

Tri-County Batterer Intervention Provider Network Meeting Minutes November 8, 2016

Present: Chris Huffine (Allies in Change), Kate Sackett (Portland State University), Juliet Tyler (Bridges 2 Safety), Amy Simpson (Eastside Concern), Jacquie Pancoast (Eastside Concern), Matt Johnston (Domestic Violence Safe Dialogue)

Minutes by Kate Sackett, edited by Chris Huffine

Discussion Topic: The financial challenges of doing this work and barriers to program attendance

A brief and informal discussion was started on this topic, but with few in attendance the group decided to postpone this topic to another date when more people are able to attend.

Shannon Barkley tried to invite directors to attend the meeting here and did not have success, so it was suggested to reschedule the topic for another time when more people are here. It will possibly be rescheduled for the spring.

Jacquie recommended a spoken word piece on YouTube titled “We are the lions” (Steve Connell) about how men need to be responsible for DV. They use African proverbs in the piece.

An informal discussion today was held about the two essential ways that programs can break even doing this work: either by running a small agency and doing it out of the goodness of your heart (e.g., 1-3 person operations with 1-4 groups per week running out of their private practice) or in larger programs that need to find an alternative funding stream. Chris was not aware of any large programs that subsist only on program fees.

ARMS operates through donations and fundraisers. They pointed out that though they run dozens of groups for survivors across the country, they cannot get VAWA funding because they are a religious organization.

Allies in Change does individual and non-DV couples work. They offer both short term anger management and family services at a flat fee or sliding scale (for mandated versus voluntary clients) in their funding structures.

East Side does substance abuse work funding, and Central City has entities that offer medical, mental health, and housing services so they are a non-profit with lots of funding coming in. Health insurance also covers their services and OHP will cover it because it is a combined program. East Side’s contract with Multnomah County supports reduced fees and also insurance for SUD clients. They are opening a new building on 122nd & Burnside in 2018 that will offer medical, mental health, and employment services in one place.

Bridges 2 Safety has 3-4 offices and runs 10 groups per week (medium-sized to larger). They only do DV work with men and women and they offer bilingual groups too. They offer both short term anger management and family services. They are privately funded from group fees at \$40/class. They operate right at the threshold for men and women, which is hard to do long-term. The owner might be running this not at a profit but just barely breaking even. Their office rental is only full-time for one location, and other locations are only for the time of the group. Similarly, facilitators are paid only half hour before and after group plus group time. They also have an exit interview fee and other extra fees added in.

Choices in Washington County are fairly small. InnerWorks is mainly a mental health agency with a couple of small groups. Cedar Counseling provides substance abuse and other forensic programming including sex offender programming. NW Treatment Services provides Spanish speaking services, but

including sex offender programming. New Treatment Services provides Spanish-speaking services, but is not known much at all.