

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE REVISED DVOMB STANDARDS
SURVEY SUMMARY
October 13, 2011

A few months ago an email was sent to the DVOMB master email list requesting responses to a questionnaire concerning the "Implementation of the Revised DV Standard." A summary follows.

The DVOMB will continue to discuss these survey results at their monthly meetings in order to formulate an Action Plan.

Purpose of the Survey

- Develop a systematic way of soliciting feedback from stakeholders regarding Standards Revision and Implementation.
- To create a venue by which stakeholders in the community can present input on the challenges and successes of the 2010 Revised DVOMB Standards.

Survey Respondents

An email with a link to Survey Monkey was sent to over 800 plus persons on the DVOMB Master Email List requesting that they complete the survey. The email was sent on September 12, 2011 and recipients were asked to respond by October 1, 2011. One hundred seventy-three (173) persons responded to the survey. Both Probation (private and state) and Approved Providers comprise over 75% of the respondents. Fourteen percent of respondents include persons working in the field of victim advocacy. Respondents from the criminal justice system (judges, police departments, public defenders, private defense attorneys) equaled 5.4%. No district attorneys or employees from the Department of Corrections responded. Anonymity was promised.

Extent of Implementation of Revised Standards

Seventy-two (72) percent of respondents noted that there was full implementation of the Standards while 21.5 percent noted there was partial implementation. Comments disclosed that some rural communities are experiencing difficulties, 2nd clinical contact is a challenge, MTTs are not being implemented, and some Providers are reluctant to comply with Revised Standards.

Degree of Implementation of the MTT

Forty-eight (48) percent of respondents believe that the MTT is being fully implemented and 43% believe there is partial implementation. Generally the comments revealed that the biggest challenges to implementation include:

- Lack of communication and consultation between Probation and Treatment Providers
- Treatment Victim Advocate generally not involved in MTT (not available for phone meeting, not welcome at meetings)
- Probation does not receive DV Summary Evaluations
- Lack of knowledge of existence of MTT

Implementation of the DVRNA

An overwhelming 78 percent (78%) believe that the DVRNA is being fully implemented. There were no responses that the DVRNA is not being implemented at all. Probation expressed frustration that they do not receive the results of the assessment tool.

Implementation of the Offender Evaluations

Sixty-three percent (63%) of respondents believe that offender evaluations are being fully implemented. Generally comments included the following:

- Depending on the Provider, Probation often does not receive a written evaluation
- Evaluations are too time consuming

Implementation of Levels A, B, and C

Seventy percent (70%) of respondents believe that there is full implementation of placement in Levels A, B, and C, while 20% believe that there is partial implementation. Generally comments include the following:

- Implementation is very inconsistent
- Second clinical contact is not being implemented
- Disproportionate numbers of clients being assigned to Level C
- Placement in Level A is rarely utilized

Implementation of Offender Competencies

Twenty-nine percent (29%) of persons responding believe that offender competencies are only partially implemented while 55% believe that there is full implementation. Fourteen percent (14%) responded no knowledge of the implementation of offender competencies. Generally comments include the following:

- It is difficult to accurately measure Offender Competencies from Provider to Provider because they do things differently
- Treatment Providers are not reporting compliance with these competencies to Probation
- This issue is not discussed at MTT meetings.
- No standard way of assessing or noting progress for these competencies.

Implementation of Treatment Plan Reviews

Nearly half of the respondents believe that treatment plan reviews are being fully implemented; subsequently nearly half of the respondents believe that the treatment plan reviews are only being partially implemented. The comments range from consistent dialog among the MTTs regarding treatment plan reviews to never receiving treatment plan reviews from Providers.

Issues That Contribute to Lack of Implementation

The following lists the frequency of response (most frequently noted is listed first) of the nine options given:

- Difficulty in scheduling MTT meetings
- MTT time commitment is too demanding
- Additional clinical contact required is too difficult to implement
- Lack of understanding of the changes to the DV Standards
- Core competencies are too difficult to measure
- Probation did not attend statewide trainings and consequently are not familiar with the changes
- Providers did not attend statewide trainings and consequently are not familiar with the changes
- Victim advocates did not attend statewide trainings and consequently are not familiar with the changes
- DVRNA is not being completed

Generally the comments for this question mention inconsistencies among Providers, lack of understanding and/or knowledge of the Revised Standards, and lack of resources in the community.

