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COMMISSIONER

BATTERER INTERVENTION PROGRAMS (BIP)

A Report to the 124th Legislature

As a result of recommendations made by the Legislative Commission to Study Domestic Violence to the 120th Session of the Maine State Legislature, the Department of Corrections Office of Victim Services is required to report annually to the legislature on the performance of Batterer Intervention Programs in Maine.

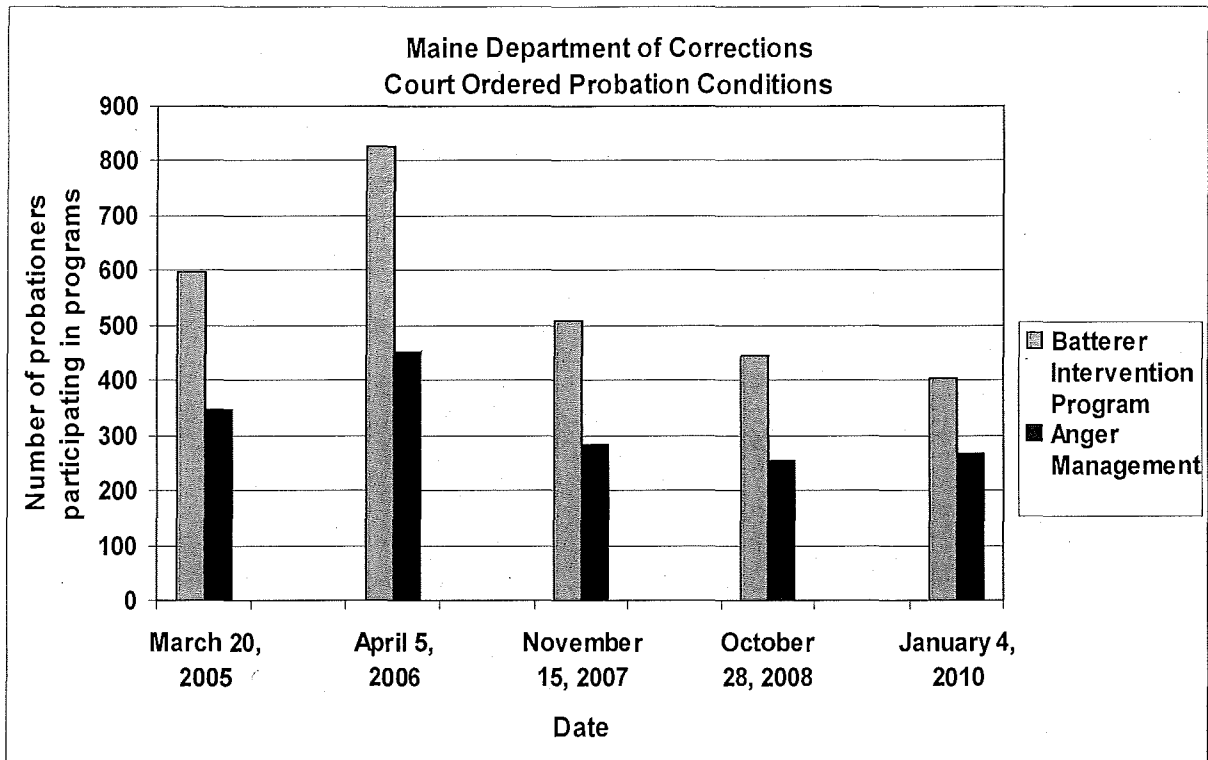
The state standards for Batterer Intervention Programs require the Department of Corrections to monitor each program, which is done on an annual basis. (Attachment A)

Since September of 2004 the Department of Corrections has maintained statistics comparing the number of offenders serving a term of probation with a condition of anger management to the number of probationers with the condition of attendance at a certified batterer intervention program. The trends reveal that the total number of domestic violence offenders on probation has declined. There are a number of domestic violence offenders sentenced to a term of deferred disposition who are not reflected in the chart. The percentage of probationers being sentenced to anger management rather than batterer intervention programs has increased. The increase is of concern, there is a great deal of national research which states that battering is not about anger but rather is about power and control.



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Research indicates that men and women who use violence in their intimate relationships do so for very different reasons. Until recently in Maine, when a woman was arrested for domestic abuse, she was usually referred to an anger management group. Men who are arrested for domestic abuse may be referred to a Batterers Intervention Program. This remains consistent with the literature, which indicates men and women use violence in their intimate relationships for different reasons.

Currently, there are twelve certified Batterers Intervention Programs (BIP), providing services to men who have committed domestic violence offenses. There are new programs in Washington and Sagadahoc counties. The program in Oxford county closed this year due to lack of referrals.

There are currently twenty six women ordered to attend judicial monitoring, with no oversight of the programs they may or may not be attending. It is a safety issue as some of those women may actually be the victim rather than the aggressor.

