/Opening**

The Batterer Intervention Program (BIP) Advisory Committee (AC) convened a special meeting to address concerns related to the BIP Oregon Administrative Rules (OARs), both the current version and the relationship of this version to development of the standards for women.

**BIP Standards OAR Review:**

The group discussed important points of consideration. Trista Davis was invited to participate in the review, given her expertise in the field. New participants were briefed on the reasoning behind the current OARs as well as the work done to date on OARs for Women's Intimate Partner Violence Intervention Programs (WIPVIP).

**Discussion Summary**

Cis heterosexual women arrested for intimate partner violence are significantly more likely to be secondary aggressors without pro-abuse belief systems. Cis hetero men arrested for intimate partner violence are significantly more likely to be primary aggressors, with pro-abuse beliefs. This creates many complicating factors to the work of differentiating WIPVIP OARs from the standard OARs, which were created primarily for the male population. This was the main indicator in working to keep the WIPVIP recommendations very similar to the standard OARs to avoid misuse.

Screening tools are not available to determine primary from secondary aggressors as there are too many complex variables, when working with criminogenic aggressors and their victims. If evaluations are recommended for women, this would necessitate them for men. There are too many false negatives for men with power and control issues, as well as biases around class and race. Instead, best practice is an intake system that assesses value systems of participants over time.

Another factor with screening: much pro-abuse behavior is not illegal, though harmful. Symptoms of victimization can look like risk factors for domestic violence. The difference is one has a pro-abuse belief system and the other does not.

The group discussed creating a section of the standard OARs that would indicate general best practice for WIPVIPs as a possible way to proceed. Experts present as well as those who have



weighed in, expressed concerns about the safety of victims being compromised if the OARs become too prescriptive for the female population. They discussed incorporating portions of the best practice document, [Considerations for Responding to Cases Involving Women Arrested on Domestic Violence Charges](#), created by a subcommittee in 2019.

The group discussed the value of gathering data to support concerns over women arrested who may be defensive aggressors. Oregon Judicial Department and Family Violence Supervision Network both are sources to pursue.

One section of the OARs, in the Intervention Strategy section 45 was addressed to edit by adding the words in red: “Any approach that **identifies** poor impulse control, anger, substance use/abuse or addiction, low self-esteem, or mental health problems as **the primary** cause of IPV;”

The original standards intended for male offenders have much outdated language that needs to be modified. This group is continuing their work on this.

**Decisions made:**

Another special meeting will be scheduled before the July 26, regularly scheduled BIP AC meeting, to continue this task.

**ACTIONS:**

- Sherree will poll the group to find a time that works and then schedule the special meeting for WIPVIP OAR review.
- Amy will put in a request with the courts for data of domestic charges and convictions, with special interest in the potential for linked victim and perpetrator. She will send it back to Eric.

Meeting adjourned at 11:45 am.