

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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GOVERNOR

STATE OF MAINE  
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS  
111 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA MAINE  
04333-0111

RANDALL A. LIBERTY  
COMMISSIONER

# Memo

To: Anne Beebe-Center, Senate Chair, Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee  
Travis Hasenfus, House Chair, Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee

From: Randall A. Liberty, Commissioner, Maine Department of Corrections

Cc: MaryAnne Turowski, Senior Policy Officer, Governor Mills

Date: February 10, 2025

Re: Annual Report on the Domestic Intervention Program in accordance with 34-A MRSA§1214.

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Dear Senator Beebe-Center, Representative Hasenfus and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety,

The Maine Department of Corrections submits this annual report on the Domestic Violence Intervention Programs to you in accordance with 34-A MRSA§1214.

Should you have any questions or request further information related to the report, please contact my office.

Sincerely,

Randall A. Liberty,  
Commissioner

RAL/keb

***MDOC's Mission Statement:***

*Making our communities safer by reducing harm through supportive intervention, empowering change, and restoring lives.*

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## Maine Domestic Violence Intervention Programs

This annual report regarding Maine Domestic Violence Intervention Programs (DVIPs) is provided by the Maine Department of Corrections (DOC) Office of Victim Services (OVS) and is presented to the First Regular Session of the 132nd Maine Legislature (Title 34-A M.R.S.A. §1214(5)). This is the fourteenth annual Domestic Violence Intervention Program report (previously called the annual Batterer Intervention Program report). This particular report includes a brief overview of DVIPs in similar but collapsed form to the earlier reports. In this annual report, an additional report is provided by the Maine Coalition to End Domestic Violence (MCEDV), which provides a detailed overview of the progress made over the last five years as referred to below.

A DVIP operating in the State of Maine must be certified by the DOC in order to receive court referrals (Title 17-A M.R.S.A. § 1804(6) and Title 19-A M.R.S.A. § 4116, (previously § 4014, now repealed). The current DVIP certification process is outlined under DOC rule (found on the Secretary of State website, section 03-201, Chapter 15). This rule, which was revised effective October 1, 2024, outlines the procedures and standards governing the certification and monitoring of the DVIPs, pursuant to statute. Attachment A lists the currently certified DVIPs across the State.

The statute and rule require that the DOC, in consultation with the Maine Commission on Domestic and Sexual Abuse, develop and, on a biannual basis, review a certification process for DVIPs. The review process may include input from various agencies and organizations listed in the rule and any others deemed appropriate by the DOC. Starting in 2022, the standards review committee met monthly working towards recommended changes and those recommendations were implemented in the form of the newly revised rule. Attachment B reflects the newly implemented standards.

Since 2019, the DOC has contracted with the Maine Coalition to End Domestic Violence (MCEDV) to implement a plan for the partial reimbursement of DVIPs for indigent participation fees, training programs to sustain and expand the accessibility of DVIPs, and the reimbursement of mileage expenses for DVIP programs. Due to this continued funding, a fourth report titled “Connecting people, creating frameworks for change” was provided for the 2024 annual overview and submitted by MCEDV at the year end of 2024. Attachment C reflects MCEDV’s report.

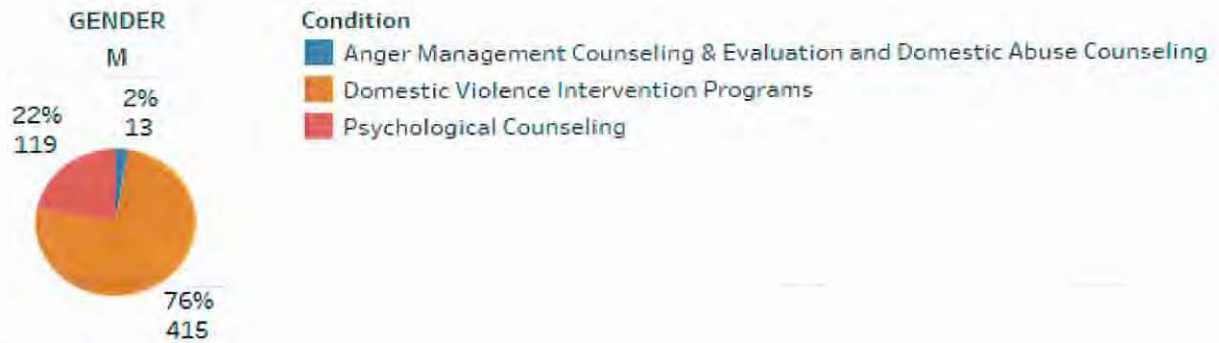
In 2024, the DOC applied for and was awarded the Improve the Criminal Justice Response (ICJR) program grant through the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) for pass through funds to the MCEDV and community DVIPs totaling \$950,000 over the next three years. The goal of the funds is to develop and promote State, local, and tribal legislation and policies that enhance best practices for responding to the crimes of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking, including the appropriate treatment of victims. Future reports will reflect the progress on the use of such funding.

The OVS collects yearly data from each DVIP across the State, and the data is compiled into a statewide total. The 2024 enrollment and completion data includes: number of males reported to have enrolled in the DVIPs, males reported to have completed the programs, females reported to have enrolled in the DVIPs, and females reported to have completed the programs. The statewide combined male and female data submitted is reflected in Attachments D and E.

As well, yearly data on probation conditions for 2024 was collected using the same criteria as used since the 2018 report. It consists of offenders with a conviction for a domestic violence related charge as identified in statute and with a period of probation and has been obtained from the DOC offender records database (CORIS). The data includes a comparison of the probation conditions imposed as part of the sentence. Probation conditions compared were (1) anger management counseling, anger management evaluation and/or domestic abuse counseling, (2) certified DVIP and (3) psychological counseling. The DOC is not able to provide data regarding those ordered to attend DVIP due to court-ordered deferred disposition, as mandated by DHHS, or by way of a referral source other than the DOC.

**The chart and graph below reflect the current (as of the end of 2024) 448 male clients on probation with a domestic violence conviction statewide with a total of 547 conditions.**

Condition	Count	Approx. Percent
Anger Management Counseling & Evaluation and Domestic Abuse Counseling	13	2%
Domestic Violence Intervention Programs	415	76%
Psychological Counseling	119	22%
Total Male Conditions	547	100%
Total Male Probationers	448	



The chart below reflects the five-year percentage comparison of each condition according to each condition ordered for males by percentage.

Condition	Count 2020	Count 2021	Count 2022	Count 2023	Count 2024
Anger Management Counseling & Evaluation and Domestic Abuse Counseling	7%	8%	4%	3%	2%
Domestic Violence Intervention Program	69%	69%	74%	75%	76%
Psychological Counseling	24%	23%	22%	22%	22%
Total Male Conditions	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

The chart and graph below reflect the current (as of the end of 2024) 30 female clients on probation with a domestic violence conviction statewide with a total of 34 conditions.

Condition	Count	Approx. Percent
Anger Management Counseling & Evaluation and Domestic Abuse Counseling	2	6%
Domestic Violence Intervention Programs	17	50%
Psychological Counseling	15	44%
Total Female Conditions	34	100%
Total Female Probationers	30	





The chart below reflects the five-year percentage comparison of each condition according to each condition ordered for females by percentage.

Condition	Count 2020	Count 2021	Count 2022	Count 2023	Count 2024
Anger Management Counseling & Evaluation and Domestic Abuse Counseling	13%	28%	15%	14%	6%
Domestic Violence Intervention Program	39%	35%	44%	49%	50%
Psychological Counseling	48%	37%	40%	37%	44%
Total Feale Conditions	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

17-A MRSA §1807, sub-§ 6, requires a court to provide justification when participation in a DVIP is not ordered as a condition of probation in sentencing a person for a domestic violence crime. This same provision requires a prosecuting attorney to provide justification when participation in a DVIP as a condition of probation is not recommended in a plea agreement for a person convicted of a domestic violence crime.

As reported since 2019, the Judicial Branch has a “Statement of Prosecuting Attorney Regarding Domestic Violence Intervention” form to be used when not recommending participation in a DVIP. Below is the number of forms submitted to the courts by prosecuting attorneys since 2020.

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Statement of Prosecuting Attorney Regarding Domestic Violence Intervention	29	24	16	14	12

As stated in previous reports, DOC is not able to provide additional data regarding those not ordered to attend DVIP.

For additional information from the 2023 annual report refer to the Department of Corrections Office of Victim Services website at [www.maine.gov/corrections/victimservices](http://www.maine.gov/corrections/victimservices)

This concludes this year's report.

# ATTACHMENT A



# Certified Domestic Violence Intervention Programs

Program	Meeting Time	Meeting Location
<b>Androscoggin</b>		
<b>Alternatives to Abuse (Safe Voices) (Male Program)</b>  Director: Zach Griffith  P.O. Box 713  Auburn, ME 04212  (207) 207-212-6827  zgriffith@safevoices.org  (Certified until 9/14/2025)	Please come fill out the Intake form to learn more	To Enroll in class, please fill out Intake form at <a href="https://safevoices.org/get-help/certified-domestic-violence-intervention-program/">https://safevoices.org/get-help/certified-domestic-violence-intervention-program/</a>
<b>Aroostook</b>		
<b>Northern New England Community Resource Center (Male Program)</b>  Director: Charles Moody  P.O. Box 164  Houlton, ME 04730  (207) 694-3066  (Certified until 5/4/2026)	Monday, 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.  Wednesday, 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.  Thursday, 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.	Chamber of Commerce, Presque Isle, ME  Houlton Regional Hospital  Cary Medical Center, Caribou, ME
<b>Choices (Female Program)</b>  Director: Desiree Chasse  Contact: (207) 728-3199  (Certified until 9/9/2026)	Call for details	
<b>Cumberland</b>		
<b>A Different Choice (Male Program)</b>  Director: Matthew Perry  P.O. Box 704	Monday 5:00 - 6:30 p.m. & 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.  Wednesday 4:00 p.m. -	All classes held in person at: 655 Riverside Street, Portland

<p>Portland, ME 04104</p> <p>(207) 233-5997</p> <p>(Certified until 7/11/2025)</p>	<p>5:30 p.m. &amp; 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.</p> <p>Thursday 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.</p> <p>Friday 8:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.</p>	
<b>Franklin</b>		
<p><b>Alternatives to Abuse (Safe Voices)</b></p> <p>(Male Program)</p> <p>Director: Zach Griffith</p> <p>P.O. Box 713</p> <p>Auburn, ME 04212</p> <p>(207) 207-212-6827 zgriffith@safevoices.org</p> <p>(Certified until 9/14/2025)</p>	<p><b>Please come fill out the Intake form to learn more</b></p>	<p><b>To Enroll in class, please fill out Intake form at <a href="https://safevoices.org/get-help/certified-batterer-intervention-program">https://safevoices.org/get-help/certified-batterer-intervention-program</a></b></p>
<b>Hancock</b>		
<p><b>Choice V (Male Program)</b></p> <p>Supervisor: Astor Gillis</p> <p>59 Franklin St., B</p> <p>Ellsworth, ME 04605</p> <p>(207) 667-2730</p> <p>(Certified until 12/15/2026)</p>	<p>Tuesday, 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>Online</p>
<p><b>DV Turning Points (Female Program)</b></p> <p>Supervisor: Astor Gillis</p> <p>59 Franklin St., B</p>	<p>Wednesday, 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.</p>	<p>Online</p>

Ellsworth, ME 04605		
(207) 667-2730		
(Certified until 02/22/2026)		
<b>Kennebec</b>		
<b>ChangeWork (Male Program)</b>  Violence Intervention Director: Richard Langley  P.O. Box 304  Augusta, ME 04332  (207) 623-8637 ext. 304  (Certified until 7/14/2025)	ChangeWork offers 12 classes, in-person and virtual on-line, Monday through Saturday each week.	For more information, or to enroll in class, please fill out the intake packet request here: <a href="https://www.familyviolenceproject.org/changework/">https://www.familyviolenceproject.org/changework/</a>  or contact Richard Langley via email: <a href="mailto:rlangley@familyviolenceproject.org">rlangley@familyviolenceproject.org</a> text: 207.200.5131 phone: 207.623.8637 ext. 304
<b>Respect ME (Female Program)</b>  Director: Robert Rogers, KBH;  Michelle LeClair, FVP; Skyla Littlefield  Contact: <a href="mailto:rrogers@kbhmaine.org">rrogers@kbhmaine.org</a> or 207-474-8368 ext. 3607, cell phone: 207-861-2465;  5 Commerce Drive  Skowhegan, ME 04976  (207) 873-2136 x 3607  (Certified until: 8/9/2025)	Monday, 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.   Tuesday, 3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.   Wednesday, paused until in-person can happen	Kennebec Behavioral Health  66 Stone Street  Augusta, ME  Kennebec Behavioral Health  67 Eustis Parkway  Waterville, ME  Kennebec Behavioral Health  5 Commerce Drive  Skowhegan, ME
<b>Knox</b>		
<b>DV Classes for Men (Male Program)</b>  Temporary Director: Aimee Kerrigan  262 Harlow Street	Monday, 5:15 p.m. - 6:45 p.m.  Tuesday, 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m., 4:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.,	262 Harlow Street, Bangor, ME 04401  And  50 North Street, Dover- Foxcroft, ME 04426.

