



From Accreditation and Beyond:

A Resource Guide For Battering
Intervention And Prevention Program Staff



Over Thirty Years of Building a Safer Texas



Fall 2010

Dear Colleagues:

The Texas Council on Family Violence (TCFV) receives numerous calls from new and tenured Battering Intervention and Prevention Program staff each year.

While each program and provider has different questions, TCFV understands there is a wealth of information that each provider must have available to them. The information contained in this manual will assist in developing, administering and coordinating a Battering Intervention and Prevention Program.

TCFV presents *From Accreditation and Beyond: A Resource Guide for Battering Intervention and Prevention Program Staff* to assist your program and its continued development and success.

This guide covers various topics to assist in understanding resources available to your program, BIPP accreditation, the criminal justice system, dynamics of family violence and basic programmatic functions.

Along with this guide, TCFV continues to provide staff development opportunities and technical assistance with program functions, accreditation, family violence and community coordination.

We hope this guide will assist you in developing and improving your BIPP practice, services to offenders, and relationships with community members, as well as increase the safety of victims and survivors of family violence.

Sincerely,

Gloria A. Terry
President
Texas Council on Family Violence

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Texas Council on Family Violence

The mission of Texas Council on Family Violence promotes safe and healthy relationships by supporting service providers, facilitating strategic prevention efforts, and creating opportunities for freedom from domestic violence.

Since 1978, the Texas Council on Family Violence has been a nationally recognized leader in the efforts to end family violence through partnerships, advocacy and direct services for women, children and men.

As one of the largest domestic violence coalitions in the nation, TCFV's membership is comprised of family violence service providers, supportive organizations, survivors of domestic violence, businesses and professionals, communities of faith and other concerned citizens. As a membership-focused organization, TCFV is firmly committed to serving its members, communities in Texas and thousands of victims of domestic violence and their families.

TCFV's three major focus areas are:

Support to Service Providers: The TCFV Support to Service Providers Team educates and trains victim advocates, criminal justice personnel, health care providers, faith communities, businesses, advocacy organizations, service providers and allied professionals in communities throughout Texas and the nation. Training topics include, but are not limited to: empowerment, ethics, documentation, self-care, media, effects of family violence on children, safe technology, address confidentiality program and the dynamics of family violence.

Public Policy Development: The TCFV Public Policy Team serves as a unified voice before the Texas Legislature on behalf of domestic violence victims by supporting the drafting and passage of laws that will assist victims and survivors.

Prevention: The TCFV Prevention Team supports the prevention efforts of local programs across the state and works to create an environment in Texas in which all can work collaboratively to stop domestic violence once and for all.

Allowing women, children, men and families to live secure and violence-free is an extremely important TCFV goal. TCFV supports the attainment of this critical goal by offering these additional services:

- Assisting and supporting Texas domestic violence shelters, battering intervention and prevention programs and other family violence service providers.
- Providing prompt answers to thousands of technical assistance questions each year.
- Maintaining extensive domestic violence-related resources including books, manuals, reports, audio tapes and DVDs.
- Leading state and national public awareness efforts on the various domestic violence issues facing our country.

Membership

TCFV's membership consists of family violence service providers, supportive organizations, businesses and professionals, communities of faith, survivors of domestic violence, domestic violence advocates and other concerned individuals.

Annual membership dues support TCFV's legislative advocacy and other efforts that further our mission. TCFV advocates with Texas and federal lawmakers to maintain essential funding for family violence services and to promote laws that will assist victims of family violence.

To become a member today, visit www.tcfv.org.

TCFV, headquartered in Austin, Texas, is a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization with an integrated funding base of federal, state, private and public support.

Understanding Family Violence

Family violence is a complex problem affecting our society and will not end unless communities stand up as part of the solution. It is imperative, in your role as a coordinator, that you understand the dynamics of family violence. While there are many different theories as to the causes of family violence, leaders in the family violence field, along with Texas Council on Family Violence, believe family violence is rooted in batterers' desire to maintain power and control over their partners and that it is a learned behavior.

The *Social Learning Theory* believes that individuals learn behaviors from the environment they grow up in. Children learn how to deal with stresses, frustrations and crises from those in power positions within their home. If those in power, such as parents or other role models, deal with situations by verbally or physically abusing their partner or children, the child learns to do the same and may copy the abusive behavior.

Power and Control

Family violence is not about one person hitting another person. Family violence centers around the concept of one person wanting to have power and control over another with whom they have an intimate or familiar relationship. In addition to physical and sexual abuse, there are many tactics batterers may use to exert power and control over their partner. These include:

Coercion and Threats:

Includes threatening to harm another person or self, to leave, to report to authorities, to make their partner drop charges or to force participation in illegal activities.

Intimidation:

Includes using looks, gestures and actions to make partner feel afraid. This may also include displaying weapons and abusing pets.

Emotional Abuse:

Using insults, disrespectful names, guilt or humiliation to make their partner feel bad about themselves.

Isolation:

Includes controlling their partner's actions and interaction with friends and family or outside influences. Examples include: giving a curfew, restricting access to transportation, barricading inside the home and not allowing employment.

Minimizing, Denying, Blaming:

Includes making light of the abuse, saying the abuse did not happen and shifting blame to the partner.

Children:

Using children to relay messages, threatening to take children away or threatening to report partner to Child Protective Services (CPS).

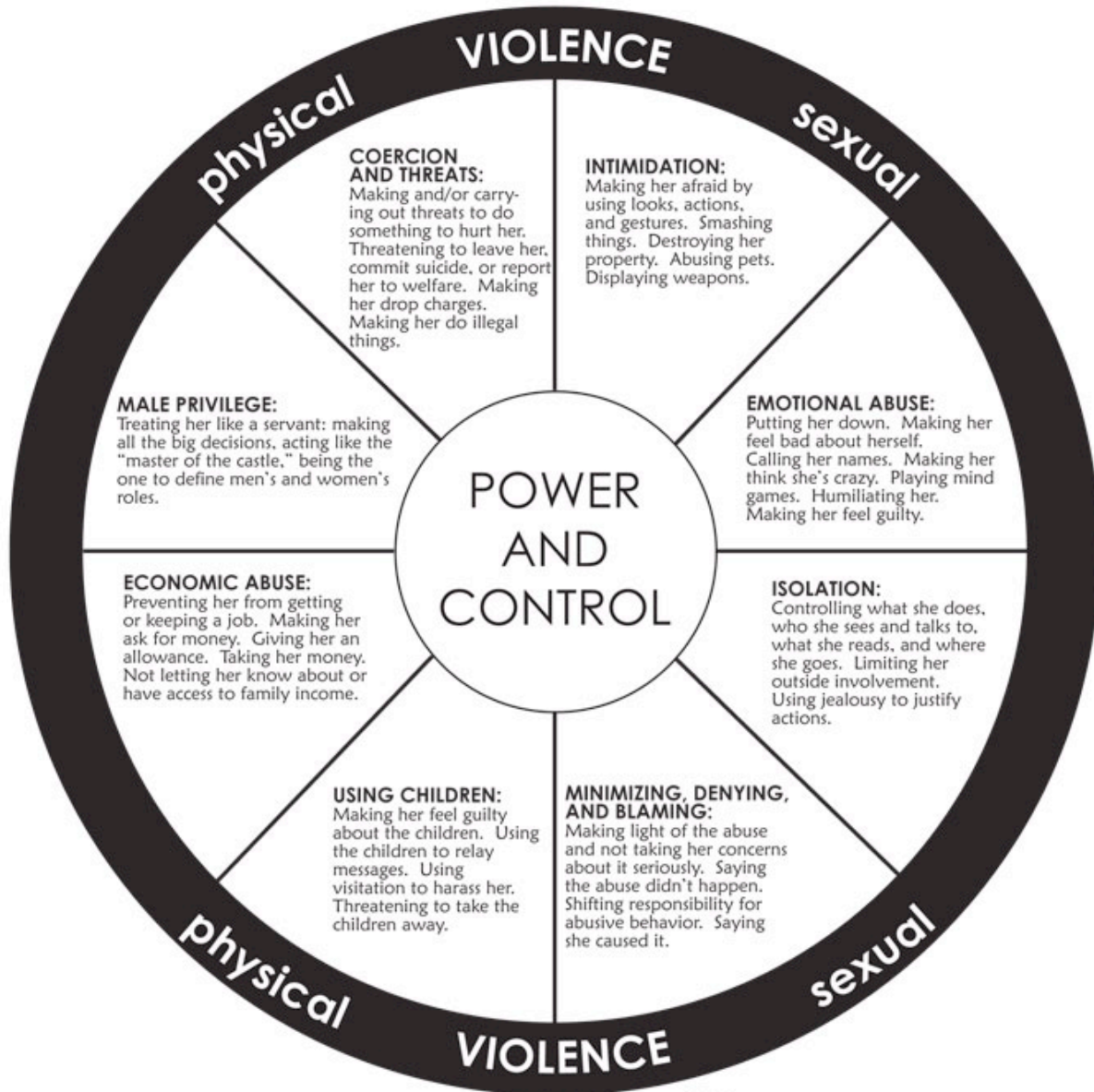
Male Privilege:

Includes not allowing input into decision making, treating partner as a servant and using traditional gender roles to gain power and control in the relationship.

Economic Abuse:

Preventing partner from getting or keeping a job, making partner ask for money and hiding financial information or access to the family income.

