

**TESTIMONY**  
**House Judiciary Committee Hearing on SB304**  
**3:30 p.m. March 6, 2012 RM346S**  
**Correctional Counseling of Kansas**  
**Shawna Mobley, Director**

- Wichita implemented mandatory arrest in domestic violence cases in 1991. Minimum standards for batterer intervention programs were established within several years.
- BIP providers have collaborated with local courts to identify gaps in the offender accountability/victim safety process and have attempted to respond to challenging issues, such as female offenders, addressing mental health needs of perpetrators, and delivering affordable services to clientele who are frequently financially challenged.
- BIP providers in Wichita have been engaged in State certification efforts for several years and have delayed application, pending plans of Wichita Municipal Court in relation to DV Designation law.
- The Attorney General's BIP Unit met with offender service providers, victim advocates, and criminal justice representatives twice in 2010: Meetings focused on the proposed Standards and concerns related to assessing all domestic violence offenders and extending the educational process for batterers. The BIP Unit has exhibited a commitment to assist Wichita and its dedicated service providers in gradual implementation of Standards/certification.
- SB 304 contains an unanticipated requirement that BIP providers possess BSRB licensure. Long-term BIP providers who have been engaged in the certification process may not meet this standard, immediately reducing the availability of credible BIP services in a community where 350 domestic violence arrests are made each month.
- The BSRB licensure provision creates an unnecessary layer of oversight that was never a consideration in the well-researched development of State BIP standards and provider certification procedures. Rising costs of services associated with BIP Standards will likely increase further within a licensed profession, and a percentage of financially burdened offenders will not adhere to treatment mandates: Imposing consequences on probation violators will place new and costly demands on an overwhelmed system.
- Mandating that only licensed professionals perform BIP services will interfere with an established, coordinated system response to domestic violence. Referrals to and completion of BIP services will lag, placing victims at greater risk for continued abuse.