<p>Bangor, ME 04401</p> <p>(207) 802-3081</p> <p>(207) 973-3699 (fax)</p> <p>For intake call (207) 270-2963</p> <p>(Certified until 10/20/2024)</p> <p>*For class information and to schedule an intake call: Stephen Madera 207-270-2963 or Serena Buday 207-659-0736.</p>	<p>6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.</p> <p>Wednesday, 4:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. &amp; 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.</p> <p>Thursday, 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.</p>	
<p><b>Time for Change Women's Group (Female Program)</b></p> <p>Director: Susanna Norwood, LSW</p> <p>P.O. Box A</p> <p>Rockland, ME 04841</p> <p>800-522-3304</p> <p>Certified until: 7/21/2025</p>	<p>Call for more details</p>	
<b>Lincoln</b>		
<p><b>Time for Change Women's Group (Female Program)</b></p> <p>Director: Susanna Norwood, LSW</p> <p>P.O. Box A</p> <p>Rockland, ME 04841</p> <p>800-522-3304</p> <p>Certified until: 7/21/2025</p>	<p>Call for more details</p>	
<b>Oxford</b>		
<p><b>Alternatives to Abuse (Safe Voices)</b></p> <p>(Male Program)</p> <p>Director: Zach Griffith</p>	<p>Please come fill out the Intake form to learn more</p>	<p>To Enroll in class, please fill out Intake form at <a href="https://safevoices.org/get-help/certified-batterer-intervention-program">https://safevoices.org/get-help/certified-batterer-intervention-program</a></p>

P.O. Box 713  Auburn, ME 04212  (207) 207-212-6827  zgriffith@safevoices.org  (Certified until 9/14/2025)		
<b>Penobscot</b>		
<b>DV Classes for Men (Male Program)</b>  Temporary Director: Aimee Kerrigan  262 Harlow Street  Bangor, ME 04401  (207) 802-3081  (207) 973-3699 (fax)  For intake call (207) 270-2963  (Certified until 10/27/2026)  *For class information and to schedule an intake call: Stephen Madera 207-270-2963 or Serena Buday 207-659-0736.	Monday, 5:15 p.m. - 6:45 p.m.  Tuesday, 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m., 4:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.  & 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.  Wednesday, 4:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. and  6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.  Thursday, 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.	Penquis  262 Harlow Street  Bangor, ME 04401  And  50 North Street, Dover- Foxcroft, ME 04426.
<b>Piscataquis</b>		
<b>DV Classes for Men (Male Program)</b>  Temporary Director: Aimee Kerrigan  262 Harlow Street  Dover-Foxcroft, ME 04426  (207) 802-3081  (207) 973-3699 (fax)	Monday, 5:15 p.m. - 6:45 p.m.  Tuesday, 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m., 4:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.  & 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.	Penquis  262 Harlow Street  Bangor, ME 04401  And  50 North Street, Dover- Foxcroft, ME 04426.



<p>For intake call (207) 270-2963 (Certified until 10/27/2026)</p> <p>*For class information and to schedule an intake call: Stephen Madera 207-270-2963 or Serena Buday 207-659-0736.</p>	<p>Wednesday, 4:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.</p> <p>Thursday, 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.</p>	
<b>Sagadahoc</b>		
<p><b>Time for Change Women's Group (Female Program)</b></p> <p>Director: Susanna Norwood, LSW</p> <p>P.O. Box A</p> <p>Rockland, ME 04841</p> <p>800-522-3304</p> <p>Certified until: 7/21/2025</p>	<p>Call for more details</p>	
<b>Somerset</b>		
<p><b>ChangeWork (Male Program)</b></p> <p>Violence Intervention Director: Richard Langley</p> <p>P.O. Box 304</p> <p>Augusta, ME 04332</p> <p>(207) 623-8637 ext. 304</p> <p>(Certified until 7/14/2025)</p>	<p>ChangeWork offers 12 classes, in-person and virtual on-line, Monday through Saturday each week.</p>	<p>For more information, or to enroll in class, please fill out the intake packet request here: <a href="https://www.familyviolenceproject.org/changework/">https://www.familyviolenceproject.org/changework/</a></p> <p>or contact Richard Langley via email: <a href="mailto:rlangley@familyviolenceproject.org">rlangley@familyviolenceproject.org</a> text: 207.200.5131 phone: 207.623.8637 ext. 304</p>
<p><b>Respect ME (Female Program)</b></p> <p>Director: Robert Rogers, KBH;</p> <p>Michelle LeClair, FVP; Skyla Littlefield</p> <p>Contact: <a href="mailto:rrogers@kbhmaine.org">rrogers@kbhmaine.org</a> or 207-474-8368 ext. 3607, cell phone: 207-861-2465;</p>	<p>Monday, 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.</p> <p>Tuesday, 3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.</p>	<p>Kennebec Behavioral Health</p> <p>66 Stone Street</p> <p>Augusta, ME</p> <p>Kennebec Behavioral Health</p>

5 Commerce Drive Skowhegan, ME 04976 (207) 873-2136 x 3607 (Certified until: 8/9/2025)	Wednesday, suspended until in- person can happen	67 Eustis Parkway Waterville, ME  Kennebec Behavioral Health  5 Commerce Drive Skowhegan, ME
<b>Waldo</b>		
<b>DV Classes for Men (Male Program)</b>  Temporary Director: Aimee Kerrigan  262 Harlow Street Bangor, ME 04401 (207) 802-3081  (207) 973-3699 (fax) For intake call (207) 270-2963 (Certified until 10/27/2026)  *For class information and to schedule an intake call: Stephen Madera 207-270-2963 or Serena Buday 207-659-0736.	Monday, 5:15 p.m. - 6:45 p.m.  Tuesday, 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m., 4:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m., 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.  Wednesday, 4:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. & 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.  Thursday, 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.	262 Harlow Street  Bangor, ME 04401  And  50 North Street, Dover- Foxcroft, ME 04426.
<b>Time for Change Women's Group (Female Program)</b>  Director: Susanna Norwood, LSW  P.O. Box A  Rockland, ME 04841  800-522-3304  Certified until: 7/21/2025		
<b>Washington</b>		

<b>Step Forward, Leaving Violence Behind (Male Program)</b>  Director: Missy Fairfield  P.O. Box 1466  Ellsworth, ME 04605  (207) 255-4934  (Certified until: 12/10/2025)	Thursday, 5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.	Online
<b>DV Turning Points (Female Program)</b>  Supervisor: Astor Gillis  59 Franklin St., B  Ellsworth, ME 04605  (207) 667-2730  (Certified until 02/22/2024)	Wednesday, 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.	Online
<b>York</b>		
<b>York County CDVIP (Male Program)</b>  Director: Julia Davidson  P.O. Box 590  Sandford, ME 04073  (207) 490-3227  (Certified until: 11/7/2026)	Tuesday, 8:00 a.m. Thursday, 6:00 p.m.	To begin enrollment process, please fill out the intake form at: <a href="https://www.caring-unlimited.org/yc-cdvp">https://www.caring-unlimited.org/yc-cdvp</a>

# ATTACHMENT B

**Chapter 15: DOMESTIC VIOLENCE INTERVENTION PROGRAM CERTIFICATION**  
**(Revised 10/1/24)**

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**Summary:** This rule outlines the procedures and standards governing the certification and monitoring of Domestic Violence Intervention Programs pursuant to 19-A M.R.S.A. §4116.

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**1. Procedures and Standards for Domestic Violence Intervention Programs (relating to psychological, physical, verbal and sexual abuse)**

**1.1 Definitions**

**A. Domestic Abuse**

In the context of this rule, the definition of the term “domestic abuse” refers to the definition of “abuse” in 19-A M.R.S.A. §4102 and also includes behaviors considered to be “stalking” as described in 17-A M.R.S.A. §210-A and crimes of violence described in Title 17-A, Chapter 9.

“Domestic abuse” means the occurrence of the following acts between family or household members or dating partners:

1. Attempting to cause or causing bodily injury or offensive physical contact, including sexual assaults under Title 17-A, Chapter 11, except that contact as described in 17-A M.R.S.A. §106, sub-§1 (reasonable degree of force used by a parent, guardian, etc. in response to a child’s misconduct) is excluded from this definition;
2. Attempting to place or placing another in fear of bodily injury through any course of conduct including, but not limited to, threatening, harassing, or tormenting behavior;
3. Compelling a person by force, threat of force or intimidation to engage in conduct from which the person has a right or privilege to abstain or to abstain from conduct in which the person has a right to engage;
4. Knowingly restricting substantially the movements of another person without that person’s consent or other lawful authority by: removing that person from that person’s residence, place of business or school; moving that person a substantial distance from the vicinity where that person was found; or confining that person for a substantial period either in the place where the restriction commences or in a place to which that person has been moved;
5. Communicating to a person a threat to commit, or to cause to be committed, a crime of violence dangerous to human life against the person to whom the communication is made or another, and the natural



and probable consequence of the threat, whether or not that consequence in fact occurs, is to place the person to whom the threat is communicated, or the person against whom the threat is made, in reasonable fear that the crime will be committed;

6. Engaging in stalking as described in 17-A M.R.S.A. §210-A, including but not limited to, repeatedly and without reasonable cause following the victim, or being at or in the vicinity of the victim's home, school, business or place of employment;
7. Engaging in the unauthorized dissemination of certain private images as prohibited pursuant to 17-A M.R.S.A. §511-A;
8. Engaging in aggravated sex trafficking or sex trafficking as described in 17-A M.R.S.A. §852 or §853, respectively; or
9. Committing a crime under Title 17-A, Chapter 9, whether the crime is denominated a domestic violence crime or not.

B. "Family or household members" means:

1. Present or former spouses or domestic partners;
2. Individuals presently or formerly living together as spouses;
3. Parents of the same child;
4. Adult household members related by consanguinity or affinity;
5. Minor children of a parent or guardian when the defendant is an adult household member of that parent or guardian;
6. Individuals presently or formerly living together; and
7. Individuals who are or were sexual partners.

Holding oneself out to be a spouse is not necessary to constitute "living together as spouses." "Domestic partners" means 2 unmarried adults who are domiciled together under long-term arrangements that evidence a commitment to remain responsible indefinitely for each other's welfare.

- C. "Dating partners" means individuals currently or formerly involved in dating each other, whether or not the individuals are or were sexual partners.
- D. "Intimate partners" means dating partners or family or household members who are present or former spouses or domestic partners; individuals presently or formerly living together as spouses; parents of the same child; and individuals who are or were sexual partners.
- E. "Domestic abuse offender" means a person who has committed domestic abuse.

F. “Domestic abuse victim” means a person who has experienced domestic abuse and includes a victim of a domestic violence crime as defined by 17-A M.R.S.A. §2101(2). Note: Individuals who have experienced domestic abuse may identify themselves in a variety of ways, including using the terms “victim” or “survivor.” Domestic violence intervention programs may use the term “affected party” and may include others impacted by domestic abuse who do not meet the statutory definition of “victim,” including children or other family or household members.

G. **Coordinated Community Response**

1. Coordinated community response (“CCR”) refers to when individuals, private agencies, government agencies, and courts work together to: keep domestic abuse victims safe in the community; hold domestic abuse offenders accountable; and change the culture in the community to end domestic abuse.

H. **Domestic Violence Intervention Program**

1. The term “domestic violence intervention program” (“DVIProgram”) refers to a community-based educational program for adults which is one component of a coordinated community response to domestic abuse where the main goals are:
  - a. working toward the safety of victims;
  - b. holding domestic abuse offenders accountable for their actions; and
  - c. ending domestic abuse.

I. **Domestic Violence Center**

1. The term “domestic violence center” (“DVC”) refers to a network of programs and services for victims of domestic abuse. There are two coalitions of domestic violence centers in Maine.

The Maine Coalition to End Domestic Violence (“MCEDV”) is comprised of ten member organizations, including eight of Maine’s local domestic violence centers. Each domestic violence center is a private, independent, nonprofit agency which provides individual crisis intervention, legal information, and advocacy for individuals affected by domestic abuse, as well as support groups and shelter options for victims of domestic abuse and their children. These services are confidential, free of charge, and trauma responsive. In addition, domestic violence centers provide training, education, and consultation to community groups, schools, public officials, and services providers to improve the community’s response to domestic abuse.

The Wabanaki Women’s Coalition (“WWC”) is comprised of the five tribal domestic violence centers that serve the Wabanki tribes in Maine

(Penobscot Nation, Indian Township, Passamaquoddy, Malisset, and Micmac Domestic and Sexual Violence Advocacy Centers). Each of these tribal domestic violence centers is a nonprofit agency which provides individual crisis intervention, legal information, and advocacy for individuals affected by domestic abuse, as well as support groups and shelter options for victims of domestic abuse and their children. These services are culturally specific, confidential, free of charge, and trauma responsive. In addition, they provide training, education, and consultation to community groups, schools, public officials, and service providers to improve the tribal community's response to domestic abuse.

- J. **Monitoring** consists of observation of and consultation about the performance/operation of a DVIP program in order to promote the safety of victims of domestic abuse. Monitoring must be provided by staff of a DVC or by a third party monitor as outlined in section 5.8.
- K. **Supervision** is the internal oversight of the process and content of a DVIP program by staff consisting of a qualified primary supervisor as described in section 4.5.
- L. **Staff** means both paid and unpaid staff.

