

# Battering Intervention Services Coalition of Michigan BISC-MI Bylaws

## Article I Name, Organization, Fiscal Year

### 1.01 Name of Organization

The name of the organization shall be Battering Intervention Services Coalition of Michigan (BISC-MI).

### 1.02 Principal Office

The principal office shall maintain an official address and archives in the State of Michigan, designated by the Board.

### 1.03 Fiscal Year

The fiscal year of the organization shall begin January 1 through December 31.

## Article II Purpose, Values, Ends

### 2.01 Purpose of the Organization

To provide a working forum for interaction and information sharing among agencies and individuals concerned with the provision of battering intervention services in Michigan.

### 2.02 Statement of Purpose

The Purpose of BISC-MI is:

- ❖ We will provide a working forum for interaction and information sharing among agencies and individuals concerned with the provision of battering intervention services in Michigan.
- ❖ We will provide a working forum for interaction and information sharing among agencies and individuals concerned with the provision of battering intervention services in Michigan.
- ❖ We will help create and maintain coordinated community actions that hold those who batterer accountable for their behavior and promote safety and empowerment for victims.
- ❖ We will give safety, needs, and concerns of victims/survivors priority over the interests of those who batter or any battering intervention service model.
- ❖ We will promote social change which works toward a society based on equality and nonviolence.

### **2.03 Core Beliefs & Values of the Organization.**

- A. BISC-MI holds core values and expects its members to subscribe to these values. Victims are those who experience or witness power & control tactics in domestic situations.
- B. BISC-MI Core Beliefs and Values include:
  - 1. Safety, autonomy and empowerment needs of victims, including minors, are primary in our efforts. Accountability for those who batter must occur but not at the expense of the victims' needs.
  - 2. Battering behavior is a choice in a society that condones violence against women. It is not caused by substance abuse, family history, psychological conditioning, etc.
  - 3. Eliminating domestic violence requires a systemic response from the community. Battering intervention is a key interdependent component in a community response to domestic violence.
  - 4. Children who witness or experience battering tactics are also victims of domestic violence.
  - 5. Perpetrators of domestic violence have the capacity to change.

### **2.04 Goals of the Organization**

BISC-MI takes a stand to create the following conditions:

- A. The community acknowledges the impact of domestic violence and their primary responsibility for facilitating victim safety, autonomy and empowerment.
- B. Battering intervention service providers are held accountable for the work they do.
- C. Social change agents recognize the expertise, credibility and integrity of BISC-MI.
- D. Society will hold those who batterer accountable for their behavior.

### **2.05 Restrictions**

All policies and activities of the organization shall be consistent with:

- A. Applicable federal, state, regulatory and other legal requirements, and
- B. Applicable tax exemption requirements, including the requirements that the organization not be organized for profit and that no part of its net earnings inure to the benefit of any private individual.

## **Article III Membership**

### **3.01 Membership Eligibility**

Membership is open to any individual (voting) or organization (non-voting) that supports the mission, beliefs and values of BISC-MI. There shall be no limitation to the maximum number of memberships the organization may have at any one time.

### **3.02 Individual Membership Privilege and Eligibility**

Individual members subscribe to the mission, values and ends of the organization and are current in their payment of annual dues. They have full voting rights and may serve on any committee and/or the Board of Directors.

### **3.03 DVSSO Member**

A **Domestic Violence Survivor Service Organization (DVSSO)** is defined as "an organization whose purpose is providing victim services and who does not have a battering intervention program

### **3.04 Supporting Member**

**Supporting Member:** This is a membership which is given to an organization or individual that supports the mission of BISC-MI. They do not have voting privileges and are not eligible for discounted conferences.

### **3.05 Membership Dues**

Annual dues are established by the Board of Directors who also has authority to:

- A. Levy special assessments for restricted purposes.
- B. Annual dues are waived for domestic violence service providers who do not operate battering intervention programs.
- C. Delinquency of dues shall result in suspension of membership and forfeiture of rights and privileges of membership.
- D. No dues shall be refunded.

### **3.06 Application for Membership**

All applicants for membership must complete and sign the application form provided by the organization and submit the application to the principal office of BISC-MI.

### **3.07 Revocation of Membership**

Membership may be revoked by a majority of the currently occupied board for violation of our mission and/or values.

## **Article IV Board of Directors**

### **4.01 Board Job Description**

- A. The Board, as the governing body of BISC-MI, will develop and monitor policies of the organization that are consistent with its stated philosophy. In doing so the Board will value in its deliberations the voices of BISC-MI committees and community partners that reflect the diverse communities in Michigan. Input from these groups will be an integral part of the Board process.
- B. Each Board member shall serve on Board Committees and/or Operational Committees in addition to their governing duties.
- C. Attendance at Board Meetings: Board members are expected to attend all board meetings. Exceptions will be made for emergencies and other conflicts in schedules

that cannot be avoided. Board members are expected to notify the Board Chair of any schedule conflicts ahead of time. If a Board member misses too many meetings, they can be removed from Board Membership.