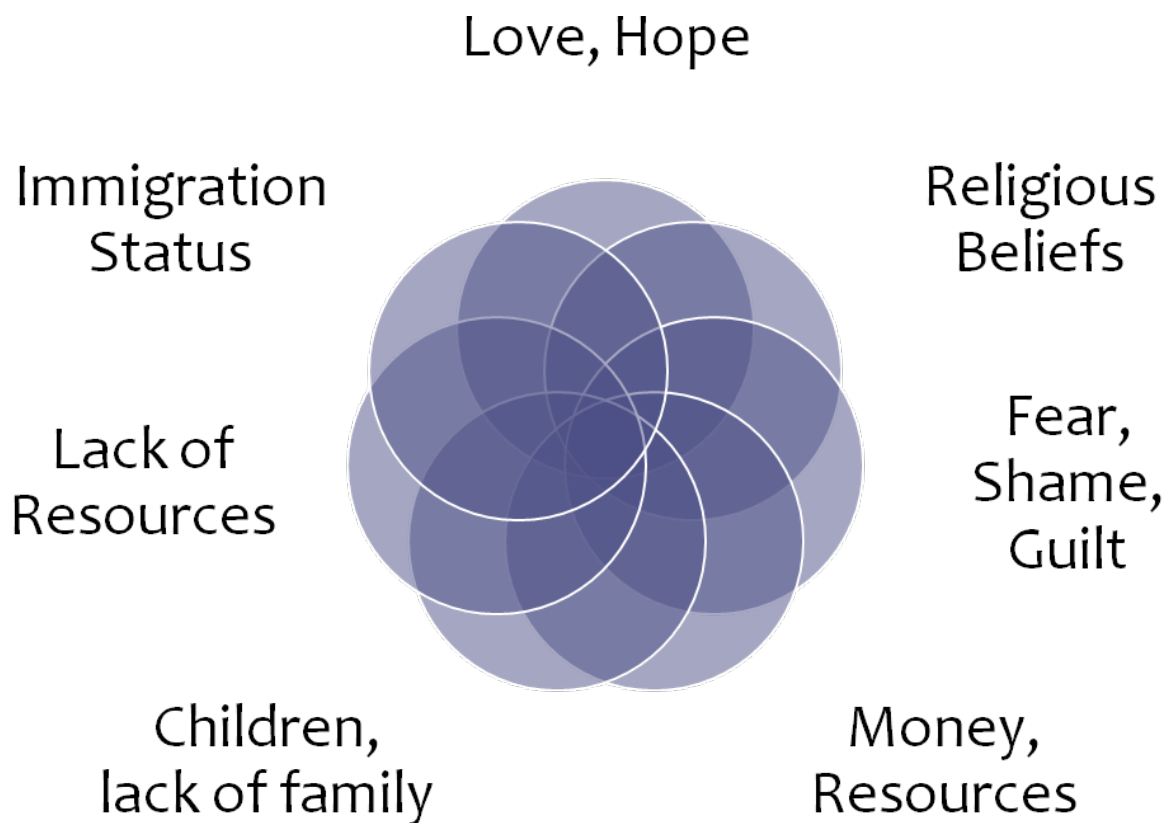
A *power and control wheel*, created by Domestic Abuse Intervention Project (DAIP), is an excellent tool for demonstrating the dynamics of family violence for batterers and identifying abusive behaviors. Please note that there are other wheels that can be used, including an *equality wheel*, *Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transsexual (LGBT) wheel*, *child abuse wheel* and an *advocacy wheel*.



Developed by:
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Why do victims stay?

There are many barriers and dangers victims of family violence face when attempting to leave an abusive relationship. The diagram below illustrates some of the common reasons why some victims remain in abusive relationships.



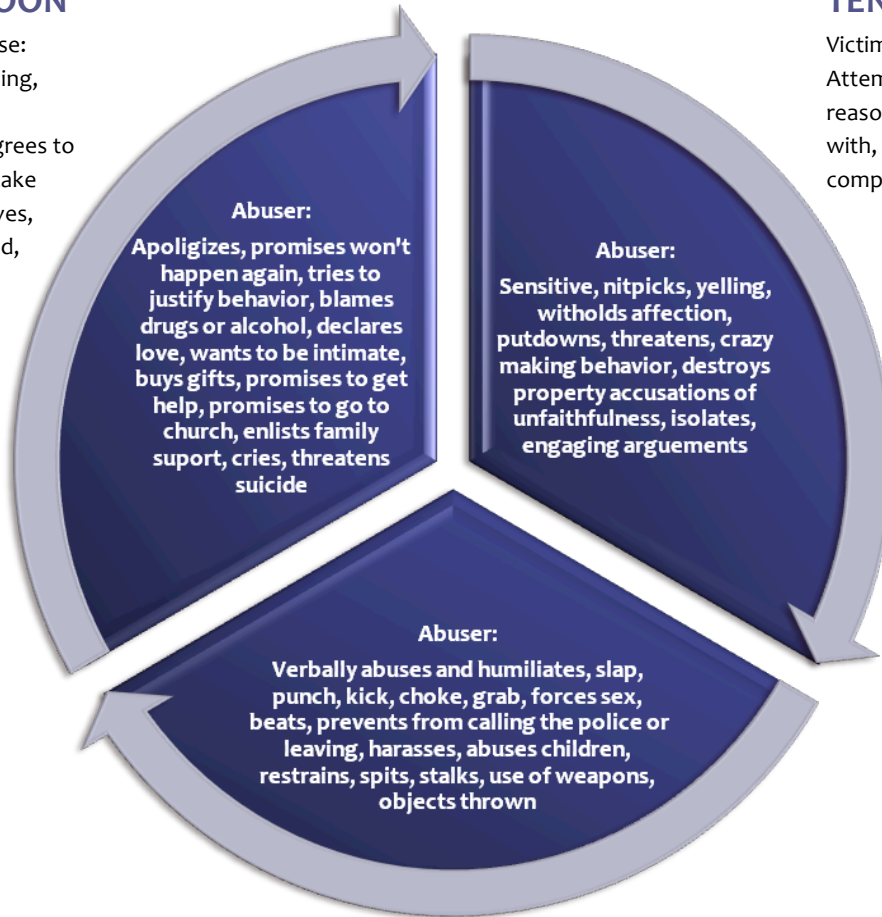
In addition to barriers listed above, the biggest barrier of all is fear of greater physical danger. The most dangerous time for victims of family violence is when they leave the abusive relationship (United States Department of Justice, National Crime Victim Survey, 1995).

Cycle of Violence

It is important to understand and acknowledge that batterers are not *always* abusive. Most abusive relationships go through a cycle that includes periods of calm and non-abusive behaviors. Lenore Walker created and described the cycle of violence in her book [The Battered Woman](#) in 1979.

HONEYMOON

Victims Response:
Sets up counseling,
drops legal
proceedings, agrees to
return, stay or take
him back, forgives,
hopeful, relieved,
happy



TENSION BUILDING

Victims Response:
Attempts to calm, tries to reason, tries to satisfy, agrees with, avoidance, withdraws, compliant, nurtures

ACUTE EXPLOSION

Victims Response:
Protects self in any way, tries to reason & calm,
may or may not call police, leaves, fights back

This model cannot account for all the experiences of survivors. Some survivors of family violence state there is not a honeymoon phase because they are always on the defense and they are never at ease. It's never a "honeymoon" in an abusive relationship. This is used to illustrate the cyclical nature of abusive relationships and manipulation tactics batterers use to maintain power and control over their partners.

Safety Planning:

The formal and informal processes by which survivors of family violence plan and strategize for the short and long-term safety of themselves and their loved ones.

Victim Contact & Safety Planning

Safety planning applies to both staying AND leaving an abusive relationship.

Safety of victims and survivors is your #1 priority at all times. BIPPs were created as another method to assist in survivor safety. There are two different types of safety planning:

Short term:

Involves immediate actions survivors can take to keep themselves and their loved ones safe. Examples include: second set of keys, copies of documents, code or signal for neighbors to call police.

Long term:

Involves a more thorough strategic plan that will evolve over time. Examples include: legal referrals, job training, crime victim's compensation and address confidentiality program.

Safety planning must be driven by the specific needs and values of survivors and resources available. It should not be a "one-fits-all" system. Safety plans also need to be revisited routinely to ensure they reflect the survivors' current situation.

When safety planning with survivors, you must respect their knowledge, experience and values. Survivors are the expert on their abusive relationship and know what worked for them before and what did not work. Ensure that survivors are aware of the resources available to them.

Why is safety planning important for BIPP Coordinators?

You are an advocate. As a BIPP staff member you are making a commitment to help end family violence and this cannot happen without safety planning. As a BIPP Coordinator you have agreed to hold batterers accountable and this is grounded in victim safety.

While notifying victims of the batterers' entrance and exit of BIPP, you may speak to a victim who is in danger. During this conversation you should discuss their immediate safety and make a referral to your local family violence program. Advocates at family violence programs are skilled in creating long-term safety plans and are considered experts when a victim's safety is in jeopardy.

History of Battering Intervention and Prevention Programs

There is a long history of programs working with men who batter. These programs have created a base from which we work in Texas today. Each of the following organizations have contributed to the BIPP Movement in historical ways and we have learned from their development and growth.

EMERGE was founded in 1977 in Boston and self-identifies as the first abuser education program in the United States. This program seeks to educate individual men who batter, to prevent young people from accepting violence in their relationships, to improve institutional responses to family violence and to increase public awareness about the causes of and solutions to violence against women.

EMERGE believes:

- ❖ Family violence is a learned behavior, not a disease or sickness.
- ❖ Grassroots, institutional and cultural efforts to stop partner violence, sexual assault and child abuse are essential.
- ❖ Other oppressive life circumstances such as poverty, racism and homophobia create a climate that contributes to partner violence.

*Adapted from www.emergedv.com

AMEND's creation in 1977 made Denver one of two communities to begin to address the roots of domestic violence by addressing abusive men. AMEND began as a nonprofit pilot program to provide intervention with men whose partners had sought shelter. In 1987, AMEND added a victim services component to provide advocacy and promote victim safety. The philosophy of AMEND's treatment centers around responsibility: we are responsible for what we feel, how we act, and the consequences of our actions.

*Adapted from www.amendinc.org

The vast majority of Battering Intervention and Prevention Programs began under the umbrella of battered women's programs. The organizing and political efforts of domestic violence advocates played a crucial role in the creation and funding of BIP programs. Battering Intervention and Prevention Programs were born from the idea that male privilege and entitlement, identified by domestic violence advocates, needed to be challenged. BIPP was created to help men stop violent and abusive behavior and to take into account the safety of adult victims and their children.

*TCFV BIPP Educational Series

RAVEN was founded in 1978 in St. Louis, Missouri. A handful of men from St. Louis met at the National Conference on Men and Masculinity in Iowa in the mid 70's. Upon returning home, they continued to meet and organized the Fourth Conference on Men and Masculinity. RAVEN grew out of that conference. The male founders of RAVEN had a common concern and anger about the violence that had been done unto women close to them. They resolved that if men stop being violent it would be because men were stopping it. RAVEN was operated solely by men until 1994.

*Adapted from www.ravenstl.org

Domestic Abuse Intervention Project (DAIP), is an interagency program commonly referred to as the “Duluth model.” The Duluth model was conceived and implemented in Minnesota in 1980. The city of Duluth was identified as the best city to try to bring criminal and civil justice agencies together to work in a collaborative way to respond to family violence cases. Eleven agencies were initially identified to collaborate: 911, police, sheriff's and prosecutor's offices, probation, the criminal and civil courts, the local battered women's shelter, three mental health agencies, and a newly created coordinating organization called the Domestic Abuse Intervention Project (DAIP).