## 2. Certification

### 2.1 Oversight of the Maine Standards for Domestic Violence Intervention Programs

- A. The Department of Corrections ("DOC") shall be the lead agency responsible for implementation of these standards, pursuant to 19-A M.R.S.A §4116, coordinated through its Director of Victim Services.
- B. The DOC, in consultation with the Maine Commission on Domestic and Sexual Abuse, shall develop and, on a biannual basis, review a certification process for DVIP programs. The review process may include input from representatives of the following agencies and organizations and any others deemed appropriate by the DOC:
  1. domestic violence centers;
  2. domestic violence intervention programs;
  3. the judicial system;
  4. local, county, and State law enforcement agencies;
  5. victims of domestic abuse;
  6. health and human service agencies;
  7. schools;

8. hospital emergency departments;
  9. community corrections;
  10. groups working with victims of child abuse;
  11. groups working with victims of sexual abuse;
  12. organizations coordinating supervised visitation; and/or
  13. organizations providing services to diverse populations.
- C. Only DVIP programs that hold a current certification granted by the DOC shall be utilized for court referrals, since, as provided by 17-A M.R.S.A. §1807(2)(D-1), a court may not order and the State may not pay for a person to attend a domestic violence intervention program, as a condition of probation, unless the program is certified under Title 19-A M.R.S.A. §4116. While most participants are court referred, DVIP programs are not limited to court referrals.

## **2.2 Application for Certification**

- A. Each DVIP program requesting certification or renewal of certification shall submit a completed application to the DOC containing all of the information requested, to include, but not be limited to:
1. demonstration of the DVIP program's ability to meet these standards;
  2. an overview of the DVIP program's content;
  3. proof of successful completion for all DVIP program educators of a national domestic violence intervention training or similar training recommended by MCEDV or WWC and approved by the DOC;
  4. documentation of a working agreement with the local DVC in each county the DVIP program may operate in or request for waiver of this requirement providing specific reasons for the request;
  5. documentation of a working agreement with the DOC Regional Correctional Administrator for each adult community corrections region the DVIP program may operate in;
  6. demonstration of the need for a DVIP program, or another DVIP program, in the geographic area (initial certification only);
  7. name, address, and telephone number of the DVIP program and all sites;
  8. a statement of ownership of the DVIP program that discloses the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of all owners, directors, and officers of the corporation, and any members of any governing or advisory boards;

9. identification of the DVIP program's intended participant population, the curriculum to be used, and how the DVIP program will serve that population; and
  10. detailed outline of program format for both in-person and videoconferencing attendance which complies with Section 4.1.A, including eligibility, coordination, collaboration, and notification. (DVIP programs are not required to offer videoconferencing, and the provision of videoconferencing is at the discretion of the DVIP program, unless required due to a state of emergency as outlined in Section 11.)
- B. A DVIP program shall be assessed an application fee for initial certification or renewal of certification.
- C. Certification of a DVIP program shall be for a period of two years unless revoked or suspended as outlined in these standards.

### 2.3 Denial of, Refusal to Renew, or Suspension and/or Revocation of Certification

#### A. Definitions

1. **Denial:** action taken by DOC to not initially certify a DVIP program.
2. **Refusal to Renew:** action taken by DOC at the end of a two year certification period rejecting a DVIP program's application for renewal.
3. **Suspension:** action taken by DOC in lieu of revoking or refusing renewal of certification that stipulates the DVIP program must correct the noted deficiencies within the time specified.
4. **Revocation:** action taken by DOC removing a DVIP program's certification after the DOC has certified the Program, but before the DVIP program's two year certification has expired.

Any of these actions make the affected DVIP program ineligible to receive any court referrals unless and until the program is certified, its certification is renewed, or the suspension is lifted, whichever is applicable.

- B. Each of the following, in and of itself, may constitute full and adequate grounds on which to deny, refuse to renew, suspend, or revoke certification to operate a DVIP program:
1. failure to submit information required for certification;
  2. failure to meet any of these standards for DVIP programs;
  3. denial of entry to DOC staff to conduct site visits or inspections or any other attempt to impede the work of staff of the DOC;



4. obtaining or attempting to obtain certification by fraud, misrepresentation, or by the submission of incorrect, false, and/or misleading information;
5. criminal conduct by the owners, administrators, or staff as set out in Section 4.5;
6. operation of a DVIP program after the expiration of certification;
7. operation of a DVIP program in a manner which fails to fulfill the terms of the DVIP program – domestic abuse offender agreement; or
8. operation of a DVIP program in a manner which endangers the health or safety of domestic abuse offenders and/or domestic abuse victims or current intimate partners of domestic abuse offenders.

#### **2.4 Recourse of Program when Certification has been Denied, Refused Renewal, Suspended, and/or Revoked**

- A. A DVIP program the certification of which has been denied, refused renewal, suspended, or revoked by DOC shall receive in writing, by certified mail, a program compliance letter outlining the standards that the Program is not in compliance with and the time frames allowed to bring the DVIP program into compliance.
- B. The DVIP program has 60 days from the date of notification of denial, refusal of renewal, suspension, or revocation of certification, whichever is applicable, to resubmit an application or provide additional information, as applicable, indicating that the DVIP program has complied with the standards. The DOC Director of Victim Services, or designee, shall respond to this information within 60 days of receipt. If the response is to continue with the initial decision, it shall be by certified mail.
- C. The DVIP program may appeal that response by sending an appeal by certified mail to the DOC Commissioner of Corrections within fifteen days of receipt of the response.
- D. The DOC Commissioner, or designee, has 60 days from receipt of a timely appeal to make a final decision, after consultation with the Maine Commission on Domestic and Sexual Abuse. There is no other administrative appeal allowed.

### **3. Coordinated Community Response to Domestic Abuse**

#### **3.1 Goals**

- A. To end domestic abuse through meaningful reciprocal collaboration that focuses on victim safety and offender accountability.

### **3.2 Coordinated Community Response to Domestic Abuse**

- A. DVIPProgram staff shall consult, cooperate, and coordinate with representatives of the following agencies and organizations which are responsible for referral, oversight, monitoring, and/or accountability services:
1. domestic violence centers;
  2. criminal legal system, including prosecutor's offices;
  3. community corrections;
  4. health and human service agencies; and
  5. any other referral sources.
- B. An effective response to domestic abuse relies upon a coordinated community response (CCR) in which community partners respond with consistent messages and interventions that prioritize victim safety and autonomy along with accountability for offenders. DVIPPrograms with appropriate oversight and monitoring are an essential part of the CCR but cannot solve the problem of domestic abuse alone. As members of a CCR, DVIPProgram staff are encouraged to consult, cooperate, and coordinate with representatives of the following agencies and organizations in addition to those listed in Section A:
1. other certified DVIPPrograms;
  2. groups working with victims of domestic abuse, including victim led groups;
  3. schools, including community adult education programs;
  4. hospital emergency departments;
  5. groups working with victims of child abuse;
  6. groups working with victims of sexual violence;
  7. organizations coordinating supervised visitation;
  8. organizations providing services to marginalized populations; and
  9. other related services.

### **3.3 DVIPProgram – Domestic Violence Center Collaboration**

- A. The DVIPProgram shall acknowledge the experience of victims, who are experts on their own safety, and the important role of the local DVC in responding to domestic abuse through:

1. consulting with the local DVC on all written curricula, publications, program format decisions, and public relations materials of the DVIP program;
2. publicly acknowledging the contributions of the battered women's movement to their efforts and that DVIP programs exist in support of the goals of the DVCs;
3. consulting with the local DVC when seeking funds in a way that competes with funding for the DVC;
4. always encouraging victims to contact their local DVC;
5. inviting the local DVC's advocates to attend DVIP program groups;
6. participating in a community response to domestic abuse; and
7. negotiating an ongoing working relationship with the local DVC and integrating feedback in order to hold the DVIP program responsible to the principles of victim safety and offender accountability, which are central to the movement to end domestic abuse, acknowledging that a working relationship may go beyond these standards.

### **3.4 Victim/Partner Contacts**

- A. A victim/partner contact is the exchange of information between a victim or a current intimate partner of a domestic abuse offender and a designated representative of the local DVC and/or the DVIP program as allowed in this standard.
- B. The purpose of a victim/partner contact initiated by a DVC is to provide the victim or partner, as applicable, with:
  1. support and validation;
  2. information about the DVIP program;
  3. information about local resources for victims;
  4. assistance in developing a safety plan; and
  5. information about the DVC as an ongoing resource for victims.
- C. Within seven days of enrollment of a domestic abuse offender in a DVIP program, unless the time frame is modified by a working agreement with the local DVC, the DVIP program shall provide the local DVC with the names of and all known contact information for:
  1. the domestic abuse offender;

2. any adult or child victim identified in available police reports, during court proceedings, and/or by the referral source; and
  3. any current intimate partner of the domestic abuse offender.
- D. A DVIP program shall initiate contact with a domestic abuse victim and/or current intimate partner, as applicable, in the following situations unless contact information is not available or as otherwise specified below:
1. as provided in Section 8 when a DVIP program educator has a reasonable belief that a domestic abuse offender enrolled in the DVIP program is likely to engage in physical violence that poses a serious risk of harm to the victim or partner;
  2. to provide notification of the domestic abuse offender's admission into the DVIP program, including start date and program format (by written communication only);
  3. to provide notification of when the domestic abuse offender is discharged or is approved for a leave of absence from the DVIP program (by written communication only); and
  4. to provide notification of when a change in the format of DVIP program classes occurs or when a change in format is made for the specific domestic abuse offender.
- Note: If the victim is a child, depending on their age and circumstances, contact may be made indirectly by contacting a parent, guardian, or legal custodian.
- E. Safety and applicable confidentiality laws must be considered in all contact made by DVIP programs with victims and/or current intimate partners of domestic abuse offenders.
- A DVIP program must not initiate contact with a domestic abuse victim or current intimate partner if such contact would jeopardize the safety of the victim or partner, the domestic abuse offender, or DVIP program staff, or would violate federal or state confidentiality laws.
- F. Should a domestic abuse victim or current intimate partner initiate contact with a DVIP program:
1. the victim or current partner, as applicable, must always be provided information about the local DVC for supportive services; and
  2. when applicable:
    - a. the victim or partner must be advised about how to report a domestic abuse offender's conduct, including violations of probation conditions or bail or other court orders; and

- b. the victim or partner must be informed about confidentiality policies that apply to disclosures made by domestic abuse victims or current intimate partners to DVIP program staff.

### **3.5 Financial Responsibility for DVIP program - DVC Collaboration**

Any costs incurred as the result of supervision, training, and/or monitoring by a DVC or a third party monitor of a DVIP program shall be reimbursed by the DVIP program, except for costs incurred by the DVC for providing services to partners in the context of their outreach efforts.

## **4. DVIP Program Model**

### **4.1 DVIP Program Format**

#### **A. DVIP programs must:**

1. be held in an in-person group format unless the DVIP program permits videoconferencing as noted in its application for certification or renewal of certification under Section 2.2.A.10. or the program is granted a waiver by DOC;
2. consist of one or more groups with no more than 17 participants nor fewer than 3 participants enrolled per group, unless the program is granted a waiver by DOC;
3. be educationally oriented;
4. be restricted to domestic abuse offenders;
5. have same gender group(s) only;
6. have rolling or open admission;
7. be held in real time only (synchronous); and
8. if the format is videoconferencing, have participation be on camera for the full duration of each class except as otherwise approved by the educator(s).

#### **B. DVIP Program Educators**

1. Except as set out below, a group must be co-educated by both a male and a female co-educator, unless the program is granted a waiver by DOC. "Co-educated" means that each co-educator contributes substantially equally in the facilitation process.
2. A group serving female domestic abuse offenders may be co-educated by two female co-educators.



3. At the discretion of the DVIP Program Director, an exception to the co-education requirement may be made for an individual class or classes to accommodate special circumstances, including, but not limited to, illness, vacation, weather, etc.
  4. All co-educators must be appropriately trained in a national domestic violence intervention training or similar training recommended by MCEDV or WWC and approved by the DOC.
- C. There shall be no recording of any program activity except for quality assurance purposes by educators and/or monitors only. Recordings shall not be disseminated. Each DVIP Program shall have a protocol in place to ensure that any recording is destroyed within 30 days after the recording is made.

#### **4.2 Inappropriate DVIP Program Format**

- A. The following formats and methods must not be used by DVIP Programs:
1. individual counseling;
  2. couples or conjoint counseling;
  3. anger management;
  4. systems therapy;
  5. addiction counseling (identifying violence as an addiction);
  6. family therapy;
  7. medication management; or
  8. asynchronous classes.
- B. Unless specifically authorized in these standards or approved by the DVIP Program and local DVC, educators must not knowingly provide or maintain concurrent ongoing services to a domestic abuse offender and the offender's victim, current intimate partner, or minor child.

#### **4.3 Participant Population**

- A. These standards are specifically designed for adults who abuse their intimate partners, although other domestic abuse offenders may participate in DVIP Programs at program discretion.
- B. DVIP Programs shall implement models that address the participant population served.

