Domestic Violence and BIPP: Working with Offenders and Victims

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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.
Dating Violence 71.0021

- An act by an individual that is against another individual with whom that person has or has had a dating relationship and that is intended to result in physical harm, bodily injury, assault or sexual assault, but does not include defensive measures to protect oneself.

- *Dating relationship*: a relationship between individuals who have or have had a continuing relationship of a romantic or intimate nature.
What is Family Violence?

- Family or Domestic Violence
- A pattern of assaultive & coercive behaviors
- Threats and violence are used to maintain power & control
Types of Abusive Behaviors

- Physical Abuse
- Emotional Abuse
- Sexual Abuse
- Financial Abuse
Domestic Violence in Texas

• Over 74% of all Texans have either themselves, a family member and/or friend experienced some form of domestic violence.

• 47% of all Texans report having personally experienced one form of domestic violence; severe, verbal and/or forced isolation from friends and family.

• 31% of all Texans report they have been severely abused. Women report severe abuse at a much higher rate than men.
Domestic Violence Nationwide

• 1 in 3 women report being physically or sexually abused by their husband or boyfriend.

• The leading cause of injury requiring serious medical attention for women ages 18-49.

• 50% of husbands who frequently assault their wives also abuse their children.
Domestic Violence is Deadly

• **Nationwide,** 3 women are murdered by their husbands or boyfriends every day.

• About one third of women murdered each year in this country are killed by an intimate partner.

• Number of US service members killed in Afghanistan and Iraq between 2001 – 2012 = 6,488
  – Number of women (in US) killed by their intimate partner during same time frame = 11,766

• **In Texas:**
  – 132 women were killed in 2014
  – 119 women were killed in 2013
Why don’t they just leave?

- Victims of family violence do leave.
  - Up to 7 -10 times before leaving the abusive relationship
  - Leaving the most dangerous time for victims
- They leave & return many times and for many reasons

- Ask yourself: How easy would it be for you to pack up & leave?

- Why aren’t we asking the question:
  Why doesn’t the batterer stop being abusive?
**Effects on Victim/Survivor**

- Emotional withdrawal and low self esteem
- Denial or minimization of the abuse
- Aggressiveness and anger
- Apprehension, fear, or helplessness
- Anxiety
- Eating or sleeping disorders
- Substance or/and alcohol abuse
- Depression
- Suicide
- Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder.
- Death
BIPP Philosophy

• Theory
• Working Together
• Accreditation
  – September 2009
  – Accreditation Process
  – TCFV’s role in Auditing BIPPs
  – Duration
• BIPP function of CCR
What is BIPP?

– Victim Safety

– Accountability Groups

– Program Focus
BIPP Group Format

- Men’s groups shall NOT include female participants
- Primary approach is direct intervention in a group format that holds batterers accountable for their abusive behavior
- Program components focus on ending violence and holding batterers accountable for their violence
  - Avoid collusion w/ batterers
  - Work towards positive behavioral changes
  - Battering involves choices
What BIPP is not
Anger Management vs. BIPP

• Anger is treated as the cause of violent behavior “My bad temper is a curse”

• Anger management can often be dangerous as a primary intervention for rehabilitation of family violence offenders.
Anger Management vs. BIPP

- BIPP treats anger as a SYMPTOM rather than a cause of violence.

- Offenders are held accountable for violent behavior and taught the fundamentals of leading a nonviolent lifestyle.

- BIPP’s goal is to ensure the safety of battered women and their children.
Couples Counseling

Not recommended:

• Couple viewed equally responsible

• Batterer not held accountable

• Dangerous for victim, later retribution for what is said in counseling

• Victim’s response manipulated/rehearsed at/before counseling sessions
BIPP and Probation: Partnering for Offender Accountability
Working Together: BIPPs and Probation

Accredited look to work collaboratively with the court system:

• Providing thorough perpetrator assessment

• Developing individualized plans for each perpetrator to identify the need for other services such as:
  – Substance abuse
  – Mental health issues
  – Parenting
  – Individual counseling

• Providing ongoing communication of the perpetrators progress
  – Entrance, exit, and monthly progress notes
  – Offering educational workshop for criminal justice agencies
Who is Appropriate for BIPP?

- Have committed family violence; or
- Are on probation or parole for FV offenses; or
- Are respondents of protective orders; or
- Are abusive to their partners in the presence of their children; or
- Acknowledge their violent behavior and have the desire to change
Who is Inappropriate for BIPP?

• Have untreated psychiatric disorders
• Need primary treatment for sexual abuse of a child
• Have untreated substance abuse addictions
When Inappropriate for BIPP

- If batterer is deemed inappropriate for BIPP
  - BIPP may make recommendations for additional services or treatment

- Should be referred back to referral source
Communication

• **Every month**
  – Compliance/attendance reports to referral sources after assessment (intake) is completed.

• **Within (5) working days**
  – Law violations
  – Incidents of physical violence disclosed by batterers
  – Termination
Communication

• Within (5) working days
  – Exit report
    • Only factual information that can be verified
    • Shall state that the participation in or completion of the program does not guarantee the absence of future violence
    • Should not include an evaluation of the “success” of a batterer’s participation in the program
Completion Criteria

• Programs establish criteria for satisfactory completion and provide to the participant & the referral source

• Satisfactory program completion includes all, but not limited to:
  – Completion of orientation & assessment
  – Completion of required # of sessions as directed by the program (At least 18 wks/36 hours)
  – Full payment of fees; and
  – Compliance with program rules
Recommendations to Referral Source

• Individualized Plan
  – Completed w/in (1) month of assessment (intake)
  – Addresses particular needs
  – Can be changed based on changing needs

• Best Practice for BIPP’s:
  – Individualized Plans may include recommendations to referral source for additional interventions
Termination

- Continued abuse; particularly physical violence
- Non-attendance
- Non-compliance with other intervention conditions or provisions that are part of the batterers’ written agreement
- Non-compliance with fee payment
- Violation of program/group rules
- Frequent/continued use of manipulation or disruptive behavior during group sessions
Current State of BIPP in Texas
Accredited and Funded BIPPs in Texas

• There are currently 158 BIPP locations across Texas
  – Still many counties without BIPP services

• There are 25 funded/accredited BIPPs in Texas

• CJAD has a full list of these on their website
  (https://www.tdcj.state.tx.us/divisions/cjad/cjad_bipp.html)
Contact us for more information

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