DAIP philosophy indicates:

- ❖ The primary responsibility of placing controls on abusers belongs to the community and the individual abusers, not the victims of abuse.
- ❖ Battering is a form of family violence that entails a patterned use of coercion and intimidation, including violence and other related forms of abuse, whether legal or illegal.
- ❖ Initiatives must distinguish between, and respond differently to, domestic violence that constitutes battering and cases that do not, and adjust those interventions to the severity of the violence.
- ❖ Interventions must account for the economic, cultural, and personal histories of the individuals who become abuse cases in the system.
- ❖ Both victims and offenders are members of the community; while they must each act to change the conditions of their lives, the community must treat both with respect and dignity and recognize the social causes of their personal circumstances.

*Adapted from www.theduluthmodel.org

These four programs are examples of early leaders in the BIPP community offering intervention services. As time passed, BIPPs continued to develop and evolve.

The first Battering Intervention and Prevention Programs in Texas were formed in the early 1980's in Dallas, Austin and Houston.

Intervention approaches were influenced when mental health centers and private practitioners began operating BIP programs. Some practitioners operated under different standards and theologies that sent contradictory messages about why family violence occurs and what batterers, or their partners, must do to end it. These messages, at times, were interpreted as placing blame for the abuse on victims rather than batterers.

BIPP Accreditation

History and Development

The Battering Intervention and Prevention Program (BIPP) Guidelines were developed for the Texas Department of Criminal Justice-Community Justice Assistance Division (TDCJ-CJAD) by the BIPP Strategic Planning Work Group of the Texas Council on Family Violence (TCFV) in 1993-1994. These guidelines became effective September 1, 1995.

In early 1998, TCFV and TDCJ-CJAD formed a committee to examine the BIPP Guidelines and propose revisions, additions, and deletions. This revision of the BIPP Guidelines became effective as of December 1, 1999.

Battering Intervention and Prevention Program Accreditation

During the 80th Texas Legislative Session, Senate Bill 44 was passed (Texas Code of Criminal Procedure, Article 42.141). This Code relates to the provision of intervention or counseling services for persons who have committed family violence and to a process for accrediting those services.

In late 2007, TDCJ-CJAD formed a committee to examine the BIPP Guidelines for program accreditation. The committee was comprised of representatives from funded and non-funded Battering Intervention and Prevention Programs (BIPPs), family violence shelters, Community Supervision and Corrections Departments (CSCDs), TDCJ-Parole Division, medical examiners, psychologists, marriage and family therapists, licensed professional counselors, social workers, and other professionals.

Following the recommendations of the committee, TDCJ-CJAD and TCFV submitted a draft to the committee members, BIPP programs, licensing authorities described by Chapters 152, 501, 502, 503, 505, Occupations Code and other stakeholders for their review and comments. Their recommendations have been incorporated into this document.

The BIPP Accreditation Guidelines are effective as of July 2009.

Purpose

The objective of the guidelines is to clarify the program and administrative standards under which a program or provider must operate if they are to receive accreditation by TDCJ-CJAD.

The Texas Code of Criminal Procedure, Article 42.141 defines the nature and consequences of family violence and establishes the parameters of BIPP programs. Because the preponderance of family violence is male to female battering, it is important for battering intervention and prevention programs to acknowledge the gender-specific nature of that violence.

Programs or providers may provide services to other populations (e.g. female and juvenile batterers or anger management groups). However, accreditation issued by TDCJ-CJAD is solely for the purpose of providing direct services to adult males.

Accreditation Process

Each program will need to submit a completed application, a signed BIPP accreditation statement of understanding, your BIPP policy and procedure manual, a cooperative working agreement signed by a family violence center, documentation of required training hours, a completed accreditation remittance form with required fee and, if a current provider, a letter of good standing to TDCJ-CJAD.

Once these items have been received by TDCJ-CJAD, the review process will begin with a desk audit of the items submitted. If your materials meet the BIPP accreditation guidelines, you will be given probationary accreditation will be achieved. This certificate must be displayed at all times.

Notification of your probationary accreditation status will be sent to the Community Supervision and Corrections Department(s) (CSCDs), county and district attorney's office, and judge(s) for the areas in which you provide BIPP services.

After probationary accreditation is achieved, an initial on-site audit will be scheduled. In order to receive accreditation status, you must score an 80% or above on the audit and score 100% on all non-negotiable guidelines (guidelines 12-17).

Accreditation Renewal Process

Each program will need to renew your accreditation status every 3 years and at least 60 days before accreditation expires. Programs must submit a renewal accreditation application along with any changes in personnel, revisions in the policy and procedure manual, documentation of training for new staff and staff development for current staff. During the renewal process, an on-site audit may be conducted.

Revocation, Denial and/or Suspension of accreditation status

Programs' and providers' accreditation status may be revoked, denied or suspended for the following reasons:

1. Failure to submit information required for accreditation;
2. Failure to achieve 100% compliance during the application process;
3. Failure to meet any of the Non-Negotiable BIPP Accreditation Guidelines;
4. Failure to meet the TDCJ-CJAD benchmark of 80% or higher during an on-site audit;
5. Denial of entry to auditors to conduct on-site visits or any other attempt to impede work of auditors;
6. Attempting to obtain accreditation by fraud, misrepresentation, or by the submission of incorrect, false, and/or misleading information;
7. Operation of providing direct services without being in good standing;
8. Operation by an accredited program or provider in a manner that endangers the health or safety of participants and/or victims/survivors of family violence; or
9. Substantiated complaints from licensing boards or other entities.

In the event of denial or revocation of accreditation, the program or provider shall take immediate steps to notify and refer current participants back to the original referral source. TDCJ-CJAD shall provide written notice to the administrative judge, the district and/or county attorney's office, the CSCD director, and the family violence shelter and/or family violence non-residential center listed in the cooperative working agreement if any action is taken against a program or provider to suspend, deny, or revoke accreditation.

Literature Review

At first glance, conclusive research on the effectiveness of battering intervention programs seems non-existent. Researchers in the BIPP field are often confronted by considerable obstacles in gathering viable data to provide convincing evidence of the effectiveness of BIPPs.

Obstacles in Research

The most telling types of research are longitudinal studies. The most important piece of any longitudinal study is the ability to observe the same subjects over a specified period of time. There is significant difficulty in obtaining viable data from BIP programs, batterers, and survivors because of interruption in service due to participant and/or program termination. Obtaining conclusive data is complicated because it is difficult to follow the progress of both control and variable groups from intake to three years of successful completion.

Numerous studies were conducted on groups of Domestic Abuse Intervention Program (DAIP), or Duluth, which harbors an extremely refined community collaboration model. Other programs in operation modeled differently than Duluth have not been studied as closely.

For many programs and researchers the definition of “success” is varied. Some define “success” by the rate of recidivism documented by the criminal justice system. This type of evidence is not conclusive, as abuse may be occurring that is not being reported to authorities or agencies. This type of success also factors out the emotional and psychological abuse, which is not reprehensible by arrest.

Others define “success” by focusing on the batterers’ process of change and the re-examination of the underlying beliefs that influence their violent behavior. However, it is difficult to measure the level of success because the information provided by the batterer or victim may be unreliable. The process of change cannot be easily calculated or tabulated.

While these obstacles are a part of the variables in examining the effectiveness of BIPPs, many researchers are pushing forward and working with the data they can obtain. Below is a compilation of various studies from 1995 to present. TCFV has included their researcher, the date and a brief synopsis of the researcher’s conclusions.

Brief Synopses and Conclusions

Tomlin and Edleson (1995) concluded from their review of programs that use various methods of battering intervention, a large portion of men stopped their physically abusive behavior following involvement in BIPP. When partner reports of physical violence are taken into account, successful outcomes ranged from 53% to 85%. However, a longitudinal study of men not in a BIPP also found high rates of cessation of physical violence even though there had not been any formal intervention. It is unclear in this study whether treatment itself is the key in accounting for the differences observed between abusers in and out of treatment.

Bennet and Williams (2001) summarized various BIPP studies and the controversies that exist in the family violence field. The authors concluded that BIPPs have a “small but significant effect” on participants and are a critical element in the overall prevention of violence. The authors also state that BIPPs are more effective for some men than others, assessments must occur on an ongoing basis to increase effectiveness, programs must hold themselves accountable, programs should routinely evaluate the outcomes of their individual programs and they should work closely with other community partners.

Babcock (2002) stated at a National Institute for Justice workshop that “current interventions have a minimal impact on reducing recidivism beyond the effect of being arrested.” Babcock goes on to state that there is a 5% improvement rate in cessation of violence due to treatment. While the 5% decrease may appear insignificant, the percentage represents approximately “42,000 women per year in the US who are no longer being battered as a result of treatment.” Babcock concludes by stating the small results may not be the result of effective treatment, rather the result of measurement error and methodology difficulties.

Shepard, Falk and Elliott (2002) examined recidivism rates of Duluth’s Domestic Abuse Intervention Project (DAIP) which is designed to enhance a coordinated community response. They found that offenders had “significantly lower rates of recidivism” over the 3 years of the project. The researchers stated that the offender having been court mandated and the offender having completed the program were the two variables that had significant impacts on the rates of recidivism. This study also showed that using danger assessment tools assist in predicting recidivism.

Gregory and Erez (2002) conducted in-depth, thorough interviews in which 33 women described their experiences, expectations and feelings before, during, and after their partner participated in a batterer intervention program. They discussed the impact the programs had on their partner’s behavior and their own lives. Incorporating survivors’ experiences in evaluating the effectiveness of batterer intervention programs can assist programs in developing a well-rounded view of harm done during the program, rather than relying on recidivism reports from the batterer or law enforcement. It may also assist the program in design and evaluation. Overall, more survivors indicated that they think “treatment works” but also demonstrated that survivors may be placed at heightened risk as their partners start the program.

Jackson et al. (2003) evaluated two studies conducted on programs in Broward Co., Florida, and Brooklyn, New York. The authors found that batterers assigned to treatment, rather than community service, were less likely to be accused of battering the same victim. Victim reports also demonstrated that men who attended 26 weeks of treatment, versus only 8 weeks or no treatment at all, committed fewer, new violent acts and went significantly longer before battering again.

Saunders and Hamill (2003) evaluated research on family violence and sexual assault offenders and concluded that, along with matching offender types to various types of treatment and more attention to training of BIPP facilitators in cultural competence and culturally specific interventions,

system wide collaboration and coordination may contribute to the most effective interventions for batterers.

Hendricks et al. (2006) studied 200 court-referred offenders from two intervention programs and concluded that, during treatment and 18 months of follow up, the recidivism rate was 17.5% with most of the recidivism early in the treatment process or within six months of ending treatment.