#### **4.4 Length of the DVIP Program**

- A. A DVIP Program must be a minimum of 48 classes over a minimum of 48 weeks in duration.
- B. Each weekly session must be at least 90 minutes long, and the bulk of the session must focus on curriculum content.
- C. Each participant's attendance must occur at a rate of one class per week.
- D. The DVIP Program intake must not be considered one of the 48 weeks.
- E. Domestic abuse offenders who have completed a minimum 48 week DVIP Program may be given the opportunity of voluntarily continuing their participation or returning to the DVIP Program at a later date.

#### **4.5 DVIP Program Staff Selection, Training, and Supervision**

- A. DVIP Program staff must not have been subject to any final PFA or PFH order for which the petitioning party was a family or household member or dating partner within the last ten years and must not be the defendant in a pending PFA or PFH proceeding for which the petitioning party is a family or household member or dating partner.
- B. Staff must not have had any criminal conviction within the last ten years for any crime listed in Title 17-A, chapters 9, 11, 12, or 13 or sections 506, 506-A, 506-B, 511, 511-A, 554, 555, or 758 or substantially similar conduct in another jurisdiction.
- C. Staff must not be on administrative release, probation, parole, supervised release for sex offenders, or other supervision post-conviction, bail conditions, or deferred disposition for any crime listed in Title 17-A, chapters 9, 11, 12, or 13 or sections 506, 506-A, 506-B, 511, 511-A, 554, 555, or 758 or substantially similar conduct in another jurisdiction.
- D. A DVIP Program shall develop and maintain additional hiring criteria.
- E. All DVIP Program staff having direct contact with domestic abuse offenders must:
  - 1. receive training in a curriculum used by the DVIP Program that is based upon, and adheres to, models developed by nationally recognized programs or similar training in a curriculum determined to be sufficient by the DOC and that is consistent with these standards;
  - 2. provide certification of completion of this training prior to or within 6 months of being hired to co-educate groups, unless the program is granted a waiver by DOC;

3. be provided with on the job training with an experienced supervisor, to include a minimum of observation of six sessions of a group, followed by co-educating an additional six sessions of a group with a trained experienced educator, prior to assuming responsibility for a group; and
4. attend a minimum of 6 hours per year continuing education on topics agreed upon by MCEDV, WWC, and DOC.

It is the responsibility of the primary supervisor of the DVIP program to maintain all training records.

- F. Any individual identified as the Program Director or a “primary supervisor” must have at least two years documented experience in the following areas:
1. direct work with victims;
  2. direct work with domestic abuse offenders;
  3. work with individuals in a group setting; and
  4. supervision of employees.

#### **4.6 DVIP Program Curriculum**

- A. The DVIP program must include at a minimum in its curriculum that:
1. stress, a life crisis, and substance use disorder are not causes of domestic abuse, but ongoing substance abuse increases the risk of re-offense;
  2. domestic abuse is a choice a domestic abuse offender makes to exercise power and control over an intimate partner;
  3. domestic abuse offenders are solely and exclusively responsible for their controlling and abusive behavior;
  4. the effect of domestic abuse on victims, including children who witness abuse, is harmful; and
  5. abuse is never justified.

#### **4.7 DVIP Program Fee**

- A. A DVIP program may charge a fee for participation.
- B. Except for federal, state, or charitable organization funding (which must not include insurance), a domestic abuse offender is solely responsible for paying any fee for participation in a DVIP program.

## **5. Administrative Standards**

### **5.1 DVIP Program Intake Process**

- A. The DVIP Program shall schedule an intake into the DVIP Program within two weeks from the time the domestic abuse offender contacts the DVIP Program, absent good cause for a later intake.
- B. At the intake, the domestic abuse offender shall be required to enter into a written agreement with the DVIP Program, which must include the following:
  - 1. the responsibilities of the domestic abuse offender;
  - 2. the responsibilities of the DVIP Program;
  - 3. an agreement to stop all forms of abuse;
  - 4. the minimum length of the DVIP Program;
  - 5. signed information sharing agreements and/or appropriate releases that acknowledge the limitations of participant confidentiality;
  - 6. the fee structure and the fee due from the offender, if any;
  - 7. the criteria for discharge;
  - 8. a copy of the complaint procedure;
  - 9. the readmission criteria; and
  - 10. the program format.
- C. During intake, the DVIP Program must obtain the following information from the domestic abuse offender, unless already provided by the referral source:
  - 1. full legal name of the domestic abuse offender;
  - 2. current physical address;
  - 3. current mailing address (if different from physical address);
  - 4. current home telephone number, cell phone number, or telephone number of contact if the domestic abuse offender does not have a telephone;
  - 5. date of birth;
  - 6. name of employer and current work address and telephone number of employer;

7. victim name(s) and all known contact information;  
(Note: if the offender has been ordered by a criminal court to attend a certified DVIP program and the police incident report and victim contact information have not been provided by the prosecuting attorney within 7 days of the issuance of the court order as required by 19-A M.R.S.A. §4116, the DVIP program must contact the prosecuting attorney requesting the information.)
  8. current intimate partner name and all known contact information (if different from victim);
  9. current driver's license or State-issued ID number or other photo ID card number if the domestic abuse offender does not have a driver's license or State-issued ID;
  10. make, model, year and license plate number of any vehicles used by the domestic abuse offender;
  11. history of any substance abuse;
  12. any psychiatric history, including homicidal and suicidal ideation;
  13. any history of any weapons possession or usage; and
  14. history of abusive behaviors.
- D. Within six weeks after the domestic abuse offender begins the DVIP program, the offender must provide the DVIP program with the following independent descriptions of the domestic abuse offender's abusive behavior, including, but not limited to:
1. police reports (if applicable);
  2. administrative release, probation, parole, supervised release for sex offenders, or other post-conviction supervision or deferred disposition conditions (if applicable);
  3. legal pleadings, including, but not limited to, civil petitions and civil and criminal complaints (if applicable);
  4. court orders, including, but not limited to, protective orders, and court-approved consent agreements (if applicable); and
  5. previous child protective service reports (if applicable and available).
- E. Within seven days of acceptance into the DVIP program, the DVIP program must notify the following in writing of the domestic abuse offender's acceptance into the program and the program format, unless the time frame is modified by the working agreement with the local DVC:
1. the domestic abuse offender;

2. the victim and/or current intimate partner, as applicable, unless notification would jeopardize the safety of the victim, the partner, the domestic abuse offender, or DVIP program staff, or would violate federal or state confidentiality laws;
  3. the domestic abuse offender's Probation Officer (if applicable);
  4. the local DVC; and
  5. the referral source, including, but not limited to, the prosecuting attorney's office, pre-trial agency, or Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS).
- F. At minimum, the information to be contained in the communication referred to in section 5.1 E must include:
1. the date the domestic abuse offender begins the DVIP program;
  2. limitations of the DVIP program; and
  3. that victims and/or current intimate partners are not required to have any contact with the DVC and/or DVIP program.
- G. A copy of the participant agreement must be provided to the referral source and pre-trial agency (if applicable). A copy of the agreement must be made available upon request by the victim or local DVC.
- H. A DVIP program may only accept referrals of persons residing in a county in which the DVIP program has a working agreement with the local DVC, unless the program is granted a waiver by DOC.

## **5.2 DVIP Program Discharge or Leave**

- A. Reasons for discharge from a DVIP program must include that:
1. the domestic abuse offender has five absences during the 48-week DVIP program, not including any absences occurring during an approved leave of absence; or
  2. the domestic abuse offender has failed to pay the weekly fee determined by the DVIP program for four sessions.
- B. Reasons for discharge from a DVIP program may include that:
1. the domestic abuse offender has completed the 48 week program to the satisfaction of the DVIP program staff, based upon the criteria contained in the participant agreement;
  2. the offender has committed additional domestic abuse; or

3. the offender has not complied with the rules of the DVIPprogram.
- C. A domestic abuse offender may receive a medical or other leave of absence for good cause with the approval of the Program Director, who must consult with the referral source before deciding whether to grant approval. If the leave is approved, upon their return to the program, the offender is allowed to continue the DVIPprogram from the last class prior to the approved leave.
- D. The following must be notified in writing within seven days of the domestic abuse offender's discharge or leave of absence from the DVIPprogram:
1. the domestic abuse offender;
  2. the victim and/or current intimate partner, as applicable, unless notification would jeopardize the safety of the victim, the partner, the domestic abuse offender, or DVIPprogram staff, or would violate federal or state confidentiality laws;
  3. the domestic abuse offender's Probation Officer (if applicable) (the Probation Officer must also be immediately notified verbally of a discharge, unless the discharge was due to the offender's completion of the program);
  4. the local DVC;
  5. the prosecuting attorney's office if a Probation Officer is not involved;
  6. DHHS if involved; and
  7. the presiding judge of the Domestic Violence Monitoring Docket, if the domestic abuse offender is enrolled in a Domestic Violence Monitoring Docket.
- E. At minimum, the information to be contained in the communication referenced in section 5.2 E must include:
1. the date the domestic abuse offender was discharged or given leave from the DVIPprogram;
  2. the reason for discharge or leave (Note: if the reason is medical, the details of the situation must not be revealed, only that the reason is a medical one); and
  3. any recommendations, which may include, but are not limited to, assessment for additional services or further action by the Probation Officer, which may include revocation.

### **5.3 Re-Admission to DVIPprogram after Discharge**

- A. Except as set out below, a domestic abuse offender who has not successfully completed 48 weeks and is allowed to return after being discharged must start at

intake unless the domestic abuse offender is allowed to start at week one by the Program Director.

- B. If the discharge was based upon absences, it is the first discharge based upon absences, and the offender is re-enrolled within three months of discharge, the offender may be allowed by the Program Director to start at five classes before the last class prior to discharge.
- C. If the offender is re-enrolled more than three months after discharge or if the re-enrollment occurs after a second or subsequent discharge based upon absences, the offender must start at intake unless the domestic abuse offender is allowed to start at week one by the Program Director.
- D. If the discharge was for non-payment of fees, after consultation with the referral source, the Program Director may allow the offender to receive credit for all classes attended and paid in full as long as the offender continues to pay the fee on schedule after the offender's return.
- E. Notwithstanding the above, any domestic abuse offender who has not successfully completed 48 weeks and is allowed to return after being discharged and who was discharged due to committing additional domestic abuse or who committed additional domestic abuse after discharge must start at intake.

#### **5.4 Transfer of Credits**

- A. A certified DVIP program must accept transfer of credits for weeks satisfactorily completed at another DVIP program certified by the DOC provided the domestic abuse offender was in good standing with the other program at the time of transfer and no more than three months has elapsed since the last class attended at the previous DVIP program. Absent good cause, no transfer of credit may occur if more than three months has elapsed since the last class attended at the previous DVIP program.
- B. Each participant requesting transfer of credit must obtain a letter of referral from the previous program, setting forth the number of weekly credits that the domestic abuse offender has earned, the number of absences, and that the participant is in good standing, and present it to the new program prior to receiving any credit(s) for weeks completed.

#### **5.5 Complaint Procedure**

- A. Before filing any complaint against a DVIP program, the domestic abuse offender shall make an attempt to resolve the complaint in an informal manner by talking with the educator(s).
- B. If unable to come to an agreement with the educator(s), the offender shall contact the Program Director, who shall attempt, as soon as possible, to resolve the complaint.
- C. If the complaint remains unresolved, a formal written complaint may be made to the Department of Corrections, 111 State House Station, Augusta, Maine



04333-0111, Attention: Director of Victim Services. A copy of the complaint must be provided by the offender to the DVIP Program Director, local DVC, and referral source.

- D. A victim may file a formal written complaint to the Department of Corrections, 111 State House Station, Augusta, Maine 04333-0111, Attention: Director of Victim Services. A copy of the complaint must be provided by the Director of Victim Services to the DVIP Program Director and the local DVC.
- E. Upon receipt of a complaint, the Director of Victim Services shall investigate to determine if there has been a violation of these standards and, if so, shall determine what corrective or other action to take.
- F. The Director of Victim Services shall respond to a written complaint within 60 days of its receipt.

## **5.6 Confidentiality**

- A. All written and/or oral communications, including electronic communications, between the DVIP Program and victims and current intimate partners must be kept confidential by the DVIP Program, except in order to comply with mandatory reporting requirements or duty to warn, or as necessary to respond to a complaint filed by a victim with the DOC Director of Victim Services.
- B. Notwithstanding the above, the DVIP Program may provide information to a DVC so that the DVC may offer safety planning resources.

## **5.7 Record Keeping**

- A. Domestic abuse offender and victim and/or current intimate partner records (if any) must be maintained in separate files with no record or reference of victim/partner contact in the offender's file beyond the initial letter to the victim and/or partner about the domestic abuse offender's admission into the DVIP Program.
- B. There must be at least minimal documentation for each group session attended by a domestic abuse offender, which must include:
  - 1. date;
  - 2. topic; and
  - 3. amount of time spent in group.
- C. Monthly status reports must be provided by the DVIP Program to the domestic abuse offender's Probation Officer or other referral source. Reports must include, but are not limited to, the following information:
  - 1. attendance;
  - 2. current payment status; and

3. compliance with other DVIP program rules.

