

Battering Intervention And Prevention Programs

Accountability for Family Violence Offenders

An Overview for Judges, Prosecutors, Community Supervision & Corrections Officers and Child Protective Services Case Workers



Over Thirty Years of Building a Safer Texas

New Legislation Impacts Batterer Programs Statewide

Effective September 1, 2009 courts will refer family violence offenders to accredited BIP Programs.

During the 80th Texas Legislative Session, Senate Bill 44 was passed, which became Articles 42.12 and 42.141 of the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure. These codes relate to the process for accrediting Battering Intervention and Prevention Programs (BIPPs).

The goal of BIPP accreditation is to ensure quality services for offenders and ensure victim safety. By creating state-wide guidelines, programs delivering services to batterers have an obligation to focus on safety for victims and on the accountability of batterers.

Prior to accreditation, only twenty-seven CJAD-funded programs followed BIPP guidelines. In addition to the guidelines, BIPPs are required to make contact with a family violence shelter or non residential program and work to establish relationships for referral purposes through an annual cooperative working agreement.

Programs or individuals seeking accreditation will submit the necessary documents (an application, nominal one-time application fee, and other supplemental documents) and develop their Policy and Procedures Manual to demonstrate their knowledge about the BIPP Accreditation Guidelines. Programs will achieve probationary accreditation after the completion of a successful preliminary desk audit. After an onsite audit is conducted, programs will be eligible for permanent accreditation that must be renewed every three years.

BIPP utilizes best practices

and techniques that result in changing offender behavior. This program holds the offender accountable for their behavior, and research shows a reduction in charges for domestic violence offenses. Texas continues to be in the forefront of addressing issues of domestic violence.”

Victoria Trinidad, Director Guadalupe County Adult Probation Department

My unit refers to Battering

Intervention and Prevention Programs because we believe education is the key to change. BIPP educates batterers about family violence and the effects their choices have on children. Our organization is about keeping families together and BIPP helps us accomplish that mission.”

Nicole Hawley, Supervisor, Family Based Safety Services, Dallas County

As an integral member of the criminal justice system, your role as a Judge, Community Supervision and Corrections Department Officer, prosecutor or Child Protective Services Case Worker is vital for keeping perpetrators of family violence accountable and initiating a process of change. When perpetrators of family violence are kept accountable by all facets of their community, they are more likely to confront and change their abusive behavior.

Accredited BIPPs are the best option for perpetrators because they are required to follow state-approved guidelines to provide effective treatment.

Effective treatment includes:

- ◆ Programs that build collaboration with the court system, community organizations and agencies (including the local family violence center), with the goal of creating a Coordinated Community Response to Family Violence.
- ◆ The ideology that victim safety is first priority.
- ◆ Group sessions that focus on direct intervention in a group format that holds perpetrators accountable for their abusive behavior.
- ◆ A program curriculum that is based on an intervention model that recognizes family violence as the result of one person in an intimate relationship systematically using tactics of emotional and physical abuse in order to maintain power and control over the other.
- ◆ Program components that focus on holding batterers accountable for instances of victim blaming.
- ◆ Program components that avoid colluding with the batterers and facilitate batterers in working towards positive behavioral changes.
- ◆ Facilitators who confront and hold batterers accountable for instances of denial, blaming, minimizing, justifying, and rationalizing their behavior, regardless of batterers' relationships, current stress factors, or previous trauma.
- ◆ Facilitators who inform perpetrators that battering involves choices.

About BIPPs

BIPPs work to challenge the belief structure of perpetrators of family violence accordingly creating a behavior change.

Perpetrators are held accountable for their behavior and must acknowledge they alone are responsible for their abusive and violent behavior. Referrals to BIPPs can be mandated or voluntary.

Perpetrators who are appropriate for a Battering Intervention and Prevention Program are those who:

- ◆ Have committed family violence; or
- ◆ Are on probation or parole for family violence offenses; or
- ◆ Are respondents of protective orders; or
- ◆ Are abusive to their partner in the presence of their children; and/or
- ◆ Acknowledge their violence behavior and have the desire to change it.

Perpetrators who are NOT appropriate for a Battering Intervention and Prevention Program are those who:

- ◆ Have untreated psychiatric disorders;
- ◆ Are in need of primary treatment for sexual abuse of a child; and/or
- ◆ Have untreated substance abuse addictions;

Working Together

Accredited Battering Intervention and Prevention Programs work collaboratively with judges, prosecutors and community supervision officers by:

- ◆ Providing thorough perpetrator assessment that focuses on ending violence and holding batterers accountable for their violence.
- ◆ Developing an individualized plan for each perpetrator in order to make additional referrals for appropriate services such as substance abuse, mental health issues, etc.
- ◆ Providing ongoing communication through entrance, exit and monthly progress reports to the referral source.
- ◆ Offering educational workshops to criminal justice agencies.

