

CURRICULUM SUBCOMMITTEE
JANUARY 9, 2007 MEETING

Present	Absent	Guests	Staff
Barbara Broderick, Chair	Frank Delamater	Denise Beagley	Marie Holck
Paula Betts	Billie Grobe	Lori Hoyt	Aaron O'Connell
Vicki Biro	Kevin Jeffries	Mary Kaye Long	Chad Kewish
Manny Gomez	Mark Koch	Jennifer Smook	Rebecca Luera
Frank Groenewold	George Owens	Betsy Wraight	
Kristi Wooley	Tivo Romero		
	Denise Smith		

I. Welcome

Barbara commenced the meeting at 10:25 am. George Owens and Denise Smith designated Barbara as their proxy and to cast their votes as approvals to Behavioral Health, Family Dynamics and Working as Partners lesson plans.

II. Minutes Approval

Barbara asked the committee for changes, comments or approval on the November 8, 2006 meeting minutes.

MOTION: Barbara moved on behalf of George Owens to approve the November 8, 2006 meeting minutes and Barbara on behalf of Denise Smith seconded the motion with no discussion. The vote passed unanimously.

III. Behavioral Health: Co-occurring Disorders Lesson Plan

Barbara introduced the lesson plan as a new piece of curriculum for the IPS Institute and feels this needs to be discussed with the new IPS officers in the field.

Aaron said there are some concepts in the lesson plan such as the use of supportive rather than confrontative approaches, adjusting expectations regarding responses to supervision in recognition of the disruptive effects of mental health symptoms, and apply flexibility in responding to infractions. These are part of the overall supervision piece that Dr. Peters and Dr. Hill wrote in 1997. Aaron told the committee he spoke with Dr. Peters personally on these materials and this is the only known piece that is published on how to supervise mentally ill offenders in the community.

Marie said that the benefit of having Denise Beagley, a trainer with Value Options, conduct the training is Denise can explain what a level one means to a RBHA (Regional Behavioral Health Authority) and how that applies to a supervision plan. The probation and surveillance officers need to understand contacts are being made and establishing a relationship between the caseworker and the assigned team means information will be shared amongst them. Communication between the supervision team and treatment team is important and they must communicate effectively with each other.

Lori Hoyt, SMI (Seriously Mentally Ill) probation officer from Pinal County, said that she works closely with the treatment team on those cases and assists them on how to best deal with particular offenders. She re-emphasized that the most important thing with supervising a mentally ill offender with a dual diagnosis is having a close relationship with the case manager in the RBHA. When doing so, the officer will be more successful in supervising that particular offender if the line of communication is kept open.

Aaron said he incorporated information in the lesson plan for the instructor to acknowledge the cognitive differences of this population and develop a plan that is

appropriate for the offender while utilizing RBHA resources are all important. It is important to hold high risk offenders accountable regardless of their diagnosis.

Aaron said this lesson plan will go to COPE on February 20, 2007 with an implementation in March. Lori will cover the probation portion and Denise will cover the clinical portion when training. Aaron also invited anyone who would like to sit through the class to attend the March Institute.

Marie said based on future evaluations and once the class has been presented, there may be some revisions for September's IPS Academy. Barbara said she may ask some of her officers from the mental health unit to come and attend the class to evaluate it.

Frank had a comment on page 6 of 15 it notes "A number of patterns have emerged with special populations, let's look at them." Under adolescents it states alcohol, marijuana and hallucinogens. Frank said what has been seen in adolescent populations is an increase in abuse of their parent's prescription medication and take that section on elderly and drop it into that. Frank went on to say they have encountered situations where adolescent's save up their Ritalin and take large quantities at one time.

MOTION: Manny moved to approve the Behavioral Health lesson plan. Paula seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

ACTION ITEM: Aaron will incorporate these changes into the lesson plan.

IV. Family Dynamics Lesson Plan

Chad reported on the Family Dynamics lesson plan and introduced Jennifer Smook, JJSD, AOC, Mary Kaye Long and Betsy Wraight, Maricopa Juvenile, as the workgroup members responsible for developing the lesson plan.