## **5.8 Approval and Monitoring Process**

- A. The DVIP program must arrange for monitors to attend a DVIP program class at least quarterly per educator pair. Monitoring may occur more frequently upon agreement between the DVIP program and the local DVC or third party monitor, as applicable.
- B. The DVIP program must arrange for monitors to provide verbal communication to the DVIP program regarding the performance/operation of each observed class immediately after the class and written communication within 30 days. The DVIP program is required to provide the documentation of monitoring to the DOC Director of Victim Services. It shall also be provided to the local DVC (unless the monitoring was by the local DVC).
- C. Third party monitors must be utilized when the local DVC is unable, unwilling, or fails to monitor the DVIP program or is operating the DVIP program.
  1. Selection of third party monitors must be made pursuant to criteria developed by the DOC, MCEDV, and WWC.
  2. When a new third party monitor is used, the DVIP program is required to provide the monitor's name and qualifications to the DOC Director of Victim Services, the local DVC, WWC, and MCEDV.
  3. Documentation of monitoring sessions must be sent to the local DVC.

## **6. Waiver**

- A. The DOC may waive the requirements of these standards if and only if a waiver is specifically allowed in these rules.
- B. All requests for waivers must be directed to the DOC's Director of Victims Services, who has sole discretion regarding the final decision on the waiver request.

## **7. Other Programs**

- A. Programs offered in a jail or DOC correctional facility do not meet the definition of a certified DVIP program. Credit toward attending a certified DVIP program must not be given or transferred for any participation in any jail or DOC correctional facility program.
- B. Programs operating outside of the State of Maine do not meet the definition of a certified DVIP program. Credit toward attending a certified DVIP program must not be given or transferred for any participation in an out of state program.

- C. On-line/videoconferencing/phone programs, other than videoconferencing/phone programs provided by a DOC certified DVIPProgram as set forth in these standards, do not meet the definition of a certified DVIPProgram. Credit toward attending a certified DVIPProgram must not be given or transferred for any participation in such an on-line/videoconferencing/phone program.

## **8. Duty to Warn**

- A. When DVIPProgram staff has a reasonable belief based on statements by a domestic abuse offender enrolled in a DVIPProgram or information from the victim/current intimate partner or another person that the domestic abuse offender is likely to engage in physical violence that poses a serious risk of harm to self or others, the staff must promptly warn the following persons or agencies that would best promote the safety of the person at risk and the DVIPProgram staff:
  - 1. appropriate local, county, and/or state law enforcement agency(ies);
  - 2. the person at risk, if current contact information is available;
  - 3. the offender's Probation Officer, if applicable; and/or
  - 3. appropriate DVC(s).
- B. The duty imposed under this subsection may not be interpreted to require DVIPProgram staff to take any action that in the reasonable professional judgment of the DVIPProgram staff would endanger the DVIPProgram staff or increase the risk to the safety of a victim or current intimate partner or the domestic abuse offender.
- C. Nothing in these standards may be construed to imply that any information shared by a domestic abuse offender in class or with DVIPProgram staff is privileged, protected, or otherwise confidential information. This includes observations of the offender by program staff. Program staff may share any information about a person's participation in the program with the referral source, victim, current intimate partner, or local DVC at their discretion.

## **9. Mandatory Reporting**

### **A. Required report of child abuse or neglect to DHHS**

DVIPProgram staff must immediately report or cause a report to be made to the DHHS Child Protective Services and/or Indian Child Welfare Act caseworker when the staff knows or has reasonable cause to suspect that a child has been or is likely to be abused or neglected by a person responsible for the child or that a suspicious child death has been caused by a person responsible for the child.

### **B. Required report of child abuse or neglect to Prosecutor's Office**

DVIPProgram staff must immediately report or cause a report to be made to the appropriate prosecutor's office when the staff knows or has reasonable cause to suspect that a child has been or is likely to be abused or neglected by a person not responsible

for the child or that a suspicious child death has been caused by a person not responsible for the child.

**C. Required report of incapacitated or dependent adult abuse, neglect or exploitation to DHHS**

DVProgram staff must immediately report or cause a report to be made to DHHS when the person knows or has reasonable cause to suspect that an incapacitated or dependent adult has been or is likely to be abused, neglected, or exploited.

**10. Ethics**

- A. DVProgram staff shall not discriminate against a domestic abuse offender, victim, current intimate partner, or other person based on age, race, ethnicity, religion, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, national origin, or socioeconomic status.
- B. A domestic abuse offender should be treated with dignity and respect by program staff regardless of the nature of the offender's crimes or conduct.

**11. Declaration of State of Emergency**

- A. This section may be invoked by the DOC in the event that the Governor has declared a State of Emergency or at the discretion of the DOC, in consultation with the Maine Commission on Domestic and Sexual Abuse, in order to respond to serious health and safety risks.
  - 1. A DVProgram shall, if possible, be held in an in-person group format that complies with all guidelines relating to the State of Emergency or as determined by the DOC, as applicable.
  - 2. If it is not possible for a DVProgram to hold an in-person group that complies with all such guidelines, the DVProgram shall offer a video conferencing group.
  - 3. If a domestic abuse offender or the DVProgram has reasonable and articulable health and safety related concerns related to another specific offender, the DVProgram shall inform the referral source, and the domestic abuse offender shall be given the option to participate with an in-person group via video conferencing or to participate in a video conferencing group, as applicable.
  - 4. Participation in a group via video conferencing must be on camera for the full duration of the class, except as outlined in section 11.A.6, or as otherwise approved by the educator(s).
  - 5. Participation via video conferencing must be in real time only. There shall be no recording of a video conferencing class except for quality assurance purposes by educators and/or monitors only. Recordings must not be disseminated. Each DVProgram shall have a protocol in place to ensure that any recording is destroyed within 30 days after the recording is made.

6. If a domestic abuse offender for whom there are health and safety related concerns does not have access to video conferencing technology, the domestic abuse offender may be given the option to participate via a phone call to an in-person group or video conferencing group. The use of this option to deliver the program must occur only in consultation with the referral source and must be limited to only that period of time necessary to allow the domestic abuse offender to gain access to video conferencing technology.
7. A DVIP program must notify victims, current intimate partners, the local DVC, MCEDV, and DOC about any changes to the DVIP program format, unless notification would jeopardize the safety of a victim, a current intimate partner, the domestic abuse offender, or DVIP program staff, or would violate federal or state confidentiality laws.
8. Notification must include information about local victim advocacy services. The DVIP program shall provide all known victim and current intimate partner contact information to the DVC so that a victim advocate may contact the victim and/or current intimate partner, unless the contact would jeopardize the safety of the victim, the partner, the domestic abuse offender, or a victim advocate, or would violate federal or state confidentiality laws;.

B. These standards must be followed in all other respects.

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STATUTORY AUTHORITY:

19-A M.R.S.A. §4014; Resolve 2013 ch. 3

EFFECTIVE DATE:

April 29, 1998 (Major Substantive)

STATUTORY AUTHORITY:

19-A M.R.S.A. §4014(1). The Maine Department of Corrections is adopting a proposal to revise the existing standards for the certification of batterer intervention programs pursuant to 19-A M.R.S.A. §4014 (1) to revise the Standards as a result of the 2002 biannual review. The Maine Department of Corrections developed the proposed rules in consultation with the Maine Commission on Domestic and Sexual Abuse in accordance with the provisions of 19-A M.R.S.A. §4014(1). The proposed revisions to the Batterer Intervention standards will result in improved operation of the Batterer Intervention Programs.

EFFECTIVE DATE:

June 26, 2003 - filing 2003-167 (Major Substantive)

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 19-A M.R.S.A. §4014(1). The Maine Department of Corrections is adopting a proposal to revise the existing standards for the certification of batterer intervention programs pursuant to 19-A M.R.S.A. §4014 (1) to revise the Standards as a result of the 2004 biannual review. The Maine Department of Corrections developed the proposed rules in consultation with the Maine Commission on Domestic and Sexual Abuse in accordance with the provisions of 19A M.R.S.A. §4014(1). The proposed revisions to the Batterer Intervention standards will result in improved operation of the Batterer Intervention Programs.

EFFECTIVE DATE:

July 23, 2005 - filing 2005-247 (Major Substantive)

REPEALED AND REPLACED:

June 20, 2008 – filing 2009-211 (Major Substantive)

April 4, 2013 – filing 2013-074 (EMERGENCY, Routine Technical)

August 11, 2013 – filing 2013-198 (Routine Technical)

November 13, 2017 – filing 2017-172 (Routine Technical)

CORRECTED:

May 17, 2018 – Section 5.5, reinserted paragraph D.

May 18, 2018 – Section 5.5, changed the Section heading by removing the word  
“Participant”.

AMENDED:

January 15, 2021 – filing 2021-002 (Routine Technical)

REPEALED AND REPLACED:

September 28, 2024 – filing 2024-217

# ATTACHMENT C



**MCEDV.**

The Maine Coalition  
to End Domestic Violence

## Maine Certified Domestic Violence Intervention Programs: 2019 – 2024



*He started taking the class seriously. He started to ask questions in class. He's been good about engaging in class and taking notes. He started being clear headed, so I was comfortable honoring the visits. He's communicating his emotions better and taking the time to explain how he is feeling instead of just shutting down. It's given him tools to advocate for what he needs and communicate his feelings to prevent arguments. He is less reactive to changes. I think the class will help him in the long run and has been very good for him. They take the time to know each person and take it on a case-by-case basis and do not lump everyone into a box.*



– Maine Survivor, 2024 CDVIP Survivor Impact Survey



**CONNECTING PEOPLE.  
CREATING FRAMEWORKS FOR CHANGE.**



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## Overview

### Collaboration and Cooperation

“ [A] shared commitment to honoring the experiences of the victims while ending domestic violence through education has shifted into a highly collaborative, solution-focused alliance.

- Randall Liberty, Commissioner, Maine Department of Corrections

The experiences of victim-survivors are the clearest indicator of the impact that Maine's Certified Domestic Violence Intervention Programs (CDVIP) have. In both 2020 and 2024, the Maine Coalition to End Domestic Violence (MCEDV) surveyed survivors whose current or former partners had been ordered to complete CDVIP. Results consistently affirm that survivors are safest when participants attend and complete CDVIP and that non-compliance and non-completion are causes for concern about victim safety. Maine is fortunate in the level of collaboration and cooperation between community service providers and state government in the development and intervention programming.

*The team of partners works together to solve problems, hold offenders appropriately responsible, and ensure victim safety to the greatest degree possible, all with few resources to support the work.*

Maine has mandatory standards to ensure quality programming and meaningful oversight of those standards. Not all states do. The Maine Department of Corrections (MDOC) oversees certification of the state's Domestic Violence Intervention Programs, formerly called "Batterer Intervention Programs." Maine additionally benefits from the collaborative approach that the MDOC, the Maine Coalition to End Domestic Violence (MCEDV), the Wabanaki Women's Coalition (WWC), and the statewide CDVIP network bring to their collective efforts to end domestic abuse. The team of partners works together to solve problems, hold offenders appropriately responsible, and ensure victim safety to the greatest degree possible, all with few resources to support the work.

The COVID-19 pandemic caused an initial shutdown of Maine's CDVIPs in 2020, with a brand-new program in Washington County and just a year of MCEDV's funded leadership in the books. In Maine and globally, experts in abuse intervention wrestled with the questions of

how to safely and responsibly proceed under public health requirements that restricted gathering. Maine followed initial recommendations to move to individual phone contact with CDVIP participants, which was time-consuming and limited in effect. Upon release of guidance from national experts<sup>1</sup>, Maine engaged in emergency rulemaking to add Section 11 of the CDVIP standards which allowed for the use of videoconferencing in the event of a State of Emergency<sup>2</sup>. The pandemic prompted greater collaboration between programs, MCEDV, and MDOC, while also presenting a greater need for it as other systems, including the courts, probation, and child protective services, all pivoted their approaches in response to the pandemic. The effects of the pandemic have been long-term on the work of CDVIPs in Maine. Court backlogs led to large batches of enrollments instead of dispersed enrollments that allow CDVIPs to use a smooth rolling admissions process. Programs are still feeling the effects of this and have instituted monthly enrollment status checks to manage timely enrollment statewide.

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<sup>1</sup> Scaia and Heath, "Engaging Responsibly with Perpetrators of Domestic Abuse Individually and In a Videoconference Software Group during COVID-19 and Beyond." Global Rights for Women, March 2021 (Updated January 2022): <https://globalrightsforwomen.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/COVID-19-Responsible-Work-with-Perpetrators-Updated-Jan-2022.docx.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> 03-201 Chapter 15, Domestic Violence Intervention Program Certification, Section 11. Declaration of State of Emergency.



## CDVIP Historical Timeline

Maine's first statewide standards for the certification of domestic violence intervention programs (then batterer intervention programs) were made effective on April 29, 1998. In the following decades, programs were developed in many, though not all, parts of Maine to address men's violence against their female partners. This timeline represents some of the major milestones and accomplishments, but it should not be considered an exhaustive history.

**2012** Maine's first CDVIPs for women were created in response to the *State of Maine v. Mosher* case. The Mosher case challenged the constitutionality of sentencing for his domestic abuse charges, which included a two-year probation term to allow for completion of CDVIP. The successful challenge was made on the grounds that no such programs existed for women and so the longer probation term was unconstitutional.

