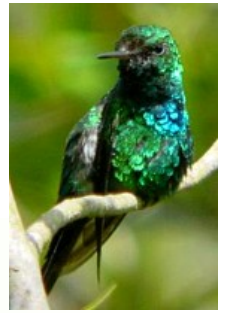


NEWSLETTER

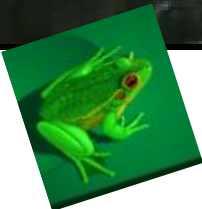
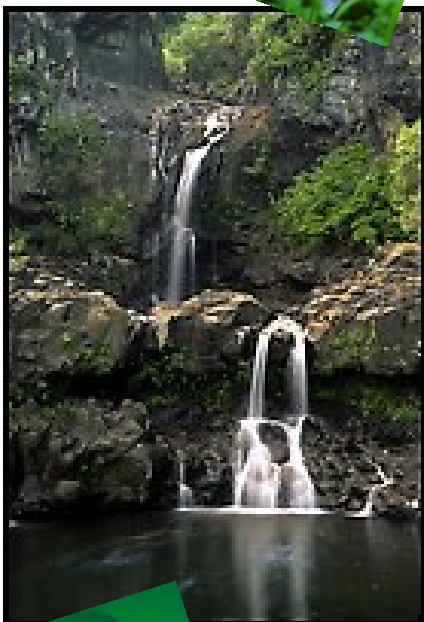


SPRING/SUMMER 2006

AN UPDATE ON THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE TREATMENT REVIEW COMMITTEE

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

PREMISES & PHILOSOPHIES OF THE OFFENDER ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE	2
DID YOU KNOW?	2
BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT	3
DVOMB STANDING COMMITTEES	3
NEWLY-APPROVED PROVIDERS	4
HOW TO CONTACT US	4



The goal of the DVOMB Treatment Review Committee is to redesign standards for treatment to allow for greater differentiation of offender treatment.

The Committee has developed the following Premises and Philosophies.

A. Definitions:

1. Screening: initial screening with the use of a checklist or screening instrument
2. Assessment: initial assessment with the use of a tool, such as the Spousal Assault Risk Assessment guide
3. Evaluation: initial evaluation occurs at treatment intake and is performed by an Approved Treatment Provider, involves the use of several assessment instruments, and gathering of information from a variety of sources

B. Victim safety is the number one priority of this work and will guide the decisions and recommendations of this Committee.

C. Relevant empirical evidence will guide the work of the Committee. The Committee will continue to review applicable research and literature.

D. The consensus of the Committee is that no legislative changes are needed to revise the *Standards for Treatment with Court Ordered Domestic Violence Offenders*.

E. The overarching goal of the Committee is to design revisions to the treatment Standards that will allow for differentiation of treatment.

F. The Committee will make a recommendation to the DVOMB regarding whether there should be a minimum core treatment that will be required for all offenders.

G. The Committee recognizes that no assessment tool currently exists to determine length of treatment.

H. Committee members agree that treatment will not be focused on number of weeks. Treatment recommendations and intervention will be based on offender risk, responsivity, and needs (criminogenic). The length of treatment and intensity of treatment will be determined by these issues as well as offender responsiveness to treatment.

I. Pleas involving treatment will not include specific number of weeks for treatment. Ideally, the plea would only specify "complete domestic violence offender treatment and recommendations".

J. Treatment recommendations shall be based on the entirety of information gathered during the assessment and evaluation and shall not be based solely on the facts of the offense.

K. Ideally, the initial assessment of offenders for risk and initial treatment needs should be done by probation, post sentence. In the absence of that resource, the treatment provider will perform these functions.

L. The initial evaluation will be performed by treatment providers at offender intake into treatment.

M. Offender risk is not static; it is dynamic and can change over time. Therefore, ongoing evaluation of offenders will be critical for determining offender treatment needs.

N. As offender need and risk change in treatment, the treatment intervention will change; this may be a change in intensity, treatment modality, or type of intervention.

O. The Committee will develop criteria for the Standards for monitoring offender behavioral change and ongoing evaluation of offenders in treatment.