Silvergleid and Mankowski (2006) wanted to understand what facilitates change in male BIPP participants. They conducted in-depth interviews with facilitators and participants and determined that community influences (criminal justice system, losing family members) and facilitators play a crucial role in the process of change. Researchers highlighted that respect and safety from the facilitators created an environment conducive to change. The biggest impact on participants came from the group-level dynamics which balanced support and confrontation, sharing and hearing stories, and modeling and mentoring. Along with group dynamics, batterers credited journaling, positive self-talk and writing letters about accountability raised awareness of the impact of their abuse.

Bennet, Stoops, Call, Flett (2007) examined the effects of BIPP completion on family violence re-arrest and found that completing a BIP program reduced the odds of re-arrest. Researchers state that “efforts to engage and retain men in gender-specific BIPPs” should be supported.

MacLeod, Pi, Smith and Rose-Goodwin (2008) studied the various jurisdictions in California and how they managed their domestic violence caseload. When studying the BIP programs, the researchers found that the “beliefs and attitudes” of offenders who successfully completed a 52-week BIPP, “showed small, positive changes.” They determined that the strongest predictors of whether or not men were re-arrested following a BIPP intake were “individual characteristics” of the batterer, rather than the jurisdictions or programs they were seeking treatment from.

Klein (2008) stated research shows as long as the batterer program is focused on preventing re-abuse, the type of program makes no difference but that longer batterer programs have a modest effect but are still more effective than shorter programs. He states that unless batterer intervention programs are closely monitored, and program compliance is enforced and supplemented with other safety measures for victims, BIPPs may be ineffective and give false hope to victims.

Gondolf (1996, 1997, 1999, 2003, 2004, 2007, 2008) completed numerous studies on the effectiveness of BIPPs. Gondolf contends that all programs are associated with a short-term cessation of assault and with overall improvements in the victims’ quality of life. However, it is difficult to determine what specific contribution BIPPs make. Studies also do not show that one intervention works better than the rest; rather a comprehensive, coordinated community response to family violence assaults may have the largest impact on offenders. In 1999, Gondolf stated, “It may be that each intervention system is defined more by the composite of its components and experience than by its individual components.” In a four-year study of four cities, his research showed there may be a “program effect” in which men are more likely to re-assault within the first six months of entering the BIPP program. After the initial six months, re-assault rates continuously decline. Gondolf suggests that

there needs to be time for the program to take effect with the participants, and that programs need to focus on better case management (during and after treatment), effective risk assessment and contain men immediately after program intake, rather than solely focusing on “after the program.”

Summary of Literature Review			
<i>Researchers</i>	<i>Type of Research</i>	<i>Can BIPP be effective?</i>	<i>What is effective?</i>
Tomlin & Edleson	Review of Studies	Yes	Coordination between criminal justice system and BIPP
Bennet & Williams	Review of Studies	Yes	Ongoing assessments of participants, program evaluation and accountability, community partnerships
Babcock	Meta-Analysis Studies	Undetermined	N/A
Shepard, Falk et al.	Study of DAIP	Yes	Court mandated referral, use of danger assessments
Gregory & Erez	Longitudinal Study of Survivors	Yes	Incorporating victim perspectives and experiences
Jackson et al.	Evaluation of two Studies	Yes	Longer length of program
Saunders & Hamill	Evaluation of Research	Yes	Incorporating culturally competent interventions, system-wide collaborative coordination
Hendricks, Werner et al.	Longitudinal Study	Yes	Follow-up after completion of program
Silvergleid & Mankowski	Study of BIPP Facilitators and Participants	Yes	Facilitator ability and skill, group dynamics, group exercises
Bennet, Stoops et al.	Study of Batterer Intervention Programs	Yes	Program completion, efforts to engage participants after completion
MacLeod, Pi et al.	Study of California Jurisdictions	Yes	Length of program, individuals characteristics of participants
Klein	Review of Research	Yes	Focus on prevention of re-abuse, longer in length, program compliance and monitoring
Gondolf	Various Longitudinal Studies	Yes	Comprehensive coordinated response, better case management and effective risk assessment during intake

Effective Methods of Delivery

While studies specifically addressing the effectiveness of BIPPs are vital to our work, reviewing general criteria for effective treatment for offenders can also provide insight about BIPPs and their effectiveness. By comparing Texas BIPP Accreditation Guidelines and research conducted about

effective treatment by Dr. Edward Latessa, we can determine if these guidelines promote effective programming and treatment to batterers participating in BIPPs.

Other methods to defining a successful program are to study methods of delivery and operation. According to Dr. Edward J. Latessa at the Center for Criminal Justice Research University of Cincinnati, the most effective interventions (on any offender) are behavioral. These are interventions that focus on current factors that influence behavior, are action-oriented and reinforce appropriate behavior. Battering Intervention and Prevention Programs in Texas provide behavioral and cognitive methods of intervention by focusing on the specific actions undertaken by the batterer. BIPP Accreditation Guidelines state that BIPPs will use “an approach that assigns responsibility for violence solely to batterers, clarifies that family violence is not provoked, and provides a strategy for assisting batterers in taking responsibility for the violence and abuse.”

BIPP facilitators challenge factors that influence the batterers’ behavior through various methods and are action oriented. BIPP Accreditation Guidelines state that BIPPs “will use content that teaches effective communication skills, listen with empathy, are designed to explain negotiation and conflict resolution skills, and develop strategies for helping batterers develop a non-violent support system.”

Moreover, Latessa states structured social learning, where new skills and behaviors are modeled, make the most effective behavioral models. Social learning refers to several processes through which individuals acquire attitudes, behavior, or knowledge from the person around them. Both modeling and instrumental conditioning appear to play a role in social learning.

BIPP Accreditation Guidelines state that, “Programs should offer services in which the primary approach is direct intervention with batterers in a group format that holds batterers accountable for their abusive behavior.” This group format allows participants to learn from each other and keep each other accountable.

Ineffective Approaches

Latessa also concludes there are various methods of ineffective approaches that should not be used when working with offenders.

These methods include:

- Programs that cannot maintain integrity
- Programs focused on fear and other emotional appeals
- Shaming offenders
- Non-directive, client programs
- Freudian approaches
- Psychotherapy
- Self-help programs
- Vague, unstructured rehabilitation programs
- “Punishing smarter” (boot camps, scared straight, etc.)

Edward J. Latessa received his Ph.D. from the Ohio State University in 1979 and is a Professor and Head of the School of Criminal Justice at the University of Cincinnati. Dr. Latessa has published more than 110 works in the area of criminal justice, corrections, and juvenile justice. He is co-author of seven books including Corrections in the Community, and Corrections in America. Latessa has directed more than one hundred funded research projects, including studies of day reporting centers, juvenile justice programs, drug courts, intensive supervision programs, halfway houses, and drug programs. He and his staff have also assessed more than 550 correctional programs throughout the United States, and he has provided assistance and workshops in more than forty states.

Coordinated Community Response

Commonly referred to as CCR, this is an integral part of your success and should be a daily focus. CCR can be a resolution to the haphazard systematic response to family violence. CCR brings criminal justice personnel, family violence advocates and BIPPs together, as well as other community members. Historically, these efforts have led to pro-arrest policies, victim-oriented prosecution, judicial oversight of offenders, probation monitoring, and coordination with victim services.

Building relationships within your community can help your program with receiving referrals, holding batterers accountable, ensuring compliance, advocating for survivors, assessing risk and raising funds.

This diagram shows the different entities that family violence and BIP programs should strive to coordinate efforts with.



Adapted by TCFV from DAIP

Here are a few examples of what each entity can do:

Health Care System

- ❖ Develop and utilize safe and effective methods of identification of family violence
- ❖ Provide referral, education, and support services to victims and their children
- ❖ Utilize accountable documentation and reporting protocols for family violence
- ❖ Devote a percentage of training equitable to family violence cases handled

Justice System

- ❖ Utilize methods of intervention that do not rely on victims involvement
- ❖ Vigorously enforce batterers' compliance and protect victim and children's safety
- ❖ Provide easily accessible and enforceable protection orders

Education System

- ❖ Support and educate teachers to recognize and respond to symptoms of family violence
- ❖ Teach violence prevention, conflict resolution and communication skills
- ❖ Teach that it is the civic duty of all citizens to oppose oppression and to support those who are oppressed

Clergy

- ❖ Speak out against family violence
- ❖ Routinely assess for family violence in premarital and pastoral counseling
- ❖ Oppose the use of biblical or theological justification for family violence

Media

- ❖ Educate about the dynamics and consequence of family violence, not glorify it
- ❖ Cease labeling family violence as "love gone sour" or "a lover's quarrel"
- ❖ Devote an equitable portion of media to women and children's needs

Employers

- ❖ Intervene against stalkers in the workplace
- ❖ Safeguard victims' employment and careers by providing flexible work schedules and enlightened personnel policies
- ❖ Provide available resources to support and advocate for victims

Government

- ❖ Enact laws which provide courts with progressive consequences in sentencing
- ❖ Adequately fund victims' services and violence prevention
- ❖ Commute sentences of victims of family violence who kill in self-defense

Social Service Providers

- ❖ Design and deliver services which are responsive to victims and children's needs
- ❖ Utilize methods to help identify family violence

-
- ❖ Require staff to receive training on etiology and dynamics of family violence

BIPP staff should foster relationships that are already in place, as well as work diligently to create new ones. The end result of coordinated community responses that are well maintained are:



Effective Supervision for BIPP Staff

Supervision of staff

For facilitators (those who provide direct services in a group setting) who work directly with batterers, supervision is extremely important and must be conducted face-to-face. Supervision is a critical part of holding facilitators accountable and ensuring compliance with Texas BIPP Accreditation Guidelines.

Coordinators, those who manage the administrative side of BIPP and monitor facilitators, should discuss crisis cases, cases outside the norm, as well as any issues centering on intake, individual counseling, facilitation, and/or personal conflicts with their facilitators. Coordinators should monitor and support facilitators in continuing their education on family violence and related issues, encourage personal and professional growth of facilitators, and address conflict between staff.

BIPP Accreditation Guideline #4: Service providers who work directly with batterers and/or supervise those who work with batterers must document adherence to the BIPP Accreditation Guidelines. A minimum of one hour of supervision must be documented once every four weeks. Supervision should include, but is not limited to, peer supervision group debriefing, discussion of ethical dilemmas, victim/partner safety planning, batterers' goal revisions and group observation and/or feedback. Group observation and/or feedback shall not account for more than 50% of the supervision requirement.

Delivery of Supervision

Coordinators must decide what type of supervision works best. When making this decision, consider the goals of your supervision.

