

Meeting Minutes
Offender Intervention Program and Oversight
February 16, 2023: 10:00 a.m. MST

Call to Order

Chair Wes Somerton called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m.

1. Action Item: Review & Approve Minutes from December 1, 2022, Meeting

Amber – Section 5 replace “treatment” with intervention. Amber motioned with change, Kimberly second. Unanimously approved.

2. Action Item: Review & Approve Applications

- **Telecommunications: Serenity Treatment**
Wes Somerton moved to approve the application and to include a reminder in the approval letter of the telecommunication policies included in the Minimum Standards. Heidee McMillin seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- **Direct Service Provider: Stacy Davenport**
Committee members expressed concerns with the CEUs included in the application, noting that the application included more than the 30 hours of allowable self-study units. The Committee also noted there were several units in substance abuse training and very little specific to domestic violence. Heidee McMillin motioned to deny the application and include a reminder of CEU requirements and options for obtaining alternative CEUs. Amber Moe seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Action Item: Complaint Discussion

Dana Wiemiller, Heidee McMillin, Committee Discussion

Heidee McMillin provided a summary of her investigation process into a complaint against Serenity Treatment which included a review of policy and program documents and a site visit and discussion with program staff. The investigation identified deficiencies in client documentation, victim notification, and data reporting. The investigation also revealed that the agency is providing telecommunication services without Committee approval. The Committee agreed that Ms. McMillin should prepare a final report and letter requiring Serenity Treatment to cure deficiencies and that the Committee will follow-up in 30-45 days to ensure compliance.

Wes Somerton motioned to adopt recommendations included in the summary report prepared by Ms. McMillin with modifications as discussed by the committee. Kimberly Talbot seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Action Item: Consultant for OIP Provider Monitoring

Director Cunningham, Committee Discussion

Director Cunningham discussed the challenges of monitoring OIP providers, noting the lack of staff and committee capacity and the lack of knowledge and experience to effectively evaluate the substance of provider programs. She also noted the monitoring requirement is included in the OIP Minimum Standards but is not a statutory requirement. The Committee discussed various alternatives including hiring a consultant to conduct monitoring, initiating a monitoring only if a complaint is filed, revising the Minimum Standards to indicate monitoring “may” rather than “shall” be conducted, and/or collecting additional program documents with new/renewal program applications to evaluate for compliance with Minimum Standards.

Committee members expressed concerns about eliminating any form of monitoring and wanted to discuss further to explore options and solutions. The Committee did not take any action.

5. 2023 Program Renewal Status

Dana Wiemiller, Committee Discussion

Dana Wiemiller informed the Committee that programs with June 30, 2023, expirations were notified in the November and again in January about their expiration status and the process for renewal. She added that all program application documents have been updated for 2023 to include a few modifications requested by the Committee. Renewal applications are due by April 30.

6. Executive Director’s Report

Director Cunningham, Committee Discussion

Director Cunningham advised the Committee that the proposed legislative item involving OIP is not moving forward. As a reminder, the legislation would have allowed honorariums for OIP Committee members, established official membership terms for Committee members, and established rulemaking authority for the Committee.

7. Provider Question on Offender Treatment & Court Sentencing

Dana Wiemiller, Committee Discussion

Dana Wiemiller shared a question posed by an OIP provider regarding offenders joining OIP services prior to sentencing. The provider had expressed concern that this action is another form of manipulation by the offender and wanted to raise this issue for committee consideration/discussion.

Standing Items:

8. OIP Provider Monitoring Status

Grants Supervisor Dana Wiemiller, Committee Discussion

This item was deferred due to the discussion under agenda item #4.

9. Reporting & Data Collection

Research Analyst Jessica Marshall, Committee Discussion

Jessica Marshall shared a presentation on first-year data collection stats. She expressed concern about the validity of some of the numbers, pointing out that the number of offenders to successfully complete the program during the year seemed very low. The Committee agreed with that assessment. Amber Moe suggested ICDVVA host training on data collection this year. Ms. Marshall agreed and also recommended trying to spend time with each program over the coming months to review and discuss their data collection efforts. Ms. Marshall will collaborate with other research analysts in the state to discuss ways to track OIP data and improve collection from providers.

Adjourn:

Wes Somerton adjourned the meeting at 12:07 p.m.