

## TBI/DV Screening Report

Iowa Correctional Institution for Women

Mitchellville, IA

Feb. 18, 2013

I participated in the traumatic brain injury and domestic violence screenings for female inmates at ICIW in Mitchellville, IA on 2/18/13. I arrived at the prison and met the other individuals working on the project around 5:30 p.m. After checking in and surrendering our IDs to the officer out front, we proceeded to the cafeteria area where the screenings were to be completed.

The screeners debriefed for a while before the screenings began and organized the materials that were to be handed out to all of the women. Because the cafeteria was an open area with no partitions between tables, all of the screeners spread out to create distance between each table. One screener sat at each table with their materials to complete the screening one-on-one.

Around 6:30 p.m. the women started filtering in to the cafeteria. After all of the women had gathered, Megan Hartwig, the Brain Injury Program Manager, introduced herself and gave the women a brief explanation of what we were doing that night as well as some background information about rates of TBI in women in prison and among DV victims. Liz Battles, from ICADV, introduced herself and also gave some more information about the process to the group.

After introductions, we were able to begin the screenings. One by one, women came over to available screeners and spoke with them. I was able to screen three women in the time available. With each woman, I introduced myself and explained what they should expect from the process. Each screening lasted about 15-20 minutes as I went through both the DV screening and the HELPS Screening Tool for TBI. After asking the women the questions on the screening tool, I was then able to identify whether or not they screened positively for DV and/or TBI.

Once we had finished the screening process, I would let them know the results of the screenings and then went through the resource packet and explained what the materials were and how they might be helpful. I offered the option of following up with IDPH if they were interested in sharing whether they found the materials helpful or not. I thanked each of them for their time and for sharing their difficult stories with me and wished them the best of luck.

It was evident that the women who participated in the screenings appreciated the opportunity to have time to share their stories one-on-one and were looking forward to using the resource materials upon their upcoming release. Personally, I was grateful to participate in this process and hear these women's stories. It was an eye-opening experience and one that has greatly impacted me and my plans for the future. It has been an honor to be a part of this project and I am thankful to all who have helped in its execution, especially the dedicated Megan Hartwig.

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