

Tri-County Batterer Intervention Provider Network Meeting Minutes 8-7-2000

\*These notes developed by D Houston, who is responsible for omissions or errors.

Topic: How to address divorce, visitation and custody issues in group

What do we do with the kernel of truth? What interventions do we use for victim role/victim blaming?

The "system" has it's faults, but Providers can't continue to defend the system without creating opposition. "I don't know the whole situation here. How can you change your behavior from now on?" "How do you respond when your sister is a victim?" "You need to establish yourself as a good parent, despite what her behavior has been." "There is a concrete way to get out of the system. You know what to do." "She's not here to tell her story. What is your place in this story?" "You know how to be a good father. You make yourself available, committed, you will be a father." "Is this issue about being a father, or is it about controlling/dominating your partner?" "Tell us your story without using 'she, he or they'?" "Can you come up with a good reason why she might be doing this?" "What is your assumption about she trying to attack you and that this is a war?"

Balancing the lack of knowledge of the interpersonal history, the social context, the legal aspects, the mother's issues and attitudes.

Countertransference issues!! The hook for the therapist is often related to the emotional connection based on the 'possible exception'" "Life is not always fair."

Restraining Orders are taken out by men @ 25%.

Do we want to add custody issues to our topic base? Is this an individual issue or does it affect most/all clients? Should this be a subset of parenthood and fatherhood? What is the place of playing the victim in the topic discussion? If the potential for abuse/violence is 'open,' what affect does that have on accountability? Does a pattern of abusive control against a partner negate the possibility of acceptable fathering?

Next topic: Batterer Intervention as a Vocation or Social Calling?

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