Supervision of Facilitators in Group Sessions

This method can create a sense of community and team environment. Speaking to peers is an important tool in avoiding staff burnout, in broadening perspective and in providing effective client service. Staff members may learn from each other, however, others may avoid raising difficult issues within the group setting.

Individual supervision

This method can provide a greater sense of confidentiality which encourages facilitators to be more open with their concerns and issues.

It is up to each program to create their own system for documentation of supervision. Guideline four of the BIPP Accreditation Guidelines states that a minimum of one hour must be documented every four weeks.

Supervision Styles

In 1939, Karl Lewin led a group of researchers to identify different types of supervision styles. His study has been very influential and has identified three different styles of leadership. Below are descriptions of each.

Authoritarian	Participative	Delegative
Tell staff what you want done and how	Offer staff guidance, participate with and allow input	Offer little or no guidance
No input from staff members	Encourage staff to participate but retain final say over decisions	Decision-making left up to staff
Clear definition between leader and follower	Staff feels engaged and motivated	Staff able to analyze situations and determine how to solve them

A good leader will use all three styles of supervision and will be able to determine which to use based on the situation and their team. Consider what has worked for you in the past, what didn't work, the needs of your staff and how you want them to view you. Use the answers to these questions to determine what type of supervision style is most appropriate for individual situations.

Supervision for Coordinators

Coordinators (those who manage daily operations and supervise facilitators) of programs and accredited individual providers can provide each other peer-to-peer supervision in-person or by phone. Coordinators or supervisors must document at least one hour every four weeks.

Collusion

Collusion is a term used frequently to describe any act that discounts, condones, or ignores any of the tactics that batterers use to maintain power and control over their partner. Facilitators of group sessions may “unintentionally” collude with batterers by simply nodding while participants blame their partners for the abuse.

Collusion can have disastrous effects for victims. This practice makes batterers more powerful by reinforcing their beliefs and use of abusive and violent tactics as a means of gaining power and control. By condoning this behavior, facilitators will result batterers feeling supported in their abuse and prevents the batterer from being held accountable.

Examples of Collusion

1. Attributing family violence to an anger management problem. Facilitators who believe or agree with participants who state “I lost control” or “I can’t control my anger when I’m around my wife” are participating in collusion. Family violence is a choice and batterers choose to be abusive to their partners. Batterers typically do not have an issue controlling their anger around law enforcement, employers or while waiting at a red light.
2. The victim instigated the abuse. Battering Intervention and Prevention Programs are about the batterer. The focus of the group and the facilitator should be the batterer’s actions, thoughts and beliefs. Frequently participants will state “she was asking for it by screaming at me.” Facilitators should emphasize no one wants to be abused, nor do they deserve it. There are other choices the batterer could have made besides being abusive. When batterers focus in on the actions of their partner, facilitators must confront the victim blaming and challenge the participant to only speak about his own behavior and choices.
3. Substance abuse caused the abuse. While there is a relationship between substance abuse and family violence, it is not the cause. Chances are, batterers have been abusive without being under the influence. It is important for facilitators to remind batterers that physical violence is not the only form of abuse and challenge participants to realize they used other tactics of power and control when sober. These tactics often cause just as much harm and destruction as physical violence.
4. The batterer seems like a nice person. One of the greatest tools a batterer has is his charm. Batterers are masters at manipulation and often will employ this tactic within the group session to win over other group members and possibly the facilitator. Facilitators must maintain appropriate, and ethical, boundaries with batterers and keep interaction

professional. The role of the facilitator is not to become friends with batterers; it is to hold batterers accountable for the actions and beliefs that brought them to program.

5. The batterer seems apologetic. The batterer may feel bad or guilty for the abuse, but chances are he is sorry the abusive behavior brought him to group or had legal ramifications. The best way for batterers to show they regret their behavior is to not employ abusive tactics to control their partner. Facilitators must challenge not just the abusive behavior but the beliefs that led to the behavior in order for there to be an honest feeling of regret and desire to change.

Accountability

The best way to avoid collusion as a BIPP facilitator is to uphold professional and personal boundaries and to hold batterers accountable for their violence.

The term “accountability” is used to describe the action of taking responsibility for past and present actions and making changes to correct mistakes. When batterers are held accountable for abusive behaviors, their tactics of denial, justification, minimization, victim blaming and rationalization become obsolete.

Example:

During group on Wednesday night, Batterer A states, “She started yelling at me and pushing my buttons. I had a few beers that night and she got me really pissed. So, I just pushed her. Not hard, just a little push. Then, she tripped over the rug, fell down and hit her head on the edge of the coffee table and now she’s gotten herself put in the hospital.”

This is a clear example of batterers not taking a responsibility for their abuse and the harm that it does to others. As the BIPP facilitator of Batterer A’s group, there are many pieces of his statement that you need to confront. For example:


1. “She started yelling at me and pushing my buttons.” As a facilitator, you need to address that these are *his* buttons that *he* created.
2. “I had a few beers that night and she got me really pissed.” You demonstrate to Batterer A that he chose to get angry, that she did not force that on him. You might ask him what other options he had other than getting angry.
3. “So, I just pushed her. Not hard, just a little push.” A facilitator should recognize the word “just” as a minimizing tactic as well as “not hard.” Ask Batterer A to not use terms like this when describing his abusive actions.
4. “She tripped over the rug, fell down and hit her head on the edge.....” This whole sentence shifts the blame from Batterer A to the victim and implies that if she hadn’t tripped then she would not be in the hospital. Your role is to point out that if he hadn’t pushed her, she wouldn’t be in the hospital.

Collusion and accountability go hand in hand. If facilitators do not hold batterers accountable for minimizing, denying, blaming, justifying and rationalizing abusive behaviors they are colluding with batterers.

Marketing your Battering Intervention and Prevention Program

Marketing your BIPP is an important, but often dismissed, responsibility of new and existing BIPP staff members. It is imperative to recognize the value of marketing your program. One of your first tasks as BIPP staff should be to outline a marketing strategy that is specific to your community. Here are some suggested steps:

1. Identify the unique features of your program.
What sets you apart from the rest?
2. Identify key players in your community. Consider where your referrals may come from. This may include, but is not limited to: probation, parole, district attorney, judges, CPS, community colleges, school districts, family violence programs, counselors, religious institutions, large employers, and other non-profits within the community.
3. Develop marketing materials. This could include anything from talking points, presentations and brochures, depending on your budget.
4. Determine your method of contact. Identify how to best reach your identified referral sources. Start making calls and appointments. It is imperative to meet as many people face-to-face as possible. For example, consider your district attorney. You may attempt a direct call to the district attorney. It could be a challenge to speak to the DA. You may need to attempt contact with one of the other attorneys working in the office or another staff member. Offer to conduct training for the staff on family violence dynamics and your program, bring in breakfast with a five minute presentation or have an information session during lunch.
5. Do not give up if your first contact does not go through. People are busy but you need to keep trying.
6. Follow up. Foster the relationships you build. Recognize the work your collaborators do. Drop by with brochures. Personally invite those you have had contact with, or are trying to make contact with, to trainings in your community. Offer to give free trainings to your community partners.
7. Join and attend local community boards, task forces or committees. If there is not a domestic violence task force in your community, start one. Attend community health fairs. Drop your brochures off at local businesses. Promote, participate in and hold domestic violence awareness month activities.



What is Marketing?
**Promoting, selling and
distributing a product or service.**



Marketing, promoting the visibility of your program, and fostering your community partnerships **MUST** be an ongoing, even daily, activity.

BIPP Accreditation Guidelines

As stated before, the guidelines are a set of standards that all providers must operate by in order to receive referrals from the criminal justice system. One thing to keep in mind is that these are *minimum* standards. For instance, Guideline #12 states:

“BIPP programs consist of assessment (intake) and orientation and at least 36 hours of group sessions in a minimum of 18 weekly sessions, not to exceed one session per week. Breaks, assessment (intake) and orientation are not to be included towards the 36 hours.”

This means your group sessions can go beyond the 36 hours or beyond the 18 weekly sessions. But, you must meet the 36 hour and 18 week requirement.

Another example is Guideline #32:

“Programs or providers shall offer training to law enforcement, prosecutors, judges, probation officers, and others on the dynamics of family violence, program options, and program activities. Programs or providers shall document trainings and efforts to provide training on an annual basis.”

You may offer or provide trainings more than once a year.

The BIPP Accreditation Guidelines offer you flexibility as long as you can document and show that your program complies with the minimum standards set forth. You may wish to contact other providers and programs to share best practices. TCFV also offers assistance and may be able to provide examples of forms and documents.

For accreditation application materials please visit <http://www.tdcj.state.tx.us/cjad/cjad-bipp.html>. You will find the application for accreditation, BIPP Accreditation Guidelines and a more detailed description of the accreditation process.

For technical assistance you may contact TCFV at 1.800.525.1978 or visit <http://www.tcfv.org/support-to-service-providers/bipp-accreditation/>. On this website you will find the accreditation application materials, training information and tools that may assist in development of your policy, a procedure manual and ongoing compliance with guidelines.

Navigating the Texas Criminal Justice System

All BIPP staff should be aware of how the criminal justice system works for many reasons.

- ❖ Most of your participants are referred to your program by the criminal justice system.
- ❖ BIPP staff may have to write reports or testify in court.
- ❖ Batterers can often manipulate the system.
- ❖ The criminal justice system may not be victim sensitive.
- ❖ BIPP staff members are a part of the local coordinated community response to family violence.
- ❖ BIPP staff may need to educate batterers and victims on the criminal justice system. Please note that you are NEVER to give legal advice unless you are an attorney willing to serve in that capacity.
- ❖ BIPP staff must understand the benefits and risks to victims in accessing the legal system. Victims often fear for the safety of themselves and their children.

Here are brief descriptions of components of the criminal justice system that BIPPs interact with:

Criminal Family Violence

Most types of family violence are not criminal. It is estimated that only 10% of criminal family violence is reported. When violence is reported, most are charged as misdemeanors. These factors may keep victims from reporting the violence and keep batterers from being held accountable.

Victims are often fearful and/or distrustful of the legal system and have difficulty accessing services. Victims often fear for their safety or that of their children. They tend to have limited access to financial resources, support networks and legal assistance. Victims may fear that involvement in the legal system could lead to deportation, criminal charges, losing custody of their children or other negative effects. Victims may feel they may not be taken seriously due to history of not cooperating, drug or alcohol abuse, mental health issues, undocumented status or criminal record. Victims who witness the criminal justice system failing to hold batterers accountable are less likely to report abuse in the future.