**2016** In response to a legislative resolve, the Maine Commission on Domestic and Sexual Abuse, in collaboration with MCEDV and the MDOC, brought forward a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety on the Pretrial and Post-Conviction Use of Batterer Intervention Programs,<sup>7</sup> together with recommendations and proposed legislation to begin to better support these programs as increasingly critical to community-based, non-carceral intervention.

**2018** Maine statutes were amended to recognize CDVIPs as the most appropriate and effective community intervention in cases involving domestic violence and to require any person convicted of domestic violence crimes to be court ordered to complete a CDVIP unless the court makes findings as to why that should not happen.

Maine legislature appropriated the first funds (\$150,000 annually) to support Maine's CDVIPs through partial reimbursement of reduced fees for indigent participants and to support statewide training for and coordination of CDVIP providers. Funds were appropriated to the MDOC, who has thereafter contracted with MCEDV for implementation.

**2019** MCEDV hired their first staff member with a primary focus on Maine's domestic violence intervention efforts.

**2020** Next Step Domestic Violence Project opened Step Forward, Leaving Violence Behind as the men's CDVIP in Washington County, providing CDVIP availability statewide and representing the only CDVIP that has been newly certified in the last five years.

Provision of CDVIP was interrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Programs in Maine and around the world adapted to offer virtual classes safely and responsibly.

MCEDV conducted the first CDVIP Survivor Impact Survey to determine the impact of CDVIP participation on the lives and safety of survivors and their children.

*Continued on next page*



## 2021

MCEDV, in collaboration with MDOC, reported initial findings on the impact of CDVIPs on survivor safety to the 130th Legislature's Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety<sup>8</sup>, together with recommendations and proposed legislation.

The 130th Maine Legislature approved a modest increase in funding to expand the limited scope of the indigent participant fee reimbursement program to more fully support access of low-income perpetrators to this intervention.

MDOC and MCEDV started the collaborative biennial review of Maine's CDVIP Standards.

MCEDV received private donations that enabled \$2,500 mini-grants to CDVIPs to address infrastructure needs related to provision of services during the Covid-19 pandemic.

## 2023

MCEDV engaged global experts in women's use of force to offer a nearly year-long professional development opportunity, the Systems Advocacy Learning Lab (SALL), for advocates and intervention providers statewide to examine the experiences of survivor-defendants ordered to attend women's CDVIP. The SALL was made possible with funding from MDOC.

Volunteers of America NNE/Choice Program discontinued men's CDVIP classes in Sagadahoc, Lincoln, Knox, and Waldo counties. Penquis' DV Classes for Men took over Knox and Waldo, while Safe Voices' Alternatives to Abuse took over Sagadahoc and Lincoln.

Caring Unlimited discontinued women's CDVIP classes due to funding and staffing shortages.

Violence No More, men's CDVIP in York County, closed due to funding and staffing shortages.

## 2024

Safe Voices discontinued women's CDVIP classes due to funding and staffing shortages.

Safe Voices discontinued men's CDVIP classes in Sagadahoc and Lincoln counties due to funding and staffing shortages. Currently, both an existing CDVIP and an emerging organization are exploring the provision of services in this area.

MCEDV secured \$30,000 in private funding from the John T. Gorman Foundation to support some of the operational costs of Maine's CDVIPs.

MDOC and MCEDV collaborated on a successful application for federal funding through the Office of Violence Against Women's Improving Criminal Justice Response grant program which will support each of Maine's CDVIPs for men at approximately \$32,000 per program annually for 3 years.

MCEDV conducted the second CDVIP Survivor Impact Survey.

Caring Unlimited applied to certify a domestic violence intervention program in York County, and their application is being considered by the MDOC.

Maine's newly revised DVIP statewide certification standards were enacted.



## Gender and Types of Violence Addressed through CDVIPs

For years, Certified Domestic Violence Intervention Programs (CDVIP) exclusively served men who battered their female partners. There were no programs for women. After Maine's criminal statutes were changed to allow a two-year term of probation for misdemeanor domestic violence crimes to allow sufficient time to complete a CDVIP during the term of probation, Maine's Law Court held in 2012 that the state must also certify programs for women charged with domestic violence crimes. This led to the establishment of women's violence intervention programs in many parts of the state.

Men and women have separate classes, as required by Maine's CDVIP standards, because domestic abuse is largely a gendered crime. Instructors in Maine's intervention programs for men report that most of those participants use a pattern of coercive controlling behavior against their female partners, while instructors in Maine's intervention programs for women report that most of those participants have used force against their male partners in response and/or reaction to the coercive controlling violence they experience. Most women required to attend CDVIP are survivors; sometimes they are referred to as criminalized survivors or survivor-defendants. Despite enrollment numbers of roughly 10 men to every woman in intervention programs<sup>3</sup>, there were seven programs for women in operation in 2022, nearly as many as the nine for men.



Men's CDVIP programs use the curriculum *Creating a Process of Change for Men who Batter*, which is "rated as Effective for reducing recidivism with respect to violent offenses and Promising in reducing victimization" by the National Institute of Justice<sup>4</sup>. Women's CDVIPs use *Turning Points: A Nonviolence Curriculum for Women*, which addresses both women's use

<sup>3</sup> Each year, there are 1,000 to 1,200 men and under 100 women enrolled in Maine's CDVIPs.

<sup>4</sup> "Practice Profile: Interventions for Persons Who Committed Intimate Partner Violence: Duluth Model."

National Institute of Justice: Crime Solutions: September 13, 2013. Accessed 10/31/2024:

<https://crimesolutions.ojp.gov/ratedpractices/interventions-persons-who-committed-intimate-partner-violence-duluth-model/#1-0>

of force, and the violence used against them by their partners. The *Turning Points* curriculum is widely used both nationally and internationally<sup>5</sup>.

When intervention work with people who have committed domestic abuse began in Maine, the programs were loosely affiliated through the Maine Association of Batterer Intervention Programs, but they never had paid staff to support their efforts at statewide coordination. In 2018, Maine's legislature appropriated limited funds to the MDOC, which then contracted with MCEDV, to provide statewide coordination, technical assistance, and training as well as to implement a small scope, reduced fee reimbursement program to increase equitable access to CDVIPs statewide. This was the first-ever state investment in the work of Maine's CDVIPs. **These programs are now facing the reality of being relied upon as a critical component of Maine's non-carceral response to domestic abuse and violence without ever having been funded to be sustainable in the long-term.**

### CDVIP in the Current Moment

*Maine is nationally recognized for the excellent work of its CDVIP network. And they are struggling to keep their doors open.*

Maine's CDVIP network is strong in many ways. There is a great deal of trust, collegiality, and peer support among the programs statewide, and relationships between local domestic violence centers and local CDVIPs are stronger than ever. Thanks to the funding through the MDOC, administered by MCEDV, all of Maine's CDVIP instructors are trained in the same curricular models. This means that all the programs and their staff members share a similar lexicon and approach to this high-stakes work. MCEDV is unaware of any other state in which this is the case. Numerous improvements have been made in the past five years, and many of them are highlighted in the *Recommendations and Progress* section of this report.

“ I appreciate the collaboration and statewide meetings, staying connected to other DVRCs and DVIPs. [It's a] great learning opportunity, and I feel supported. I appreciate MCEDV and MDOC always being there to answer questions and provide support.  
- CDVIP Director, 2024 MCEDV Site Visit

Maine is recognized nationally for its commitment to quality implementation of the *Creating*

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<sup>5</sup> Larance, Goodmark, Miller, and Dasgupta, “Understanding and Addressing Women’s Use of Force in Intimate Relationships: A Retrospective.” *Violence Against Women: Sage Journals*, 2019. Vol. 25(1) 56- 80.



a *Process of Change for Men who Batter (CPC)* and *Turning Points: A Non-violence Program for Women* curricula. Maine CDVIP educators were invited to participate in the revision of the CPC curriculum, and videos of Maine CDVIP educators were made to use as examples of responsible and effective implementation of the curriculum. Maine's work to explore the experiences of survivor-defendants in CDVIPs for women was featured at a national intervention conference in the fall of 2024. Maine is nationally recognized for the excellent work of its CDVIP network. And they are struggling to keep their doors open.

## **Mandated Intervention Lacks Funding**

*Maine believes in this intervention enough to require courts to note when and why it is not ordered in a domestic abuse case, and Maine has not yet invested in the operational costs of this mandated and recognized intervention.*

Reliance on participant fees and small financial infusions here and there have proven insufficient to support the intervention recognized in Maine statute as “the most appropriate and effective community intervention in cases of domestic abuse.” Maine believes in this intervention enough to require courts to note when and why it is not ordered in a domestic abuse case, and Maine has not yet invested in the operational costs of this mandated and recognized intervention. Without significant, sustained investment in these programs that are central to the state's commitment to victim safety and meaningful accountability for those who commit domestic abuse, the good work of the MDOC, MCEDV, and the CDVIP network to build this quality, coordinated response is at risk.

“Increasing fees will NOT solve the financial picture. It is not the measure of accountability we once thought it was. Fees often take away from what the family and survivor needs.

- Maine CDVIP Director, 2024 MCEDV Site Visit



## Impact of CDVIP Participation on Survivors of Domestic Violence

*Maine's surveys of survivors whose partners are required to attend CDVIP affirms existing research that survivors and their children are safest when participants attend and complete CDVIP.*

Assessing the effectiveness of domestic violence intervention is complicated. Denial, minimization, and blame are characteristic tactics of people who engage in patterns of coercive control, and recidivism statistics only tell part of the story as many tactics in the patterned behavior of abuse are not criminal acts in and of themselves. To fully understand the impact of Maine's CDVIPs, it is important to hear from survivors – the current and former partners of those ordered to Maine's CDVIPs. In both 2020 and 2024, advocates from MCEDV's member programs did just that. They reached out to survivors statewide to ask them a series of questions about their safety and autonomy before and since their partner was ordered to CDVIP.

Maine's surveys of survivors whose partners are required to attend CDVIP affirms existing research that survivors and their children are safest when participants attend and complete CDVIP. Maine's 2024 CDVIP Survivor Impact Survey showed that all participants expelled from CDVIP recidivated with DV offenses or DV and other offenses. Only two of those who completed and two of those currently attending had recidivated with DV offenses.

Approximately half of all survivor-respondents reported an increase in safety after their current or former partner attended CDVIP, and the majority of those (14 of 20) reported that they had either completed CDVIP or were still attending. Among those whose partners were still attending, three went from feeling "not at all safe" to "very safe." Conversely, three respondents reported a reduction in safety, and only one of them had completed CDVIP; the other two had been expelled. As one survivor said, "I wish he would have attended the full group. Things seemed to be better in the beginning when he was attending."

While many survivors noted significant improvement in their current or former partners after being sent to CDVIP, some saw no change, and some, sadly, saw abusive behaviors worsen. In both the 2020 and 2024 surveys of survivors, personal motivation to change emerged as a consistent determinant of the effectiveness of the CDVIPs.

“ I was notified that he was in CDVIP by mail. I remember feeling so relieved because I at least knew where he would be during those hours. We used to live on the same street at the time and I was terrified of this because I never knew when he could be driving by my house. It made me feel safer to know that during those hours, I did not need to look over my shoulder. - Maine Survivor, 2024 CDVIP Survivor Impact Survey

Some survivors highlighted the need for greater communication from the CDVIP and coordination while their current or former partners are enrolled in CDVIP like this one: “I wish people would contact me and let me know how class is going, what he is being taught.” CDVIPs want to be able to lean into this request from survivors. However, the barebones funding of CDVIPs prevents the kind of robust coordination and communication that would serve survivors and their children best. While some CDVIPs manage to do this, they often rely on staff volunteering their time.

*The barebones funding of CDVIPs prevents the kind of robust coordination and communication that would serve survivors and their children best.*

Another survivor notes the vital importance of an array of services working in concert with one another: “All resources listed<sup>6</sup> above were needed throughout my healing. Even though [some] were not as effective as the other resources, they still provided help to maintain safety.” Thirty-eight of the 42 respondents to the 2024 survey reported reaching out to resources for help, and they reached out to an average of more than four resources each.

## Recommendations and Progress

MCEDV, in collaboration with the MDOC, CDVIP Network, member programs, community partners, and the Maine Commission on Domestic and Sexual Abuse, has issued regular reports with recommendations for improving Maine’s domestic abuse intervention work as a part of an effective statewide coordinated effort to improve both victim safety and offender accountability. MCEDV has provided leadership and critical support in advancing progress on those recommendations. Below, recommendations from the two most recent

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<sup>6</sup> The resource list referenced included DV intervention program, DV Resource Center, friends/family, colleagues, religious group/church, doctor/other healthcare provider, helpline or online support, mental health provider, social service provider, police, lawyer/legal aid, and other.



preceding reports are reviewed with updates on progress toward realizing those recommendations.

## 2016 Recommendations and Progress

In February 2016, the Maine Commission on Domestic and Sexual Abuse made recommendations about program approach and improving program outcomes in their report to Maine's Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety, "Pretrial and Post-Conviction Use of Batterer Intervention Programs<sup>7</sup>."