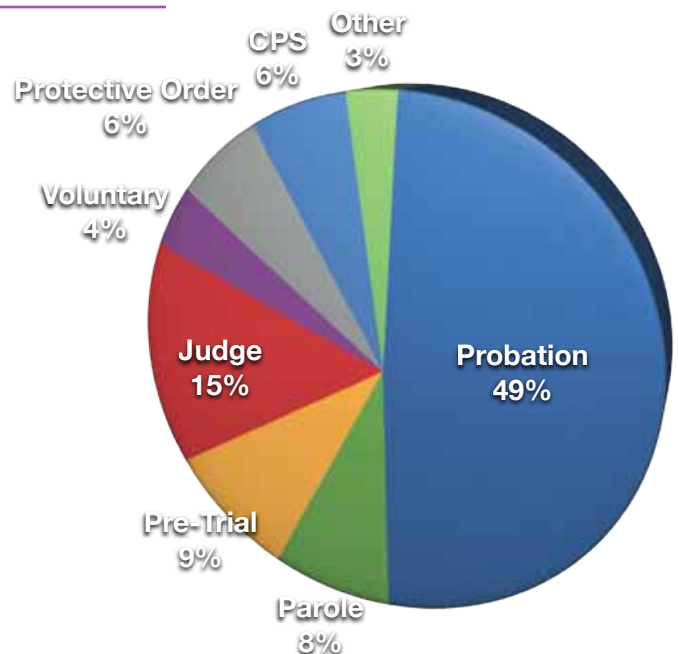
“Battering Intervention and Prevention Programs are the greatest tools I have

for addressing abusive behavior and for holding batterers accountable. I require batterers to complete the program because it is effective at addressing power and control issues, much more so than an anger management program. I consider these programs essential partners in the effort to stop domestic violence in my community.” -

Judge Roberto Cañas, County Criminal Court #10, Dallas County, Texas

BIPP Participants by Referral Source

Fiscal Year 2008



State-Funded Battering Intervention and Prevention Programs

While TDCJ-CJAD accredits additional programs in Texas, the following are 27 programs that are not only accredited but are also funded by TDCJ-CJAD. For a complete list of accredited programs please log onto the TDCJ-CJAD website at www.tdcj.state.tx.us/cjad.

AMARILLO

Family Support Service—
Battering Intervention and
Prevention Program
Potter County
(806) 342-2500 ext. 2513

AUSTIN

Life Works –Family Violence
Diversion Network
Travis County
(512) 735-2100

BASTROP

Family Crisis Center Men’s
Program
Bastrop County
(512) 321-7760

BEAUMONT

Violence Intervention &
Education Program
Jefferson County
(409) 833-2668

BROWNSVILLE

Friendship of Women—
Battering Intervention and
Prevention Program
Cameron County
(956) 546-6694

CORPUS CHRISTI

A Turning Point
Nueces County
(361) 884-2900

DALLAS

The Family Place—Battering
Intervention and Prevention
Program
Dallas County
(214) 692-8295

DENTON

Denton County Friends of the
Family—Battering Intervention
and Prevention Program
Denton County
(940) 387-5131 ext. 237

EL PASO

Center Against Family
Violence (CAFV)—Battering
Intervention and Prevention
Program
El Paso County
(915) 562-0077

FORT WORTH

Women’s Haven of
Tarrant County—Battering
Intervention and Prevention
Program
Tarrant County
(817) 536-3809

GARLAND

New Beginning Center—
Battering Intervention and
Prevention Program
Dallas County
(972) 276-0423

HEMPSTEAD

Focusing Families—Battering
Intervention and Prevention
Program
Waller County
(979) 826-3290

HOUSTON

Battering Intervention
Services of Aid to Victims of
Domestic Abuse (AVDA)
Harris County
(713) 224-9911

KERRVILLE

Hill Country Crisis Council—
FOCUS
Kerr County
(830) 257-7088 ext. 9

KILLEEN

Killeen Diversified Family
Counseling
Bell County
(254) 690-2004

LUBBOCK

Women’s Protective
Services—Battering
Intervention and Prevention
Program
Lubbock County
(806) 748-5292

MCALLEN

Women Together—Men
Against Violence
Hidalgo County
(956) 664-2826

MIDLAND

Project ADAM
Midland County
(432) 522-2700

PERRYTON

Panhandle Crisis Center BIPP
Ochiltree County
(806) 435-5008

PLAINVIEW

Hale County Crisis Center
BIPP
Hale County
(806) 293-9772

PLANO

Hope’s Door BIPP
Collin County
(972) 422-2911

SAN ANTONIO9

Family Violence Prevention
Services Violence Intervention
Program
Bexar County
(210) 930-3669

SHERMAN

Domestic Abuse Intervention
Project (DAIP)
Grayson County
(903) 892-8595

STAFFORD

Wholistic Counseling Services
Inc. (WCSI)
Fort Bend County
(281) 403-0838

TEXARKANA

Domestic Violence Prevention
Bowie County
(903) 794-4000

TYLER

Violence Intervention Network
Smith County
(903) 579-2500

VICTORIA

Mid-Coast Family Services—
Battering Intervention and
Prevention Program
Victoria County
(361) 575-7842