

## Tri County Batterer Intervention Provider Network Meeting Minutes May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2011

Attendance: Chris Huffine (Allies in Change), Steve Stewart (Allies), Justin Donovan (Allies practicum student), Melinda Honeycutt (Allies practicum student), Jennifer Warren, Ashley Boal (Portland State University), Wendy Viola (PSU), Jacquie Pancoast (ChangePoint), Susanne Evans (Bridges to Safety), Ryan Alonzo (Choices), Emmy Ritter (Raphael House), Regina Rosann (ARMS), Dean Camarda (Allies), Aaron Potratz (Cedar Counseling Center), Shaun Larson (ARMS), Linda Castaneda (Manley Interventions)

Minutes by Wendy Viola

### Presentation: International BIPs: What we can learn from programs outside of the U.S.?

Presentation by Eric Mankowski

Please refer to the attached PowerPoint presentation (in a pdf format) for more information. Much of what is recorded below reflects comments made from the group about information in the PowerPoint.

Dr. Mankowski has been looking at what and who the BIPs are in Oregon, which got him interested in looking at BIPs elsewhere. He found a report by Emily Rothman at the World Health Organization, of 56 programs outside of the US/Canada. What can we learn from them? What are the cultural, historical factors that have shaped the kinds of programs and practices that are set up outside the US? How do we engage *all* men? What are other strategies that are used? Different modes of intervention?

We can also learn some of this information from international listservs, and at international conferences. Most of this information is transmitted via word of mouth. There are not yet many articles on how other countries are intervening with abusive men.

We can assume that IPV is going on in every society—the question is how countries that don't have BIPs address the problem. The first BIPs in the U.S. didn't even show up until the late 70's and early 80's. Prior to that a lot of therapists were doing this work, as were churches.

The anti-DV movement and the anti-violence movement in general are in much closer concert and conversation in countries where there's more pervasive and immediate violence, which makes sense because the problem is men's violence, not necessarily who it's directed towards. Additionally, both forms of violence affect the family. The temperance movement in the US in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century really was a DV movement, because men were drinking and then perpetrating DV.

In Oregon, at present you often can't get into a state mental hospital in order to get services unless you're considered criminally insane. There are parallels in terms of DV, in that most men come to BIPs through the criminal justice system. However, this is likely due more to social perceptions as opposed to funding, and maybe if we change perceptions about IPV, more men will enroll voluntarily.

In the US, we've used a lot of mass media campaigns to reach out to survivors of DV, but internationally, similar campaigns are being used to reach perpetrators and bystanders. One program is the "Bell Bajao" (Ring the Bell) Campaign in India, which encourages men to ring the doorbell or knock on the door when they suspect DV is occurring. They offer simple training about how to stay safe when they're conducting these non-confrontational, personal interventions. The program is funded by Breakthrough and the Indian government. The program's subtlety is appealing. In the US, we believe that we have to face violence with violence, as opposed to recognizing that we can just say "I know what's going on and I don't approve." A common response in the US is to become violent towards men who they see perpetrating violence against women, and these stories get passed on, which prevents future intervention. Making it normal to acknowledge violence when it's going on can be immensely powerful. Would ringing the doorbell work in this culture? The danger with a lot of these programs is that while they're catchy a lot of them only address the very tip of the DV iceberg.

In the US, the vast majority of social change efforts and prevention come from advocates, not from people who work with perpetrators. We also tend to think of it as individual-level change, as opposed to a social issue, which also differs internationally.

Some conclusions are that programs outside the US are different from those here; that differences are rooted in historical/ societal/cultural factors; that we should use caution in exporting American models and practices; and that American practitioners can develop new practices and interventions modeled from outside the US.

When men are court-mandated, you can get away with harsher approaches than you can with voluntary men who can leave if they don't like the way the groups work.

How do we get away from the criminal justice approach to get more voluntary men? Not to say that we should move away from criminal justice channels, but how do we engage other institutions in addition to criminal justice? Public education is necessary, in part to get people talking about what isn't okay. This reflects the report of some abusive men who are caught off guard when they end up in BIPs through criminal justice systems for behaviors that they didn't recognize as DV. This may be an issue of marketing, since most people are not aware that such programs exist. Many voluntary men that some providers have worked with found out about BIPs through partners and grown children who work in criminal justice. Others report having looked for such a program for years, but only learned about it years later or after becoming court mandated. Calling BIPs

something different, maybe alluding to struggles with jealousy and controlling behavior, could help market these programs towards men where these men are *now*, not where they'll be when their behavior transpires into abuse. This may also require making compromises in the language that we use, perhaps talking about anger and anger management as a euphemism, even though we use the jargon of power and control.

In other, more community oriented societies, we see many more people bringing others to BIPs. We're currently seeing a lot more boys' groups locally, those seem very promising, as is the Engaging Men Project out of Sexual Assault Task Force. We might be able to use the Tri County setting to do some linking between BIP providers and prevention efforts. Funding prevention efforts are perceived as an issue as well.