Prosecutors and others in the criminal justice system have been concerned about equal protection issues with the lack of certified programs for women convicted of domestic violence. Preliminary recommendations reflect the need for appropriate screening and assessment prior to ordering a specific program. The Family Violence Project in Kennebec and Somerset counties is working with Youth and Family Services to ensure that there is equitable programming available to women who have been convicted of domestic violence offenses. The pilot program for women follows the same basic structure, i.e. 48 weeks but the content is gender specific. There is concern among some domestic violence advocates that women who are victims are being arrested and convicted and therefore are reluctant to support this initiative

Domestic violence is a significant factor in approximately half of the homicides committed in Maine. A coordinated community response is the most effective way to attempt to change this statistic. Appropriate batterer intervention programs with oversight and monitoring is an essential component of the coordinated community response, and is a requirement of the judicial monitoring project. There are not batterer intervention programs available in every county in Maine. There is neither criminal justice system nor community support for batterer programs in some counties. However, the reason for batterer intervention programs still exists in **every** county in Maine. It is what battered women tell us they want as part of the criminal justice response.

ATTACHMENT A

BATTERER'S INTERVENTION PROGRAM

MDOC PROGRAM MONITORING RECORD – 2009

All BIP monitoring performed by Ellis King (MDOC)

BIP Program: A Different Choice
Location: St. Anne's Church, Windham, Maine
Monitoring Date: July 14, 2009
Class Participants: 14
Female Facilitator: Elizabeth Simoni
Male Facilitator: Shawn LaGrega
Class agenda: Ground-rule review & film
BIP Model: New York

Monitor's Comments: Facilitators reviewed the BIP program ground-rules and watched part of the film "Sleeping With the Enemy" which is a film based on a domestic violence theme. A group discussion on the events that were portrayed followed the film. Facilitators were excellent educators with an equal balance of roles. The facilitator's were very respectful of each other and of the class participants.

BIP Program: Alternatives To Abuse
Location: 57 Birch Street, Lewiston, Maine
Monitoring Date: July 20, 2009
Class Participants: 10
Female Facilitator: Lou Ann Thibodeau
Male Facilitator: Dave Corbett
Class agenda: 10
BIP Model: Duluth

Monitor's Comments: Facilitators discussed the role and teachings of religion in the Power & Control Wheel and how the batterer may manipulate this situation. Facilitators were good educators with an equal balance of roles. The facilitator's were very respectful of each other and of the class participants.

BIP Program: Another Way (BIP closed September 2009 – lack of participants)
Location: Trinity Lutheran Church, South Paris, Maine
Monitoring Date: June 15, 2009
Class Participants: 2
Female Facilitator: Joyce Perry

Male Facilitator: Eric King
Class agenda: Effects of DV on children
BIP Model: Emerge

Monitor's Comments: Facilitators discussed the effects of domestic violence on children. There were only two participants of the class and this made the teaching and discussion difficult. Facilitators were good educators with an equal balance of roles. The facilitator's were very of each other and of the class participants. Program was told that unless the group has at least three participants the class is cancelled.

BIP Program: Batterer's Intervention Program
Location: Acadia Hospital, Bangor, Maine
Monitoring Date: September 14, 2009
Class Participants: 12
Female Facilitator: Kathy Miaetta
Male Facilitator: Dallas Adams
Class agenda: Resentment
BIP Model: Emerge

Monitor's Comments: Facilitators discussed the effects of resentment and how it affects a relationship. Facilitators were good educators with an equal balance of roles. The facilitator's were very respectful of each other and of the class participants.

BIP Program: Choice V
Location: 185 Harlow Street, Bangor, Maine
Monitoring Date: June 24, 2009
Class Participants: 9
Female Facilitator: Astor Gillis
Male Facilitator: Peter Ward
Class agenda: Effects of DV on children
BIP Model: Emerge

Monitor's Comments: Facilitators discussed the effects of domestic violence on children. Facilitators were good educators with an equal balance of roles. The facilitator's were very respectful of each other and of the class participants.

BIP Program: Choices – The Men's Group
Location: 1328 Washington Street, Bath, Maine
Monitoring Date: May 7, 2009
Class Participants: 12
Female Facilitator: Dee Benn
Male Facilitator: Tom Benn
Class agenda: Communications

BIP Model: Emerge

Monitor's Comments: Facilitators discussed how communication affects a relationship. Facilitators were excellent educators with an equal balance of roles. The facilitator's were very respectful of each other and of the class participants.