Chad said revisions have been made to the lesson plan based on a couple of issues. Currently, in Certification there is a course called Family Systems that probation officers have taken, if they went to an academy. The IPS workgroup decided to call the new class Family Dynamics because they wanted to review some information that is covered in Family Systems, but did not want the material to be redundant.

Chad said that workgroup broke down assignments and gathered research and narrowed down a large amount of material and prioritized it in order to fit it into two hours of class time.

Chad said the learning objectives were developed and presented to this committee back in October. Those learning objectives were approved. He then presented the lesson plan to the IPS Subcommittee. The IPS Subcommittee's initial reaction to this lesson plan was that it was lengthy. The IPS Subcommittee felt the material was all relevant and recommended to keep its current length. At that meeting, it was noted that the instructor may not spend a lot of time reading off the lesson plan. It seems the length is attributed to the specifics of the material and the instructor can say it in less time.

Chad said another issue was if an instructor was to fill in and teach this class, the workgroup wanted to make sure they understood Family Systems Theory. The content in this lesson plan would provide them with enough information to allow them to successfully present this topic. The subcommittee agreed this is a good practice.

The IPS Subcommittee recommended shortening the length by providing the material from pages 16 – 35 to the officers the day prior to when this class is taught as a reading assignment. The officers would be able to review the materials, allowing the instructor to address some key points without covering the lesson plan verbatim.

Chad said that this is the first time the Curriculum Subcommittee has reviewed this lesson plan. Per this subcommittee recommendations, Chad added a section on facilitating removal, or realizing at some point the family may be detrimental to the offender and that the probation or surveillance officer may need to remove the offender. Emphasis was focused on removal being based on an accurate assessment of the family and the family members first.

Chad went over the entire lesson plan with the subcommittee briefly explaining each learning objective.

Barbara was concerned if the content being presented is too long for the time frame and inquired what would be the appropriate amount of time needed to cover the entire curriculum. Chad responded that two hours should be enough time to cover the curriculum if he teaches the class.

Barbara said that in terms of Family Dynamics, one of the things missing is the use of evidence base practices on the adult side. One of the critical components that is not being done well is family engagement and nurturing supportive relationships. Research is showing if this practice was performed better, officers would have a more successful probationer.

Chad said with respect to the length of the lesson plan, the second activity on page 31 is talking more about resistance. Those additional pages are what instructors need to make sure tables answer during the activity. Each table, will produce their answer and compare them to each corresponding slide that has an explanation of what is acceptable and not acceptable methods on dealing with different types of resistances.

Betsy responded to Barbara's previous question of having enough time to cover the curriculum in two hours. She said, the class would only benefit if more time is permitted.

Marie said that because the IPS class schedule has been revised, there is no more time that can be allowed for Family Dynamics. The probation officer piece has been increased to half a day more. The probation officers were coming in on Thursday morning and now they are coming in on Wednesday afternoon. The final schedule was the result of a lengthy discussion between IPS, Curriculum, and COPE to have it adopted.

Marie added that this class gets reinforced with officer safety practicum and a lot of the role plays have a family member or significant other in them.

MOTION: Vicki moved to approve the Family Dynamics lesson plan. Frank seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

V. Working as Partners Lesson Plan

Aaron reported on the Working as Partners lesson plan to the committee. He said changes were made from the last meeting and added new components on conflict management and added commentary focusing on what actions and decisions the team makes and how is that in the best interest of the offender.

Barbara had one comment that nowhere in the lesson plan does it state when the officer should go to their supervisor. Some of the other members had additional minor changes to the lesson plan.

Frank suggested on page 9 of 19 where it states "the following are common roles that can be decided by mutual agreement: Paging / Cell Phone. Frank suggested using

the term of electronic communication and mention paging, cell phone, text messages, and email.

Aaron addressed Barbara's comment with he would add a note suggesting officers to ask their supervisor when it is appropriate to bring team issues to him / her as this will allow the supervisor more control of the team's dynamics.

MOTION: Manny moved to approve the lesson plan. Vicki seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

VI. New Business

No New Business to report.

VII. Adjourn

Barbara adjourned the meeting at 11:50 a.m.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rebecca Luera".

Rebecca Luera