BIPP Providers,

On behalf of TDCJ-CJAD Division Director, Carey Green, we have received several inquiries from Battering Intervention and Prevention Programs (BIPPs) in response to the COVID-19 outbreaks. Some Texas Counties have been declared a Local State of Disaster Due to a Public Health Emergency. To contain the spread of COVID-19, we want to provide BIPPs with as much flexibility as possible.

The Texas Department of Criminal Justice-Community Justice Assistance Division (TDCJ-CJAD) is temporarily waiving the requirement of in-person group activity as outlined in TDCJ-CJAD BIPP Accreditation Guidelines, Guideline 11. The waiver will allow programs to provide alternative short-term measures for group sessions, for the sole purpose of responding to community health advisories during the response to COVID-19/Coronavirus pandemic. Short-term measures may include: providing on-line group programming, such as Zoom or Skype, and/or allowing participants to complete more than one group session per week to make up group sessions cancelled due to COVID-19. The current recommendation from the Centers for Disease Control is that gatherings be kept to no more than 10 individuals and to practice proper hygiene habits. Attached, you will find a toolkit developed by the Texas Council on Family Violence with more information about safety measures.

The temporary waiver is in effect thru May 31, 2020. This TDCJ-CJAD Guideline modification will be evaluated monthly, at the beginning of each month.

For information related to COVID-19, please monitor the following websites:

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/
https://dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus/

Contact me with any questions.

Best regards,

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