Criminal Law vs. Civil Law

Criminal law is the body of statutory and common law that deals with crime and the legal punishment of criminal offenses. It is initiated by the state and, typically, victims are witnesses for the state. The defendant has the right to appointed council and the timeline for prosecution is set by the court. Typically, penalties are immediate after conviction through the penal system.

Civil law handles disputes between individuals, organizations, or between the two, in which compensation is awarded to the victim. The purpose of civil law is the redress of wrongs by

compelling compensation or restitution: the wrongdoer only suffers so much harm as is necessary to make good the wrong he has done.

District Attorney

District Attorneys are responsible for prosecuting felonies in their districts, which are created legislatively and may include more than one county.

County Attorney

County Attorneys normally only prosecute misdemeanors within their respective county. Legislature may alter the duties and give the county attorney the responsibility of prosecuting both felonies and misdemeanors in the county.

Texas Department of Criminal Justice-Community Justice Assistance Division

The Texas Department of Criminal Justice division is responsible for administering and partially funding adult community supervision (formerly known as adult probation). TDCJ-CJAD also trains and certifies community supervision officers. The mission of the TDCJ-CJAD is to help Texas communities protect the public, help rehabilitate offenders and serve the victims of those offenders.

Community Supervision and Corrections Department

Placement of an offender under supervision for a specified length of time, as ordered by a court, has court-imposed rules and conditions. Community supervision (formerly called adult probation) may be ordered for misdemeanor or felony offenses and is generally imposed instead of a jail or prison sentence. The majority of your participant referrals will come from this entity.

Parole

The conditional release of offenders from prison, by the Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles' decision, requires offenders to serve the remainder of their sentence under supervision in the community.

Deferred Adjudication

Deferred adjudication is a type of community supervision. If the conditions of supervision are met for the time period set by the court the charge will be dismissed and no record of conviction is made. However, the records of the arrest, prosecution and community supervision are not expunged as a result of the dismissal.

Magistrate's Order for Protection

Magistrate's Order for Emergency Protection (MOEP) is mandatory if the offense involves serious bodily injury or the use/exhibition of a deadly weapon during the assault. MOEP are issued at the batterer's initial court appearance at which bond is set and can be requested by victims, guardians of the victim, peace officers, prosecutors or magistrates on their own motion. *Victims do not need to be present for issuance. Orders can be issued for up to 91 days* depending on the facts of the offense.

Protective Orders

Protective orders, an example of a civil case, can be requested through the District or County Attorney and are available to victims of family violence, intimate partner stalking, dating violence and sexual assault. They can order batterers (respondents) to keep distance from a victim's home, workplace, school, or day care, and can limit communication by the batterer. Respondents are prohibited from possessing a firearm. There are 2 types of protective orders:

- ❖ Temporary Ex Parte Protective Orders (TExPO): Issued by the court at the time an application for a final protective order is filed. These are based on the applicant's affidavit and any corroborating evidence. *These can be filed in the county in which the victim OR the batterer lives. TExPOs last up to 20 days and can be extended for additional 20 day periods at the applicants request or the court's initiative.* These orders are criminally enforceable after being personally served to the respondent.
- ❖ Final Protective Order: A hearing is set for both parties. *These may be granted for two years for family violence and may be granted permanently for sexual assault.* Mutual protective orders cannot be granted unless a separate petition is filed by the batterer.

Respondents are solely responsible for upholding the protective order, not victims. Victims hold the responsibility to use the protective order as a tool for safety. Violations should be reported to the police immediately. A violation of a protective order could lead to criminal consequences such as bond revocation and additional criminal charges, contempt of court and fines. Violation of a protective order (first offense) is a class A misdemeanor or a 3rd degree felony (2nd offense).

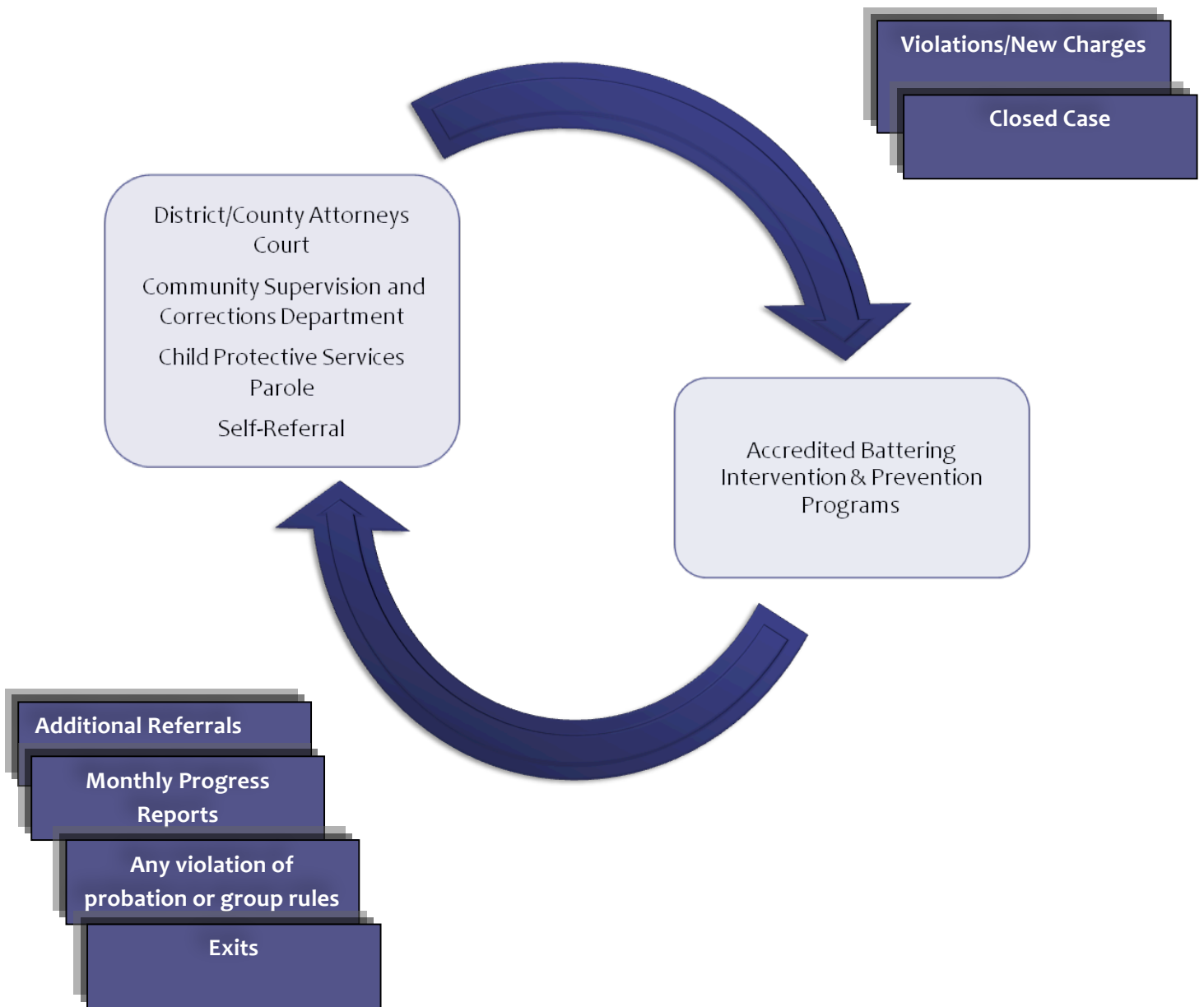
Full Faith and Credit

In addition to enforcing protective orders issued within Texas, law enforcement agencies and state courts are required to recognize orders issued in another state or jurisdiction. The full faith and credit provisions of the 1994 Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) require that every temporary or final injunction, protective order or restraining order properly issued by a state court be given full faith and credit by courts in every other state.

Referral Process

It is important that you understand how your referral process works and what responsibilities you and the referral source have to one another. The first responsibility you have is to communicate the progress of your participant and inform the referral source of any known violations and/or exits from the program. How you do this is up to you and the referral source as long as you follow the minimum standards put in place by the accreditation guidelines. Your relationship with those who refer participants to your program is essential to your success. It will be extremely important for you to listen to their needs and communicate your needs as well. Finding a system in which both you and the referral can meet each others' needs may be difficult but worth the effort.

BIPP AND THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM



Looking Forward

While questions have been raised about whether criminal justice intervention in family violence cases is always the safest for survivors, some programs have started to look outside the judicial system. Prevention initiatives are becoming more popular in the BIPP community. Prevention delivers a strong message for social change. Prevention is comprehensive, community-driven, and community specific. It builds long-term solutions and focuses on preventing violence before it occurs. Prevention asks why society is faced with family violence in the first place, identifies and works to reduce risk factors and identifies protective factors which promote healthy relationships and seeks partners in the community who bring new information, new influence, new experience, new insight and potential. **This includes you, your program and the work you do.**

Examples of Prevention Efforts in Texas

SafePlace, Austin – Expect Respect

The Expect Respect curriculum is 24 sessions and is facilitated by SafePlace staff, a family violence shelter. The groups are offered in middle and high school to boys and girls who are identified by school personnel as people who are either experiencing or exhibiting different forms of violence.

Center Against Family Violence (CAFV), El Paso - Healthy Relationship Outreach (HeRO), Teen Intervention and Prevention Program (TIPP)

HeRO is a four-hour training designed for law enforcement and those in high-risk occupations to prevent and reduce family violence. The training defines tools to create healthy environments. These tools allow attendees to recognize levels of violence between the work and home environment. TIPP is designed for adolescents to focus on issues that are normally rooted in unhealthy family dynamics. The program requires participation by both the teen and their parents. CAFV also holds workshops for the community to educate citizens about the domestic violence movement and its goals.

New Beginnings Center, Garland – Adolescent Violence Intervention (AVI)

AVI is an eight-week series for juvenile boys who are on probation for violent offenses. This program partners with the Rockwall Juvenile Probation Department and brings educated facilitators to work with juveniles who are exhibiting violent tendencies. The facilitators teach the juveniles how to control their behavior and choose to lead a non-violent lifestyle.

Women’s Shelter of South Texas, Corpus Christi

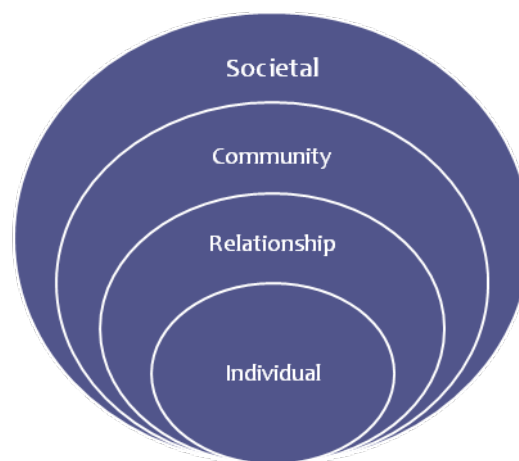
The program is engaged in a 12-county wide educational campaign on dating violence and is training adults, who work with teens, the importance of primary prevention work and how to do it. The staff is implementing a modified version of Canada’s White Ribbon Campaign curriculum in middle schools throughout their region. They also provide trainings to youth on “sexting” and the legal ramifications associated with it.

