

Post-Incarceration/Conviction BIP Services in Fairfax County

Strengths and Areas for Growth

Current System Processes

- Individual is convicted of a DV charge; sentenced either to probation or to jail time plus probation.
- Court order for the individual includes completion of a BIP program OR
- Probation officer conducts a risk assessment that indicates need for a BIP program.
- Due date is predicated on Probation time frames rather than a next court date. Sometimes, a Probation review date exists.
- Probation officer refers the client to BIP, either directly or by providing a list of BIP options (ADAPT, OAR, NVFS).
- Service provider sends monthly and completion or noncompliance reports to the probation officer.

Areas of Strength

- Relationships between probation officers and service providers allow for clients to receive tailored care once enrolled in the BIP program.
- Completion dates tend to be more flexible than pre-trial, so clients are able to start the program over or complete extra work if they are struggling, instead of being closed out as an unsuccessful participant.
- Individuals are often screened for other risk factors by probation before being referred, so the service provider has information that can assist with the client's case and individual needs.

Room for Growth – Prior to Release

- Coordinated efforts by ADC/DOC so that programs and services can start pre-release.
 - This should include the certified BIP program, but also other wraparound services. Not predicated on release date, as sometimes the participants and the survivor may be in contact for the duration of the incarceration.
- Pre-release services available for both parties, if they plan to continue the relationship post-release.
 - Support services for survivors specifically tailored to preparing for the relationship to resume in-person.
 - Services such as relationship counseling for those who have completed their BIP program and are now in a place of having taken accountability and ready to focus on rebuilding.

Room for Growth at Time of Release

- Access to affordable and emergency housing, so that there is less pressure for couples to resume living together again in cases where the survivor either does not want to, or does not yet feel ready, to do so.
- POs to be more aware of how the program works/how to support clients in the program. For example, allowing for prioritization of needs, such as obtaining employment before starting their BIP program.
- POs providing the BIP program with information earlier, so that when accessing individuals, you have what has been reported (this happens sometimes, but should be more standardized).
- MH and SUD screening fresh post-incarceration before referral so that we know more. (this happens sometimes, but should be more standardized)

Room for Growth – Other/General

- More flexibility in program structure so that higher-risk individuals can attend class 2x per week at first, and then step down as their risk level decreases.
- When the BIP participant/formerly incarcerated or convicted of DV charges is being abused, their background may cause them to be the one who gets arrested during a new incident.
 - An option where there are options to separate the individuals and where they can BOTH go to be safe, that is not a cost like “go to a hotel” that is usually put on the person with a record.
- POs knowing where various populations can go – Spanish women’s group, for example.
- Transparency between agencies on how long the current wait list is, etc. so that the PO can factor in when making referrals or setting due dates.
- To be able to use an alternative option such as one-on-one in cases where the person is hard to place into an existing group program, but without incurring additional cost.
- Consistency among judges in requiring BIP instead of Anger Management for all DV cases
- Adding language to the order regarding “following recommendations” of a BIP service provider rather than simply “complete a BIP program”, as clients sometimes need other services before a BIP program will be a viable/healthy option (such as SUD treatment)