#### **4.02 Composition of the Board**

- A. Membership of the Board shall be limited to 15 regular members with a preference for those who have significant experience providing batterer intervention services.
- B. The Board shall represent geographic, demographic and organizational diversity.
- C. Potential Board members shall be subject to an application process approved by the Board.

#### **4.03 Term of Office**

- A. Board members are eligible for non-limited terms of service.

#### **4.04 Owner Accountability of the Board.**

The Board shall hold itself accountable to individuals and agencies that support the BISC-MI mission, philosophy and values and are invested in social change to end domestic violence.

#### **4.05 Officers**

Immediately after the election the Board shall elect the following officers:

- A. Board Chair
- B. Communications Coordinator
- C. Treasurer

#### **4.06 Removal of Board Membership**

A Board member can be removed for reason by a majority of the currently occupied Board.

#### **4.07 Resignation**

Any Board member may resign at any time by delivering a written resignation to the Board.

#### **4.08 Filling a vacant Board Position**

- A. The Board may fill the vacancy with candidates reviewed and approved by Board members.
- B. The individual filling the vacancy shall serve for the remainder of the term in the position vacated.

## **Article V Committees**

#### **5.01 Types of Committees**

- A. Committees will be created as needed, to work on ongoing or short-term matters.
  - 1. All committee appointments shall be recommended by the Board Chair and approved by the Board for a specified length of time.
  - 2. Non-Board members may serve on committees.
  - 3. Committees will report to the Board at specified intervals.

## Article VI Meetings

### 6.01 Membership Meetings

- A. The Board will determine the date, time and location of membership meetings.
- B. At Membership Meetings:
  - 1. The Board Chair, or designee, shall report on the activities and financial condition of the organization.
  - 2. Bylaws amendments may be considered when applicable.
  - 3. Any other business that properly comes before the Board will be addressed.
- C. Only voting members in good standing shall have the right to vote at these meetings. Supporting members may attend meetings but may not vote.

### 6.02 Board Meetings

- A. The Board shall meet monthly to attend to governance and operations of the organization.
- B. Notice of Board Meetings:
  - 1. All Board members will be notified of regularly scheduled meetings at least one (1) month prior to the meeting.
  - 2. Notice of Special Meetings will be sent to the Board no less than two (2) weeks before the scheduled date.
  - 3. For emergency meetings of the Board, no prior written notice is necessary.
- C. A majority of the currently occupied board seats is required to establish quorum for the transaction of business at any meeting of the Board. Quorum attendance shall include members who are physically present or available through some other media.
- D. Manner of Acting:
  - 1. Except as otherwise expressly required by law, the Articles of Incorporation of the Corporation, or these Bylaws, the affirmative vote of a majority of the Board present at any meeting at which a quorum is present shall be the act of the Board.
  - 2. Each Board member shall have one vote.
  - 3. Voting by proxy shall not be permitted.

### 6.03 Action by the Board without a Meeting

Any action required or permitted to be taken by the Board may be taken without a meeting if a majority of the Board shall individually or collectively consent to the action. The consent or consents shall be documented in the minutes of the subsequent Board meeting and the action taken shall have the same force and effect as a majority vote of the Board.

### 6.04 Conduct of Meetings

The conduct of all Board and Annual meetings shall be according to Robert's Newly Revised Rules of Order unless the Board has defined specific rules for conduct of its proceedings.

## **6.05 Committee Meetings**

Meetings of all the organizational committees will be held as deemed necessary by the committee members in order to complete the committee's charge in a timely way.

# **Article VII. Compensation of Board Members**

## **7.01 Compensation**

The Board members shall serve without salary. The Board members may be reimbursed by the organization for reasonable expenses incurred in the performance of their duties and may be paid a reasonable compensation for special service rendered for operational functions performed.

## **7.02 Indemnification**

Unless otherwise prohibited by law, the organization shall indemnify any director or officer, current or past, and may, by resolution of the Board, indemnify any employee, against any and all expenses and liabilities incurred by him/her in connection with any claim, action, suit or proceeding to which he/she is made a party by reason of being a director, officer or employee. However, there shall be no indemnification in relation to matters to which he/she shall be adjudged to be guilty of a criminal offense or liability to the organization arising out of gross negligence in the performance of an organizational duty.

# **Article VIII – Miscellaneous Provisions**

## **8.01 Amendment or Repeal of Bylaws**

These bylaws may be amended or repealed by a majority of the members present at any meeting of the membership. All members will be notified of any changes proposed in the bylaws prior to or at the Member Meeting at which the bylaws change or repeal are presented to the membership for the vote.

## **8.02 Corporate Records**

The financial records, membership list and all other corporate records, including minutes of Member Meetings, Board meetings and committee meetings, shall be kept in electronic storage agreed to by the Board. They shall be open for inspection upon written request of any member at reasonable times, and for the purpose reasonably related to the interest as a member of the organization.

## **8.03 Dissolution of the Organization**

If for any reason the membership determines to dissolve the organization, all assets of the organization will be distributed to an IRS identified 501c3 organization with similar goals.