The Family Place, Dallas – BRAVE (Boys Rising Against Violence Everyday)

The Adolescent Non-Violence Project provides intervention and prevention for young men who are displaying threatening, coercive and violent behaviors toward a family member or partner in a dating relationship. This program offers 12 weekly 75 minute sessions for boys ages 11-17. The goals of the program include: end physical violence and stop all abusive tactics, improve self-esteem, respect others, take responsibility for own behavior and learn to express anger and respond appropriate to others without using violence or intimidation.

Social Ecological Model of Prevention

The most common model for prevention addresses these four components:



Individual Level

Prevention strategies at this level are often designed to promote attitudes, beliefs, and behaviors that support intimate partnerships based on mutual respect, equality, and trust.

Relationship Level

Prevention strategies at this level may include education and peer programs designed to promote intimate partnerships based on mutual respect, equality, and trust.

Community Level

Prevention strategies at this level are typically designed to impact the climate, processes and policies in a given system. Social norm and social marketing campaigns are often used to foster community climates that promote intimate partnerships based on mutual respect, equality, and trust.

Societal Level

Prevention strategies at this level typically involve collaborations by multiple partners to promote social norms, policies, and laws that support gender equity and foster intimate partnerships based on mutual respect, equality, and trust.

Frequently Asked Questions

What type of curricula should I use?

There are many published curricula available. Some of the most common are Duluth, Emerge and Stopping the Violence. Some programs create their own. Many programs in Texas have done so. You have the flexibility to use, mold or create a curriculum that fits your program and community's needs. Keep in mind that whatever you use must be approved by TDCJ-CJAD and include topics from Guideline #17 of the BIPP Accreditation Guidelines.

Should we accept women into BIPP?

This is up to the individual program. Groups and individual services provided for female batterers are not accredited at this time but many programs and providers facilitate groups for women. Women can be batterers too, but it is especially important during your intake to ensure she is attending the group of her own accord and that she has not been forced to come by an abusive partner. You may choose to use an existing curriculum and adapt it to account for unique differences in female batterers or you may create your own.

Are there other populations I should serve?

This is up to each individual program and provider. When developing your groups, it is important to access the population you serve and your community. Many programs develop groups specifically for parolees, LGBTQ (lesbian, bisexual, gay, transgender and questioning), disabilities, low literacy, and culture or language specific populations. It is important to educate yourself and understand you will need to adapt your curricula to fit the needs specific to your group.

Guideline #24 of the BIPP Accreditation Guidelines states that you have the obligation to “provide services in a manner that batterers can understand.” The best practice for all programs and providers is to make a “reasonable attempt” to provide services in the participant’s primary language. It is up to you to determine what “reasonable attempt” means to your program. If you are unable to provide services in the participant’s primary language you should refer the participant back to the referral source. You will find resources specific to working with these populations at www.tcfv.org or you can call the TCFV Resource Center at 800.525.1975.

What do I do if I don't think a referred person is appropriate for BIPP services?

If, during your intake or orientation session, you feel that someone has been referred inappropriately to your group, you should refer them back to the original referral source with your recommendation. Programs and providers may be tempted to enroll each person sent to the program but if a participant is inappropriate it can be detrimental to the progress of other participants who are appropriate for BIPP. You should evaluate mental health, substance abuse and the reason why they were sent to the program to ensure appropriateness. If you continue to receive inappropriate referrals, this could be sign that training is needed to inform referral sources what BIPP is and who is appropriate. Guideline #20 of the BIPP Accreditation Guideline speaks to this issue further.

What are the differences between BIPP, anger management and couples counseling?

Anger management treats anger as the root cause of violent behavior. This diffuses responsibility and perpetuates batterers' excuses of anger, low self-esteem, poor impulse control, stress, mental health problems, substance abuse and blaming of the victim. Anger management is often dangerous as a primary intervention for rehabilitation of family violence offenders.

Couples counseling sets the stage for a potentially dangerous situation for victims of family violence. Typically, in couples counseling, both parties are seen as equally responsible and the batterer may not be held accountable. Victims of family violence may not be honest during the sessions for fear of retaliation or their responses may be rehearsed or manipulated by batterers.

BIPP treats anger as a symptom, not a cause of violence. In BIPP, victim blaming is not allowed and batterers are taught that family violence is a choice. Batterers are held accountable for their abusive and controlling behaviors. Participants are taught a non-violent lifestyle and learn tools to resolve conflict and cope with stress. In BIPP, victim safety is the first priority.

If a participant is self-referred, do I still need to contact his victim/partner?

Yes. Every participant must sign a "consent for release of information" which permits information to be released to victims regarding when batterers enter and exit the program and information on program length and requirements.

How much should I charge for BIPP services?

The cost of BIPP services vary throughout the state. Fees range from \$10 to \$30 per session. Some programs also charge a higher fee for the intake (or assessment) session. Programs and providers are encouraged to develop a sliding fee scale but are not required to do so.

When do I start sending progress reports to referral sources?

Programs and providers must send progress reports to all referral sources each month after intake or assessment. You should keep copies of progress reports in batterers' files. If a batterer is self-referred, you need not send a progress report but must document the batterer is a self-referral.

What if, during intake, I notice the participant needs substance abuse/mental health treatment in addition to BIPP?

It is not uncommon for batterers to have an issue with substance abuse or mental health. While it does not cause abusive behaviors, it may be a factor that gets in the way of other interventions. Depending on severity, treatment for other issues may need to happen before batterers are able to fully participate in BIPP and contribute to their success.

What if I am not able to obtain a "Cooperative Working Agreement" from a shelter or non-residential center?

In Section IV: Best Practices of the BIPP Accreditation Guidelines, it states that programs or providers should establish and document coordination of activities with local family violence shelter centers and family violence non-residential centers. This is very important to the safety of victims of family violence and should be a high priority of yours. If you are not able to obtain a “cooperative working agreement” you need to document your efforts.

Where can I find trainings for BIPP to fulfill the initial training and staff development requirements?

Many conferences and training opportunities are offered throughout the state and nationwide and may be used towards fulfilling the initial training and staff development requirements. You are encouraged to visit the TCFV, and TDCJ-CJAD, websites for a list of upcoming trainings, coordinate with your local family violence center, criminal justice, community entities and join mail or email lists that inform your program of upcoming trainings. If you are unsure of TDCJ-CJAD approval, please contact their office.

How often will I be audited and by whom?

For TDCJ-CJAD funded BIP programs, you will be audited once every two years by TCFV. If you are not receiving funds from TDCJ-CJAD, you will be audited after receiving probationary accreditation, and prior to receiving your permanent accreditation, status by TDCJ-CJAD. You may also be audited when applying for accreditation renewal.

What is the audit process?

There are two types of audits. An audit for funding purposes is only applicable to programs that receive funding from TDCJ-CJAD. This audit process, conducted by TCFV, typically takes two to three days depending on the size of your program. Auditors will review personnel and participant files (current and past) among other program documentation. Auditors will also observe at least one group session. The second type of audit is for programs seeking accreditation or renewing their accreditation. TDCJ-CJAD or TCFV may review policies and procedures, participant and personnel file and observe at least one group session.

Participants' Experience

One of the most compelling pieces of evidence of program effectiveness is the impact it has on batterers. Texas Council on Family Violence received letters from current and past participants of BIP programs in Texas.

“I’ve regretted being violent with my wife since the day it happened. I’ve regretted putting my family through so much trauma and distress and I’ve wanted to do whatever I could to help prevent it from ever happening again. I wanted to change myself and any destructive tendencies that lurked inside me. That’s the key for me... change. (The BIPP program) has helped me a lot more than I expected it to. The class structure is very conducive to openness and honesty. We all sat in a circle and shared our experiences with each other and developed a special camaraderie between us. Dishonesty, denial, blaming or vagueness was quickly called out in the group. We had all been in similar situations and knew when one of us was being less than truthful. Fortunately, most of us were able to work through our fear and pride to get to the heart of the matter. For a long time I felt that I was the one who had been wronged and that I had just reacted to that with violence. I felt that my actions were sort of justified. Once I really took responsibility for my actions, however, I was able to realize that no one made me do anything. **I chose my actions and I alone am responsible for them regardless of what anybody else did.**”

* * *

“I came with no hope for change because I felt my problem was due to my temper, something that I had inherited and could not control. (I believed) I was not responsible for my actions because I was out of control due to my anger; that the other person’s input into the conflict is also responsible for my bad behavior; that I am entitled to controlling the other person’s words, thoughts and behavior because I make the money. I know that these rationalizations are false because I never lose emotional control at my place of work. This leads me to believe that I am not out of control when I lose my temper; rather I have chosen to go out of control in order to control the situation. (The BIPP Program) has given me the desire to think and rethink and accept and know the following to be true:

- ✓ I choose to act out of control.
- ✓ I alone am responsible for my actions and how I react to situations or events.
- ✓ I cannot control other peoples’ feelings, words, actions, reactions and I do not have the right to try to.
- ✓ Other peoples’ feelings, words, actions, reactions are not the cause of my acting out of control; rather it is my choice to act out of control in order to control the situation.
- ✓ Acting out of control is inexcusable, period.
- ✓ I deeply regret my actions and am horrified by them.
- ✓ Stress or any other outside factors are not responsible for me acting out of control. I chose to do so in order to control the situation.
- ✓ I am not entitled to (my partner) or my children’s forgiveness.

I have chosen (in the past) to let my temper rule over me. Knowing this gives me hope and a plan for behavior change.”

“Through the Battering Intervention & Prevention Program I have learned the fundamentals of living a non-violent lifestyle. With the help of my group and its facilitator, I’m now on the path to break the cycle of domestic abuse. **I’m deeply thankful to the BIPP program for helping me recognize and change the abusive behavior that once plagued my life and those that surrounded me.** The tools provided by BIPP have taught me to be accountable for my actions and responsible for the outcome of my future.”