### Best Practice Recommendations Regarding Program Approach

- 1. Retain the gender-based, educational approach currently used in Maine certified Domestic Violence Intervention Programs as appropriate for the vast majority of batterers.***

This recommendation has been affirmed through Maine's multi-disciplinary, biennial Standards Review process, co-facilitated by Karen Wyman, Director of Prevention and Intervention at MCEDV, and Tessa Mosher, Director of Victim Services at MDOC. The Standards Review Team noted that while retention of this approach continues to be appropriate for most people referred to intervention programs, attention must also be paid to the needs of LGBTQ+ people and others for whom this approach would not be appropriate. While there has been interest in developing these alternatives, the lack of funding to support that work has stopped it from progressing. Existing CDVIPs use gender-responsive curricula that consider the individual and social contexts in which domestic abuse has occurred.

- 2. Allow voluntary use of pretrial participation in a certified Domestic Violence Intervention Program.***

This is allowed. Few people request this. Further exploration of voluntary participation in CDVIPs is needed.

- 3. In a domestic violence-related case, Deferred Disposition with a Domestic Violence Intervention Program as a condition should only be used if monitoring by a Judicial Monitoring program and supervision by a community agency are also ordered (especially if other conditions are included).***

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<sup>7</sup> Both the 2016 and 2020 reports refer to "Batterer Intervention Programs" as that was the name in place at those times. The programs are now called "Domestic Violence Intervention Programs," and the abbreviations DVIP or CDVIP (for Certified DVIP) will be used throughout this report to avoid confusion.

This is in progress. It is a somewhat consistent practice in the few counties that have implemented a domestic violence judicial monitoring court. MCEDV participates in a workgroup of the Maine Commission on Domestic and Sexual Abuse to address best practices related to domestic abuse and judicial monitoring. When referrals to CDVIP are made without supervision from a community agency, it compromises the ability of the CDVIP to engage in necessary community coordination to ensure victim safety and offender accountability.

***4. Retain the current program duration of 48 weeks based on the time required for the educational process and behavior change.***

This was affirmed in the 2024 Standards for Certification of Domestic Violence Intervention Programs.

***5. Maintain the current model of independent offender funded DVIPs but create a statewide fund to support truly indigent participants identified through meaningful means testing.***

*Very low-income people are over-represented in these programs, as they are in the criminal justice system generally. With eligibility set at 138% of Federal Poverty Levels, approximately 30% of men's program participants and 90% of women's program participants are eligible for reduced fees. The program currently runs out of resources for fee reimbursement in the third quarter of the fiscal year.*

This has been done. In 2019, MCEDV received its first funding of \$100,000 per year to provide partial reimbursement to CDVIPs for reduced fees for indigent participants. It proved to be insufficient, running out of funds far in advance of the end of the fiscal year. MCEDV successfully advocated for an increase to \$200,000 per year, and it still isn't enough to meet the need. This funding has improved the ability of Maine's CDVIPs to provide services to very low-income people who are referred to them, and it has prevented those individuals from experiencing further legal consequences solely for their lack of funds, but it has not been operationally stabilizing to the programs. The reduced fee reimbursement program has revealed the degree to which very low-income people were previously not being ordered to attend these programs due to their inability to pay the costs. With that no longer being a justification for the courts to not order completion of a CDVIP for those convicted of domestic violence, very low-income people are over-represented in these programs, as they are in the criminal justice system generally. With eligibility set at 138% of Federal Poverty Levels, approximately 30% of men's program participants and 90% of women's program



participants are eligible for reduced fees. The program currently runs out of resources for fee reimbursement in the third quarter of the fiscal year.

#### 2016 Best Practice Recommendations for Improving Program Outcomes

**6. Create a solid program infrastructure for DVIPs in Maine through the coordinated community response structure, [including more formalized CCR teams in all prosecutorial districts; funding for CDVIP teacher training and attendance at CCR activities; and implementation of certification standards.]**

*MCEDV receives \$25,000 in funding annually to support the training needs of CDVIP staff statewide. This level of funding has not allowed for inclusion of essential partners in training efforts, like probation officers, prosecutors and other referral sources, which would be a best practice approach.*

MCEDV, MDOC, and the state's CDVIP Network have made substantial progress on this. Each month as part of their reimbursement request process, CDVIPs report the activities they have engaged in as part of their local Coordinated Community Response to domestic violence. Those include formal activities like attendance at local or regional DV Task Force meetings and DV court dockets, as well as more informal connections they have with advocates, prosecutors, probation officers, and child protective workers to collectively support both victim safety and offender accountability.

MCEDV receives \$25,000 in funding annually to support the training needs of CDVIP staff statewide. Through a combination of reimbursement to programs for attending national foundational training and provision of both online and in-person training in state, MCEDV has been able to meet the initial and ongoing professional development needs of Maine's CDVIPs, as well as covering the costs of mileage, per diem, and lodging when needed, at no cost to CDVIP staff. This level of funding has not allowed for inclusion of essential partners in training efforts, like probation officers, prosecutors and other referral sources, which would be a best practice approach.

MCEDV and MDOC work closely to ensure a collaborative and collegial environment in which CDVIPs, Domestic Violence Resource Centers, and other community partners can truly engage in a Coordinated Community Response to domestic abuse and violence. MCEDV hosts twice-monthly virtual CDVIP Network meetings that are open to any interested parties. The biennial Standards Review process is done by a multi-disciplinary team that includes CDVIP staff, probation officers, legal aid providers, victim advocates, and others.

Maine's Certification Standards reflect the best thinking of the state's experts in domestic abuse intervention.

***7. Require judges to make findings on the record in a domestic violence related case that justify: 1) a disposition that does not include a DVIP; and 2) a disposition requiring Anger Management. A new general sentencing provision should identify DVIP as the appropriate effective community intervention in such cases.***

This has been done. The Maine legislature enacted this requirement in 2018, through Public Law 2017, Chapter 105. However, while annual data is available about the number of forms docketed by the Maine Judicial Branch to indicate a disposition in a domestic violence case that did not include CDVIP, no tracking system is in place to collect additional data about the reasons why those dispositions are made. Implementation of such a tracking system would allow community partners to better understand those barriers that still exist to accessing this intervention and develop responsive strategies.

***8. Oversight of DVIP participants through Judicial Monitoring and community supervision with a "swift and certain" sanction for non-compliance is key to positive Domestic Violence Intervention Program outcomes. Judicial Monitoring dockets should be implemented statewide, which will require additional resources for judge time and court clerks.***

This is in progress. The Maine Commission on Domestic and Sexual Abuse has convened a working group to develop and promote best practices in judicial monitoring. CDVIP staff regularly participate in judicial monitoring in the few areas of the state where it exists. While domestic violence judicial monitoring dockets are not yet established statewide, interest and awareness are steadily growing.

***9. High-risk batterers require ongoing risk management and supervision. Referral agencies should provide risk assessment information to DVIPs.***

***It is important to note that while some people who abuse are identified as higher risk, there are no zero-risk situations in domestic abuse and levels of risk can change quickly and unpredictably. We know from survivors that there is still more work to do around improving communication and information sharing. Appropriately and sustainably resourcing the CDVIPs is necessary to make progress on those goals.***

Significant progress has been made to improve communication and information-sharing. In



2021, Public Law 2021, Chapter 647, the Maine Legislature codified a requirement that the State provide a copy of the relevant police report to their local CDVIP, together with known contact information for the crime victim, anytime a criminal court order requires the defendant to enroll and complete a program. Where law enforcement has scored ODARA as part of the indexed incident, that information would be included in the police report provided under this information sharing requirement. It is important to note that while some people who abuse are identified as higher risk, there are no zero-risk situations in domestic abuse and levels of risk can change quickly and unpredictably. We know from survivors that there is still more work to do around improving communication and information sharing. Appropriately and sustainably resourcing the CDVIPs is necessary to make progress on those goals.

***10. Engage diverse community members in a way that is culturally competent and safe for the participants. Diverse populations must be integrated through training and preparation of DVIP facilitators to create an inclusive environment reflecting the populations local to the programs.***

There is substantial interest and desire to engage in this work, and some initial steps have been taken to address the programming needs of people with disabilities, people who are LGBTQ+, and people with specific cultural and/or linguistic needs. Without stable funding to support the existence of the CDVIPs, those efforts have stalled. Investment is needed to ensure our state's capacity to build relevant and accessible programming and to hire, train, and retain staff who reflect the populations served.

***11. Continue the DVIP standards' accommodation of programming specific for women, acknowledging differences between men and women's use of violence.***

This was affirmed in the Standards Review process, and this remains a challenging area for the state's CDVIP Network. Almost without exception, the women referred to CDVIP are survivors of domestic violence who have either been wrongly identified as abusive or have used actions that meet the legal definition of domestic abuse in response and reaction to the ongoing pattern of abuse and violence they experience at the hands of their partners. In addition to preserving the accommodation of gender-responsive programming, MCEdV, with support from the MDOC, hosted a 9-month long examination of the experiences of women referred to CDVIP, the Systems Advocacy Learning Lab: Understanding Survivor-Defendant Experiences. This cohort strengthened their ability to engage in systems advocacy from a systems-involved survivor standpoint.

***12. Implement a process to ensure that prosecutors submit the required annual domestic violence report to allow meaningful review by the legislative joint standing committees specified in existing law. In addition, prosecutors***

*should include the use of certified Domestic Violence Intervention Programs in their written policies for handling domestic violence matters.*

*Responsive to a longstanding recommendation from Maine's Domestic Abuse Homicide Review Panel, this funding and the ability hire a statewide resource prosecutor will provide the capacity to create statewide model policies to support best practice approaches to the handling of domestic violence cases.*

Title 5, Section 204-A, requires the Maine Office of the Attorney General, working with the various district attorneys' offices, to submit an annual report on data from DV prosecutors across the state<sup>8</sup>. The process for doing so has not yet been fully established. MCEDV is in communication with the Maine Office of the Attorney General and the Maine Prosecutors' Association about the advancement of this work.

In 2024, the Maine Prosecutors Association, with support from the Office of the Attorney General, MCEDV and the Maine Coalition Against Sexual Assault, was awarded a competitive, three-year federal grant from the US Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women to support enhancing the investigation and prosecution of domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking statewide through the hiring of a statewide resource prosecutor with expertise in handling these case types. Responsive to a longstanding recommendation from Maine's Domestic Abuse Homicide Review Panel, this funding and the ability hire a statewide resource prosecutor will provide the capacity to create statewide model policies to support best practice approaches to the handling of domestic violence cases.

## 2020 Recommendations and Progress

MCEDV shared a report to Maine's Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety, pursuant to Public Law Chapter 431, "An Act to Enhance Maine's Response to Domestic Violence," entitled "Initial Findings on the Effectiveness of Maine's Certified Batterer Intervention Programs." The report offered eight recommendations, outlined below.

- 1) ***Continue Statewide Coordination, Technical Assistance, and Support.***  
***Priorities for continued statewide coordination include needs assessment for New Mainers and people with LEP, development of intervention***

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<sup>8</sup> <https://legislature.maine.gov/statutes/5/title5sec204-A.html>.



***programming for LGBTQ+ people, and accessibility for people who are Deaf/Hard of Hearing and people with disabilities....***

MCEDV and MDOC have provided collaborative statewide coordination, technical assistance, and support to Maine's CDVIP network throughout the period covered in this report. This shared commitment has identified these priority areas, and there have not been sufficient resources to support advance in what would be new areas of work. The statewide coordination and support efforts have had to be focused on existing areas of work.

***2) Continue Current Funding and Seek Additional Funding [to support core operations of CDVIPs, including participation in professional development and CCR activities; to continue reduced fee reimbursement; and to enhance training and statewide coordination.]***

Increasingly, MCEDV member programs, the Regional Domestic Violence Resource Centers that CDVIPs collaborate with and rely upon, view domestic abuse intervention programming as a core service in addressing the victim safety of victim-survivors and offender accountability. MCEDV is committed to finding resources to support the operational needs of Maine's CDVIPs, and MCEDV has successfully sought modest increases to existing funding and secured private donations to support the work of Maine's CDVIPs. MCEDV has raised funds in response to the needs of Maine's CDVIPs, including securing funds to support infrastructure needs during the Covid-19 pandemic and offsetting a shortfall in reimbursement funds in 2024. Most recently, MCEDV supported the successful application of the MDOC for approximately \$900,000 in a 3-year grant from the Office of Violence Against Women's Improving Criminal Justice Response grant program. Even with these substantial efforts, there are unmet needs.

***3) Prevent Abuse by Changing the Culture that Supports It.***

One aspect of intervention work that can be hard to see is the work to change the culture that supports abuse. One CDVIP director describes this cultural influence through a metaphor of pickle brine – cucumbers are unaware of the impact of the brine as they are thoroughly immersed in it; they simply emerge pickled. In much the same way, our cultural norms and beliefs about violence, gender, and relationships soak into us from the very start. This recognition of the pervasiveness of belief systems that support and condone abuse, even by those not directly engaging in it, led to MCEDV and the CDVIP network engaging in a training series about how change happens, including a session called, "We are the Work," focused on the need for each of us to reflect on how we participate in, benefit from, and resist these belief systems.



*"I encountered someone in public with a black eye, they told me their husband had done that to them. I was able to refer them to where they could get help because of my partner going to CDVIP. This made me feel better."*

*– Survivor, noted in the 2024 CDVIP Survivor Impact Survey*

In the fall of 2024, MCEDV partnered with the United States Department of Veteran's Affairs Maine Healthcare System to offer a free online [film screening](#) of the documentary, "A Better Man," followed by a panel discussion that featured CDVIP instructors. Events like this help to shift the conversation throughout communities, and, in time, the cultural norms that permit abuse.