Challenges Encountered When Implementing the Revised DV Standards in Your Community

One-hundred twenty-seven (127) persons responded to this open ended question. Generally comments include the following:











- Financial obligations of offenders
- Additional clinical contents are costly and difficult to implement
- Paperwork is overwhelming
- Lack of understanding of Revised Standards
- Scheduling meetings of the MTT
- Inconsistency among Providers
- Lack of communication between Providers and Probation
- No standard way of assessing, monitoring the competencies
- Offenders are more resistant because of lack of standardized treatment time and cost of additional contacts.
- No consistent reports, evaluations, treatment plan reviews by Providers

Benefits Observed with the Revised Standards




One hundred eighteen (118) persons responded to this open-ended question. Generally comments include the following:

- Improved assessment of client risk and needs
- Improved communication on the status of clients and their progress in treatment
- Core competencies assist with determining client progress in treatment
- Increased offender accountability
- More value placed on the involvement of the victim advocate
- Level of treatment has improved
- Better collaboration between Probation and Providers
- MTT provide for a comprehensive approach to treatment





1. In working in the field of domestic violence, which one best characterizes your type of work.

		Response Percent	Response Count
Private probation		4.9%	8
State probation		32.3%	53
Approved DV Treatment Provider		42.1%	69
District Attorney		0.0%	0
Judge		1.2%	2
Public Defender		0.6%	1
Private Attorney		3.0%	5
Police Department		0.6%	1
County Social Services		1.2%	2
Department of Corrections		0.0%	0
Victim Advocate for DV Treatment Provider		5.5%	9
Community Based Victim Services Program		8.5%	14
	Other (please specify)		12
	answered question		164
	skipped question		9




2. To what extent are the September 2010 Revised DV Standards being implemented in your community?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Full implementation		72.1%	124
Partial implementation		21.5%	37
No implementation		0.0%	0
Do not know		6.4%	11
		Comments	27
		answered question	172
		skipped question	1





3. To the best of your knowledge, please note the degree of implementation of the Multi-disciplinary Treatment Team (MTT)

		Response Percent	Response Count
Full implementation		48.0%	82
Partial implementation		43.3%	74
No implementation		1.8%	3
Do not know		7.0%	12
		Comments	37
		answered question	171
		skipped question	2





4. To the best of your knowledge, please note the degree of implementation of the Domestic Violence Risk and Needs Assessment (DVRNA) tool used for evaluation by the DV Provider.

		Response Percent	Response Count
Full implementation		78.5%	135
Partial implementation		12.8%	22
No implementation		0.0%	0
Do not know		8.7%	15
		Comments	18
		answered question	172
		skipped question	1





5. To the best of your knowledge, please note the degree of implementation of Offender Evaluations.

		Response Percent	Response Count
Full implementation		63.4%	109
Partial implementation		21.5%	37
No implementation		2.9%	5
Do not know		12.2%	21
		Comments	20
		answered question	172
		skipped question	1





6. To the best of your knowledge, please note the degree of implementation of Levels of Treatment (A, B, C)

		Response Percent	Response Count
Full implementation		70.9%	122
Partial implementation		20.9%	36
No implementation		1.7%	3
Do not know		6.4%	11
		Comments	29
		answered question	172
		skipped question	1









7. To the best of your knowledge, please note the degree of implementation of Offender Competencies.

		Response Percent	Response Count
Full implementation		55.8%	96
Partial implementation		29.1%	50
No implementation		1.7%	3
Do not know		14.0%	24
		Comments	25
		answered question	172
		skipped question	1

8. To the best of your knowledge, please note the degree of implementation of Treatment Plan Reviews.

		Response Percent	Response Count
Full implementation		43.0%	74
Partial implementation		44.8%	77
No implementation		2.9%	5
Do not know		9.3%	16
		Comments	29
		answered question	172
		skipped question	1

9. If the Revised DV Standards are not being fully implemented, what are the issues that you believe contribute to the lack of implementation? Please mark all that apply.

		Response Percent	Response Count
Lack of understanding of the changes to the DV Standards		34.5%	40
Multi-disciplinary Treatment Team (MTT) time commitment is too demanding		44.8%	52
Difficulty in scheduling MTT meetings		57.8%	67
Domestic Violence Risk & Needs Assessment (DVRNA) is not being completed		3.4%	4
Providers did not attend statewide trainings and consequently are not familiar with the changes.		14.7%	17
Probation did not attend the statewide trainings and consequently are not familiar with the changes.		20.7%	24
Victim advocates did not attend statewide trainings and consequently are not familiar with the changes.		12.1%	14
Additional clinical contact required is too difficult to implement		44.0%	51
Core competencies are too difficult to measure		31.9%	37
		Other (please specify)	44
		answered question	116
		skipped question	57