* * *

“Having been in this program the last eighteen weeks, and being involved with others in my class has been a good experience for me. Although at first not knowing what to expect, but desiring to know and learn about myself and abuse, both violent and non-violent, the knowledge and understanding I received through these classes about this behavioral problem, along with the interaction and life stories of my classmates, helped me to recognize and identify myself and my life of violence and abuse. The result of this knowledge, awareness and the interaction has helped me to change my ideals, not only about my specific abusive situation that brought me here, and the people involved, my ex-wife and my daughters, but a change in my ideals that can be used in relationships with all people and life. **I have fully accepted the responsibility for my behavior for which I realize I had the power of choice to control.** As we sat at the park some weeks ago, I had the privilege of sitting with my daughters and talking earnestly with them about that prior incident, and how it affected me and them as well. I talked to them about the knowledge and understanding I have received in these classes and the evidence of the change that learning has made in my life. Also, I talked about my plan and goal to continue to live a non-violent and non-abusive life, and how I pledge to help others to do the same. I told them how deeply sorry I was for what I did, that it was not a good thing to do, and I asked for their forgiveness. My plan for a life of non-violence and abuse is simply to continue using the information I have received by practicing it and impressing it on others, so that they will have an awareness that will lead them to a life change of non-violence and abuse. I will continue to focus on identifying and recognizing my anger points, choosing to remain calm, knowing when to take a time out, seeking compromise in an unfair situation, dealing fairly and justly with others, and taking responsibility for my actions. My prayer and hope for all participants, beginning with myself, is that we make an asserted effort not only to graduate, but live our changed life to change the lives of everyone we come into contact with, to an awareness of what violence and abuse is, and help them to make the change.”

While not all participants will walk away from BIPP with such profound experiences as written above, we can hope that as their learning continues so does their non-violence. BIP programs are instrumental in starting batterers on that path and should have confidence that, if challenged and held accountable, they are being given the tools to incorporate non-violence into their daily lives and relationships.

BIPP Online Resources

BIPP Curricula and Publications

EMERGE – www.emergedv.com

The Duluth Model – www.theduluthmodel.org

Stopping The Violence – www.angerresources.org

Jeffery Edleson - <http://www.tc.umn.edu/~jedleson/>

David B. Wexler - <https://www.rtiprojects.org/store.html>

Batterer Intervention: Program Approaches and Criminal Justice Strategies -
<http://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles/168638.pdf>

The Self-Evaluation Tool for Batterers Intervention Programs -
<http://www.odvn.org/PDFs/BISelfEvaluationTool.pdf>

Batterer Intervention Programs: Where Do We Go From Here? -
<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij/pubs-sum/195079.htm>

General Domestic Violence Information

National Domestic Violence Hotline – www.ndvh.org

Texas Council on Family Violence – www.tcfv.org

National Resource Center on Domestic Violence – www.nrcdv.org

National Coalition Against Domestic Violence – www.ncadv.org

National Network to End Domestic Violence – www.nnedv.org

US Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women – www.ovw.usdoj.gov

Battered Women’s Justice Project – www.bwjp.org

Family Violence Prevention Fund – www.endabuse.org

National Teen Dating Abuse Helpline – www.ntdah.org

National Violence Against Women Prevention Resource Center – www.vawprevention.org

VAWnet – www.vawnet.org

Amnesty International - Stop Violence Against Women - <http://www.amnestyusa.org/violence-against-women/stop-violence-against-women-svaw/page.do?id=1108417>

End Violence Against Women - <http://www.infoforhealth.org/endvaw/>

Minnesota Center Against Violence and Abuse - <http://www.mincava.umn.edu/>

Legal Information

Women’s Law – www.womenslaw.org

American Bar Association Commission on Women – www.abanet.org/domviol/

Legal Momentum – www.legalmomentum.org

National Center on Full Faith and Credit – www.fullfaithandcredit.org

National Crime Victim Bar Association - <http://www.victimbar.org/vb/Main.aspx>

The Texas Court System - <http://www.weblocator.com/attorney/tx/law/co2.html>

Texas Department of Criminal Justice - <http://www.tdcj.state.tx.us/>

Communities of Color

Asian and Pacific Islander Institute on Domestic Violence -

www.apiahf.org/apidvinstitute/default.htm

Asian Task Force Against Domestic Violence – www.atask.org

Institute on Domestic Violence in the African American Community – www.dvinstitute.org

Latino Alliance for the Elimination of Domestic Violence – www.dvalianza.org

Mending the Sacred Hoop Technical Assistance Project – www.msh-ta.org

Sacred Circle: National Resource Center to End Violence Against Native Women –

www.sacred-circle.com

Immigrant Family Violence Institute – www.iistl.org

INCITE! Women of Color Against Violence - <http://www.incite-national.org/>

Women’s Justice Center - <http://www.justicewomen.org/>

Men in the Movement

Men Stopping Violence - <http://www.menstoppingviolence.org>

National Organization for Men Against Sexism – www.nomas.org

White Ribbon Campaign – www.whiteribbon.com

Men’s Initiative for Jane Doe, Inc – www.mijd.org

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transitioning and Questioning (LGBTQ) Community

National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs – www.ncavp.org

Gay Men’s Domestic Violence Project - <http://www.gmdvp.org/>

Community United Against Violence – www.cuav.org

Wing Span Domestic Violence Project - <http://www.wingspan.org/content/WAVP.php>

Diversity Center – www.diversitycentersa.org

Women’s Advocacy Project – www.women-law.org

Men’s Resource Center of South Texas, Inc. – www.mrcofsouthtexas.org

LAMBDA – www.lambda.org

Montrose Counseling Center – www.montrosecounselingcenter.org

BIPP Terminology

Accountable/Accountability: To take and accept responsibility for one's action.

Accreditation: State requirements service providers must meet in order to be accredited in accordance with the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure, Article 42.141.

Accredited: Meeting minimum standards as described in the BIPP Accreditation Guidelines and official recognition as a provider of BIPP services.

Appropriateness: Batterers' suitability to receive direct battering intervention services.

Assessment (Intake): A process conducted by a program or provider to gather information directly from batterers to determine the appropriateness for BIPP services.

Batterer: Individuals/predominately men, who commit repeated acts of abuse, violence, or controlling behavior, or who repeatedly threaten violence against another who is:

1. Related to the batterer by affinity or consanguinity, as determined under Chapter 573, Government Code;
2. Is a former spouse of the batterer;
3. Resides or has resided in the same household with the batterer; or
4. Is or was in a relationship with the batterer.

Battering: Repeated acts of violence or threats of violence against another that includes using coercion, physical and sexual abuse, and stalking.

BIPP: Battering Intervention and Prevention Program.

BIPP Advocacy: Advocating with systems (e.g., criminal justice, public school) for changes in their policies and procedures that will enhance the safety of battered women and provide for the maximum accountability of batterers.

Blame: To place responsibility on someone or something else for abusive behavior. Example: "I was drunk, so it's not my fault." "She pushed me too far."

Collaboration: Working closely with one or more agencies to ensure that policies and procedures of all parties are congruent and maximize victim safety and batterer accountability.

Collusion/Colluding: To take sides with batterers by condoning their abusive behavior, including condoning the behavior by not confronting it.

Confront: To challenge inappropriate statements or actions by batterers.

Court-Mandated Referrals: Referrals made to accredited providers by the courts, including referrals made from the district or county attorney's office.

Denial: Refusal to admit violent behavior by making statements such as: “I didn’t do anything.” “She bruises easily.” “She did it to herself.”

Family Violence (as defined by Texas Family Code § 71.004): An act by a member of a family or household against another member of the family or household that is intended to result in physical harm, bodily injury, assault, or sexual assault or that is a threat that reasonably places the member in fear of imminent physical harm, bodily injury, assault, or sexual assault, but does not include defensive measures to protect oneself.

Family Violence Shelter Center/Family Violence Non-residential Center: A program that is operated by a public or private nonprofit organization and provides comprehensive residential and/or non-residential services to victims of family violence.

Inappropriateness: Not appropriate or suitable to receive direct services.

Intimate Partner Violence: Acts of violence and/or threats of violence against a spouse, significant other, or persons involved in a dating or intimate relationship that includes using coercion, physical and sexual abuse, and stalking.

Justification: An explanation that rationalizes or defends abusive behavior. Statements may include: “She mouthed off to me.” “She was hysterical and I had to slap her to calm her down.” “She’s crazy.”

Male Privilege: An attitude that conveys male dominance and the idea that men are more competent than women. Advantages that society accords to men, whether intentionally or not. This may include making disrespectful jokes, believing stereotypes about women, having the expectation of decision-making responsibility, controlling money and being possessive.

Mandated: A requirement issued by a court or official for a batterer to attend an accredited program.

Minimization: Making light of an action, admitting less than what actually happened or stating an abusive behavior is insignificant. Example: “I just pushed her.” “It didn’t hurt her that bad.”

Movement (Battered Women’s): The roots of the battered women’s movement stem from the Anti-Rape Movement of the 1960’s. The movement was influenced by the Civil Rights Movement, the Anti-War Movement, and the Women’s Movement.

Non-violence: Absence of physical, psychological, economic, sexual, and verbal abuse, as well as threats and stalking.

Offender: See “Batterer.”

Orientation: Any activities conducted with participants to prepare them for group sessions.

Participant: A batterer who has been accepted for participation in a BIPP and has signed program documents agreeing to participate in group activities and follow BIPP requirements.

Program Completion: When a participant meets the minimum criteria for completion of the BIPP as required by these Guidelines as well as any additional criteria required by the program itself.

Program Services: Assessment/Intake, Orientation, Group, and Individual counseling.

Provider: An accredited provider meeting the requirements established by TDCJ-CJAD in consultation with the Texas Council on Family Violence.

Rationalization: To devise self-satisfying but false or inconsistent reasons for abusive behavior. Example: “I pushed her but she tripped and fell down the stairs.”

Safety Planning: A plan for the victim to use in the case of danger or threat from a batterer.

Victim Blaming: A family violence offender holding a victim in whole or in part responsible for their acts of violence.

Victim: A person who has been harmed by violence from a batterer with whom they cohabit or have cohabited with in the past. Can also be a person harmed in a dating or intimate relationship or past dating or intimate relationship.

Victim Contact: Periodic contact between the victim and the BIPP program during the time a batterer is involved with the BIPP.

Victim Notification: Notifying the victim when her batterer enters and exits the BIPP.

Victim Safety: The base of for BIPP philosophy. Must be a priority for BIPP providers and may include offering referrals to family violence programs.

Violence: Physical, psychological, economic, sexual and verbal abuse, threats, and stalking.

Provided by BIPP Accreditation Guidelines, 2009



The mission of Texas Council on Family Violence promotes safe and healthy relationships by supporting service providers, facilitating strategic prevention efforts, and creating opportunities for freedom from domestic violence.

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