***4) Address Victim Safety Risks [through "swift and certain" sanctions for non-compliance; consistent protocols for compliance monitoring; risk assessment related to participant safety in women's CDVIPs; and timely notification of victims by prosecutors.]***

MCEDV, the MDOC, and the statewide CDVIP Network have worked together to pass legislation that shifts the responsibility for provision of information about the precipitating incident and victim contact from the abusive party to the District Attorneys' offices. MCEDV regularly addresses the implementation of this legislation at statewide CDVIP Network meetings and provides updates to system partners as needed<sup>9</sup>.

The women ordered to CDVIP in Maine are almost always victims of domestic abuse that have used force – or been accused of using force – in response to a pattern of abusive behavior used against them. They represent some of the most vulnerable survivors in our state, as some of their abusive partners have been able to successfully manipulate legal systems, designed to protect victims, into extensions of their abuse. In recognition of the complex circumstances of these survivor-defendants, MCEDV, through support from the MDOC, held an innovative 8-month learning lab focused on "Understanding the Experience of Survivor-Defendants." This effort supported advocates and interventionists statewide to improve their system navigation and system advocacy skills and to apply those skills to the real-life situations of women in Maine's CDVIPs. The cohort learned and practiced case mapping, text analysis, policy review, practitioner interviews, and focus groups. This work

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<sup>9</sup> 130<sup>th</sup> Maine Legislature, First Special Session: LD 782, HPO587: An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Department of Corrections for Certified Batterer Intervention Programming. Accessed 10/28/2024: [LD 782, HP 587, Text and Status, 130th Legislature, First Special Session](#)

has been recognized nationally, and MCEDV will be presenting this work at the 2024 Envisage Conference, sponsored by the Battering Intervention Services Coalition of Michigan, one of the leading national DV intervention events.

***5) Increase Opportunities to Connect Victim-Survivors with Advocacy Services [through robust partner contact process and regular administration of the Survivor Impact Survey; expansion of legal representation, including for criminalized survivors; and recognition of the use of resistive/reactive violence and survivorship of women in CDVIP.]***

Advocates from MCEDV's member programs administered the first CDVIP Survivor Impact Survey in 2020, and the 2024 survey was recently completed. In each iteration, advocates talked to over 40 Maine survivors whose current or former partners were required to complete CDVIP. They provided valuable feedback about the impact of CDVIP participation on their lives as well as the value of other community resources. Of the 42 respondents in 2024, 38 of them reported reaching out for help, and they reached out to an average of 4.5 resources each. Survey results in both 2020 and 2024 affirm that survivors are safest when participants attend and complete CDVIP and that non-compliance and non-completion are causes for concern about victim safety.

***6) Strengthen the Coordinated Community Response Statewide [through improved communication among CCR partners; consistent provision of ODARA scores to CDVIP; education of mental health providers about working with people who abuse and CDVIP as the appropriate intervention; and training for civil and criminal judiciary members.]***

The first step in strengthening the statewide Coordinated Community Response is understanding what's currently happening. MCEDV supports this with the state's CDVIP Network in several ways: regular updates at statewide meetings, inclusion of CCR activities as part of monthly invoicing process, and statewide training and technical assistance with local CCR efforts. Additionally, MCEDV includes up-to-date information about Maine's CDVIPs in trainings with other community partners, and MCEDV provides updates on an as-needed basis to the most frequent referral sources and community partners of Maine's CDVIPs, such as the Maine Judicial Branch, county District Attorneys' Offices statewide, and the Office of Child and Family Services.

***7) Improve Program Evaluation and Data Collection across Systems [including creation of an effective mechanism for collecting data on cases related to domestic abuse from the MJB and MPA; training for the MJB; administration of the Survivor Impact Survey by MCEDV; and continued monitoring in compliance with MDOC DVIP Certification Standards.]***



*Maine's CDVIP Survivor Impact Survey recognizes that the current and former partners of CDVIP participants are best able to assess the impact of participation on their safety. Results support attendance and completion in CDVIP as safest for survivors and their children.*

Program evaluation for Maine's CDVIPs includes several components:

- A) **Annual Site Visits** - these meetings between MCEDV and each CDVIP provide an opportunity to review compliance with standards, review best practices, address emerging needs, and discuss participation in local Coordinated Community Response efforts.
- B) **CDVIP Class Monitoring** – All CDVIP facilitator pairs are expected to be monitored on a quarterly basis by a qualified monitor, usually an advocate at the partnering DVRC. Additionally, MCEDV monitors classes at each CDVIP on an annual basis. Monitoring reports are shared with MCEDV, MDOC, CDVIP, and the partnering DVRC.
- C) **Survivor Impact Survey** – As often as capacity allows, MCEDV's member programs conduct a CDVIP Survivor Impact Survey by having a trained advocate reach out to the named victims and partners of CDVIP participants to assess the impact CDVIP participation had on their lives and safety.

Data collection has improved in the five years since MCEDV has had funding.

- Enrollment rates for men in CDVIP are consistently between 1,000 and 1,200 annually, while enrollment rates for women in CDVIP are between 90 and 100 annually.
- Maine has significantly increased the rates of conditions requiring probationers convicted of domestic violence to complete CDVIP over anger management.
- People with low incomes are over-represented in Maine's CDVIPs. In programs for men, approximately 30% statewide have incomes at or below 138% of Federal Poverty Levels (\$35,632 annually for a household of 3)<sup>10</sup>. In programs for women, 90% have incomes at or below the same level.
- The majority of CDVIP referrals come from probation conditions, followed by those referred as a condition of deferred dispositions and Child Protective Services referrals. A small number of other referrals, including self-referrals, make up the rest.

Maine's CDVIP Survivor Impact Survey recognizes that the current and former partners of CDVIP participants are best able to assess the impact of participation on their safety. Results

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<sup>10</sup> Federal Poverty Levels accessed 10/28/2024: [detailed-guidelines-2024.xlsx](#)

support attendance and completion in CDVIP as safest for survivors and their children. The 2024 CDVIP Survivor Impact Survey data shows an overall improvement in safety after attending CDVIP. Prior to CDVIP, 55% of all respondents reported feeling not at all safe or a little safe, compared to 34% after CDVIP. Similarly, 52% of survivor-respondents reported feeling somewhat or very safe after CDVIP.

**8) Review Maine's CDVIP Standards to Prioritize Victim Safety and Autonomy, Offender Accountability, and Equity of Response [including changing the name of "Batterer Intervention Programs;" retaining gender-specific educational approaches; and provision of partner contact information that does not rely upon the CDVIP participant.]**

In the 130<sup>th</sup> legislature (2021-2022), the legislature enacted updates to Maine laws responsive to several of the recommendations from the 2020 report. Those changes included changing the name of these programs from Batterer Intervention to Domestic Violence Intervention. This change recognizes that the choice to use abusive behaviors is the problem that needs to be addressed and moves away from labeling whole people as the crimes they have committed.

## 2024 Recommendations: A Smart Investment

With minimal funding to date, the statewide CDVIP Network, which includes MCEDV, MDOC, CDVIPs, regional Domestic Violence Resource Centers, and allied community partners, have made tremendous strides toward ensuring both victim safety and offender accountability through a coordinated community response. At the same time, the scarcity of resources has limited what is possible.

Over the past 5 years, we have conducted two comprehensive surveys of the impact of CDVIP participation on the lives of survivors. From those efforts, we have affirmed that attendance and completion are key to improving survivor safety and autonomy.

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*I think it has caused a remarkable change in my husband. I saw that he was getting healthier, and our marriage was getting better.*

- Maine Survivor, 2024 CDVIP Survivor Impact Survey

Five years ago, the relationship between victim advocacy organizations and the state's CDVIPs was tenuous and strained. Now, Maine's Domestic Violence Resource Centers view



the Certified DVIPs as partners providing a core service that aims to improve the safety of survivors as well as effectively hold those who are abusive responsible for the choices they have made. Collaboration and communication between CDVIPs and the advocates who monitor their classes and attend to the needs of survivors are closer than ever, reducing the chances that safety needs will fall through systemic cracks.

MCEDV recommends investment in the following to continue and advance the work to end domestic abuse and violence through statewide availability of Certified Domestic Violence Intervention Programs.

1. Support statewide access through funding operational costs of CDVIPs in all counties of the state.
2. Enhance Partner Contact practices in which DVRC advocates reach out to partners to increase consistency statewide, improve engagement and contact rates, and offer opportunities to provide program evaluation feedback over time.
3. Expand the capacity of both DVRCs and CDVIPs to participate in Coordinated Community Response efforts locally and statewide with the aim of improving victim safety and ensuring appropriate responsibility for abuse.
4. Develop and implement appropriate intervention programs for populations with specific needs, including those with language access needs (people who are Deaf or hard of hearing and those who speak languages other than English) and those who are LGBTQ+.
5. Continue the statewide coordination, oversight, and technical assistance provided collaboratively by MCEDV and MDOC.

*The availability of this intervention is currently at a critical inflection point, due to the lack of operational funding for these programs. Not only are they not able to fully forward the recommendations that have been made over the last ten years, but their continued existence as a functionally available intervention resource statewide is also in question.*

The investment of Maine's CDVIP network in getting this essential programming to where it is today signals our collective belief in the possibility of positive change on the part of people who choose abusive behaviors. Maine's CDVIPs skillfully provide opportunity and support for that positive transformation, and they proactively communicate with their community partners about the work they are doing so that the best possible decisions can be made. Not all the people who attend CDVIP choose to make the changes to be safe and respectful to their partners. In the cases of those who opt not to change, their refusal is valuable information for both survivors in determining their next steps and systems in determining

further consequences. We have demonstrated that Maine can improve victim safety, offender accountability, and equitable access to the intervention recognized in state statute as “most appropriate and effective in cases involving domestic abuse.” However, the availability of this intervention is currently at a critical inflection point, due to the lack of operational funding for these programs. Not only are they not able to fully forward the recommendations that have been made over the last ten years, but their continued existence as a functionally available intervention resource statewide is also in question.

“ He is very respectful if I want to see my friends and family, he doesn't get in the way of that. This was an issue in the past. This class has been so good for him. I am in control of my finances now. Since he's started the program, there has been no violence. I did not feel safe before these classes... but now that he's been made to take these classes, I feel much safer. He now takes accountability for his actions. I feel much better about him being with our children. - Maine Survivor, 2024 CDVIP Survivor Impact Survey

## Supporting Materials

[2024 Survivor Impact Assessment Text](#)

[2020 Report: Initial Findings on the Effectiveness of Maine's Certified Batterer Intervention Programs](#)

[2016 Report: Pre-Trial and Post-Conviction Use of Batterer Intervention Programs](#)

# **ATTACHMENT D**



**STATEWIDE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE INTERVENTION PROGRAM MALE STATISTICS****January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024****2024 Statewide Totals**

Number of men who were enrolled in the program	1225
Number of men who completed the program (48 weeks)	355
Number of men who left without completing the program (voluntarily, their choice)	80
Number of men who left without completing the program (discharged, expelled)	192
Number of men who re-offended due to a non-DV related incident and went to jail while attending	30
Number of men who re-offended due to a DV related incident and went to jail while attending	35
Number of men who completed but were required to attend again after completion	11
Number of referrals from MDOC probation	723
Number of referrals resulting from filings or condition of release	75
Number of referrals from DHHS	80
Number of protection from abuse referrals (PFA)	92
Number of self-referrals	20
Transfers from other Domestic Violence Intervention Programs	38
Number of other referrals	46
Number of deferred dispositions	155
Number of men with special needs	89
Number of men referred to another provider for mental health services	25
Number of men referred to another provides for substance abuse	32
Number of men referred to another provider for literacy services	1
Number of men referred to another provider for parenting services	5
Number of men referred to another provider for vocational services	0
Number of men referred to another provider for employment services	3
Number of men referred to another provider for financial services	0

# ATTACHMENT E

**STATEWIDE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE INTERVENTION PROGRAM FEMALE STATISTICS**

January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024

**2024 Statewide Totals**

Number of WOMEN who were enrolled in the program	92
Number of WOMEN who completed the program (48 weeks)	33
Number of WOMEN who left without completing the program (voluntarily, their choice)	10
Number of WOMEN who left without completing the program (discharged, expelled)	12
Number of WOMEN who re-offended due to a non-DV related incident and went to jail while attending	3
Number of WOMEN who re-offended due to a DV related incident and went to jail while attending	5
Number of WOMEN who completed but were required to attend again after completion	0
Number of referrals from MDOC probation	25
Number of referrals resulting from filings or condition of release	10
Number of referrals from DHHS	9
Number of protection from abuse referrals (PFA)	2
Number of self-referrals	2
Transfers from other Domestic Violence Intervention Programs	3
Number of other referrals	0
Number of deferred dispositions	26
Number of WOMEN with special needs	44
Number of WOMEN referred to another provider for mental health services	6
Number of WOMEN referred to another provider for substance abuse	3
Number of WOMEN referred to another provider for literacy services	0
Number of WOMEN referred to another provider for parenting services	0
Number of WOMEN referred to another provider for vocational services	2
Number of WOMEN referred to another provider for employment services	0
Number of WOMEN referred to another provider for financial services	8