BIP Program: Domestic Violence – Classes For Men

Location: 59 River Road, Dover-Foxcroft, Maine

Monitoring Date: June 4, 2009

Class Participants: 11

Female Facilitator: Kyra Kimball

Male Facilitator: Steve Madera

Class agenda: Film – Victor Rivers

BIP Model: New York

Monitor's Comments: Facilitators watched a DVD presentation by Victor Rivers who spoke on his personal effects of domestic violence on his life. A group discussion on the events that were described followed the film. Facilitators were good educators with an equal balance of roles. The facilitator's were very respectful of each other and of the class participants.

BIP Program: Domestic Abuse Education Program

Location: Adult P & P Office, Machias, Maine

Monitoring Date: November 17, 2009

Class Participants: 9

Female Facilitator: Paula Johnson-Rolfe

Male Facilitator: Jamie Denbow

Class agenda: Film – Tough Guize

BIP Model: New York

Monitor's Comments: Facilitators watched part of the film "Tough Guize" which is a film that discusses the role of boys and men in our society." A group discussion on the topics that were presented immediately followed the film. Facilitators were good educators with an equal balance of roles. The facilitator's were very respectful of each other and of the class participants.

BIP Program: Men's Work

Location: 218 Water Street, Augusta, Maine

Monitoring Date: January 19, 2009

Class Participants: 11

Female Facilitator: Helen Wing

Male Facilitator: Shawn Furey

Class agenda: Effects of DV on children

BIP Model: Emerge

Monitor's Comments: Facilitators discussed the effects of domestic violence on children. Facilitators were excellent educators with an equal balance of roles. The facilitator's were very respectful of each other and of the class participants.

BIP Program: Northern New England Community Resource
Location: Houlton Regional Hospital, Houlton, Maine
Monitoring Date: April 1, 2009
Class Participants: 3
Female Facilitator: Nancy Smith
Male Facilitator: Chuck Moody
Class agenda: Accountability
BIP Model: Emerge

Monitor's Comments: Facilitators discussed why batterers must be accountable for their abusive actions. Facilitators were excellent educators with an equal balance of roles. The facilitator's were very respectful of each other and of the class participants. Low attendance numbers was discussed "with the facilitators, after class, and they were told that the groups must consist of at least 3 participants. If not the class must be cancelled."

BIP Program: Opportunity For Change
Location: 98 Chestnut Street, Portland, Maine
Monitoring Date: March 26, 2009
Class Participants: 12
Female Facilitator: Stephanie Potts
Male Facilitator: Wells Staley-Mays
Class agenda: Peer Pressure
BIP Model: New York

Monitor's Comments: Facilitators discussed how peer pressure affects a relationship. Facilitators were excellent educators with an equal balance of roles. The facilitator's were very respectful of each other and of the class participants.

BIP Program: Time For Change
Location: Breakwater Marketplace, Suite 302, Rockland, Maine
Monitoring Date: January 27, 2009
Class Participants: 12
Female Facilitator: Cindy Canavan
Male Facilitator: Gerry LaLime
Class agenda: Minimizing
BIP Model: Emerge

Monitor's Comments: Facilitators discussed how batterers use minimizing when describing DV situations and behavior. Facilitators were good educators with an equal balance of roles. The facilitator's were very respectful of each other and of

the class participants.

BIP Program: Violence No More
Location: 26 South Street, Biddeford, Maine
Monitoring Date: June 18, 2009
Class Participants: 12
Female Facilitator: Jessica Peck
Male Facilitator: Marty Burgess
Class agenda: Non-verbal communication, Power of words
BIP Model: Emerge

Monitor's Comments: Facilitators discussed how non-verbal communication is used in DV situations. The facilitators used role playing exercises to demonstrate how non-verbal communication is used in DV situations. Facilitators were excellent educators with an equal balance of roles. The facilitator's were very respectful of each other and of the class participants.

BIP Program: Respect ME (Women's BIP) Not MDOC Certified
Location: 5 Commerce Drive, Skowhegan, Maine
Monitoring Date: August 5, 2009
Class Participants: 2
Female Facilitator: Sasha Kenny
Male Facilitator: Rob Rogers
Class agenda: Relationship History
BIP Model: Emerge

Monitor's Comments: Facilitators discussed how batterers usually have a historical pattern of behavior in relationships. Facilitators were good educators with an equal balance of roles. The facilitator's were very respectful of each other and of the class participants.

ATTACHMENT B

Judicial Monitoring Clients

Augusta DC;
Females= 3
Males=38

Biddeford DC;
Females=3
Males= 38

Lewiston DC;
Females= 0
Males= 19

Machias DC;
Females= 0
Males= 8

Portland DC;
Females= 0
Males= 69

Rockland DC;
Females= 0
Males= 13

Skowhegan DC;
Females= 7
Males= 68

Springvale DC;
Females= 7
Males= 36

Waterville DC;
Females= 1
Males= 59

West Bath DC;
Females= 0
Males= 3

York DC;
Females= 5
Males= 23