PREMISES AND PHILOSOPHIES OF THE DVOMB OFFENDER ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE

The Offender Assessment Committee is in the process of redesigning the offender evaluation portion of the *Standards for Treatment With Court Ordered Domestic Violence Offenders* (Standards). It is being redesigned so that the Standards will outline the minimum content required of an offender interview and external information that needs to be gathered. Additionally, the revised Standards will describe the minimum assessment that needs to be performed and minimum reporting requirements necessary to submit to Probation.

Once the draft is completed, statewide focus groups will be scheduled. Focus groups are generally sponsored by the local domestic violence task force. Subsequently, the DVOMB will review comments from the focus groups. Once the revised Standards have been approved by the DVOMB, statewide trainings on these revisions will be convened.

The following eight items are recommendations from the Offender Assessment Committee:

1. Offender assessment is not a one-time single event, but rather a process throughout treatment and intervention.
2. Any differential treatment system must be based on consistent, transparent, defensible, valid, reliable offender assessment.
3. Any differential treatment system should have, as a starting point, the identification and diversion of high risk offenders into different programming. A great deal of research on offender treatment indicates that providing too much treatment in conjunction with high risk offenders may increase the recidivism of other offenders. To make such a division requires a valid, reliable means of assessing risk.
4. Offender assessment should be standardized per statute, so that it is handled in a more consistent manner throughout the state.
5. We recognize that domestic violence is criminal behavior that is unique in that it is a targeted behavior within the context of an intimate relationship. Therefore, assessment and treatment should be based both on criminogenic and domestic violence dynamics. For that reason we need to draw from the Risk/Needs/Responsivity model initially developed by Bonta and Andrews and incorporate this in a sensitive way to domestic violence dynamics.
6. The Spousal Assault Risk Assessment Instrument (SARA) is the only well researched instrument currently available for the performance of domestic violence risk assessment. Clinical judgment without the use of such tools had been demonstrated by research to provide less valid and reliable assessments of risk. Caution is urged in the use of this tool to attach a score to an offender.
7. While the SARA is the best tool for initial assessment, it is not a particularly useful tool for the purposes of on-going re-assessment. Therefore, objective behavioral criteria will need to be developed to address the re-assessment aspect.
8. The Board should be assisting providers in moving toward standardized use of this instrument in the assessment process.

Contact Information

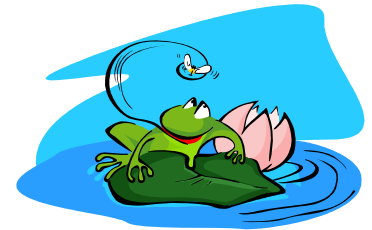
DVOMB website:

<http://dcj.state.co.us/odvsom>

Staff contact: Dana LaPointe
at 303-239-4528

or email to:

dana.lapointe@cdps.state.co.us



DID YOU KNOW?

On our website (located at dcj.state.co.us/odvsom) under "Provider Resources" you will find the following information:

- HIPAA Resources
- 2003 Legislative Report—Report submitted to the Judiciary Committees of the Colorado Senate and House of Representatives on the implementation of the first two years of the Domestic Violence Offender Management Board
- Memos to Providers—Regarding such issues as Continuing Education, the Listserv, and research articles
- Reapplication Document
- Guidelines For Obtaining Community Letters of Support From Local Victim Services Programs





BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

We are pleased to spotlight Peter DiLeo, the DVOMB member who represents Licensed Professional Counselors. Peter has been a member of the DVOMB since its inception, plus a member of the Application Review Committee and the Specific Offender Population Committee.

Peter describes the DVOMB as a group of persons focused on making a difference in the field of domestic violence. He appreciates the collaboration of working with individuals representing many disciplines.

Peter has been a domestic violence counselor since 1988 when he identified that there were relationship problems beyond communication differences. He decided to assist the gay/lesbian population in counteracting relationship abuse that was not being addressed in couple's counseling. Since 1996 he has worked with AMEND while maintaining a small private practice.

Peter is an incredibly dedicated visionary who has

made numerous contributions to the DVOMB's goals and objectives. We thank you, Peter.

Peter also wears many other hats including that of a volunteer for Project Angel Heart, a tenor with the Denver Gay Mens' Chorus, and a gourmet chef. What a treat it would be to be invited to one of Peter's specialty dinners that include garlic-roasted meats or fish served with truffle oil and freshly-cut herbs!



Peter DiLeo

DVOMB STANDING COMMITTEES

The Domestic Violence Offender Management Board (DVOMB) has formed many committees to address specific issues. The name of the committee, purpose, and meeting schedule is listed below. Please contact Dana LaPointe at 303-239-4528 if you have any questions regarding any of these committees.

Domestic Violence/Sex Offender Crossover Committee

Meeting schedule: Meets on Wednesday, 9:30 -11:30 AM
700 Kipling, 1st floor
May 24

Purpose of the Committee: Currently working on identifying ways to increase the knowledge of domestic violence and/or sex offender treatment providers regarding their work with domestic violence offenders and sex offenders.

DV Treatment Review Committee

Meeting schedule:
Meets from 10 AM—noon
at Jeffco District Attorney's Office
500 Jefferson County Parkway

May 18, June 15, July 20,
August 17, September 21,
October 19, November 16

Purpose of the Committee:
To review current treatment standards and explore options for differentiating treatment.

Offender Evaluation Committee

Meeting schedule:
9-11 AM
710 Kipling, #308

May 23

Purpose of the Committee:
This committee is working on reformatting the evaluation of offender risk and needs assessments.

Research Committee

This meeting is on hold.

Purpose of the Committee:
To research and analyze the effectiveness of the *Standards*.

Specific Offender Population Committee

Please check the schedule on our website before attending May through December.

Meeting schedule: Meets the 3rd Tuesday 12—1:30 PM at 700 Kipling, Chief's Conference Room

May 16, June 20, July 18,
August 15, Sept. 19,
Oct. 17, Nov. 21, Dec. 19

Purpose of the Committee:
To enhance offender accountability and victim safety by identifying treatment approaches that are relevant

and meaningful to specific populations. The committee is currently working on developing guidelines for working with GLBT and female offenders.

Standards Revision Committee

Meeting schedule:
Meets the 2nd Friday, 9-11 AM
at 710 Kipling St, Suite 308

July 14, August 11, September 8,
October 13, November 8

Purpose of the Committee:
To discuss revisions to the "2005 Standards for Treatment with Court Ordered Domestic Violence Offenders." This committee is currently looking at training requirements for new applicants based on DVOMB input and direction.

Training Committee

Meeting schedule: This meeting is on hold.

Purpose of the Committee:
To broaden training opportunities for those involved in domestic violence offender treatment.

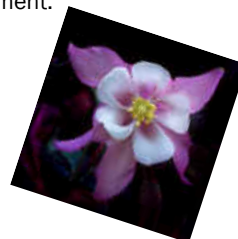
Victim Advocacy Committee

Meeting schedule:
This meeting is on hold.

Purpose of the Committee:
Working to find ways to reach out to treatment victim advocates and to create a contact information list for interested advocates.



Become a member of a committee because ... you CAN make a difference!



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENDER MANAGEMENT BOARD

Colorado Department of Public Safety
Division of Criminal Justice
Domestic Violence Offender Management Board
700 Kipling Street, #1000
Denver, CO 80215
M460000767

NEWLY-APPROVED PROVIDERS

From August 2005 through April 2006, there have been six new applicants who have received full approval. Their names and primary location of practice are listed below.

Newly-Approved Providers

Shawn Dinkel – Lakewood

Linda Fuller – Aurora

Michael Havey – Wheat Ridge

William Latimer – Denver

Paulette Montrose – Lafayette

Elizabeth Silva – Greeley



HOW TO CONTACT US

303-239-4442

1-800-201-1325 (in Colorado)

Email: dana.lapointe@cdps.state.co.us
(type “DVOMB” in the description of your message)

website: <http://dcj.state.co.us/odvsom>
Click on “Domestic Violence Management Board”.

DVOMB Standards Revision Update

For the past year, the Standards Revision Committee has been assessing the section on “Provider Qualifications.” One proposal was to create a new entry level treatment provider position. The Board approved this draft and it will be presented to statewide focus groups, generally held through local domestic violence task forces. This change in provider qualifications will not become a new standard until later in 2006.

A Friendly Reminder to Providers:

It is necessary to inform the Department of Regulatory Agencies (DORA) of your current mailing address to ensure receipt of your license or registration renewal. The Standards require that providers be listed with DORA. If DORA informs the DVOMB that a provider’s license or registration has expired, the provider will be immediately removed from the Approved Provider List.

