

Tri County BIP Meeting  
Sept. 18, 2007

Present: Regina Rosann, ARMS; Stacey Womack, ARMS; Diana Groener, Allies in Change; Jacquie Pancoast, ChangePoint; Tim Logan, SoValTi; Phil Broyles; Paula Manley, Manley Interventions

TOPIC: Role playing

Role playing engages all participants sense, encourages participation, can make group fun, and can build empathy, and accountability. Helps get “messages” across.

Role play can be used when a client is doing their Statement of Accountability. They become the victim and share the impact of the behaviors.

Facilitators can reverse police reports. Have the client play his partner, telling police what happened.

Facilitators can have a “victim night”. The men wear name tags and question each other.

One BIP stated they start with giving ground rules, then facilitators do the role play for stage one group (first 6 weeks, orientation group), then the men engage in the role plays in the second stage group setting. If men do not want to participate they are asked to watch. It is important to prepare individuals for group setting and defining the importance of, and benefits of role playing. Rules are: no interrupting, be quiet when viewing a role play, be courteous to everyone even those who joke around, be serious, take it seriously.

State evaluators place a strong emphasis on role play as Evidence Based Practice. Duluth Model uses role play. Emphasis is on learning by doing, and can be used with a multicultural population.

Studies do support the validity of using roleplay. Role play can be a strong teaching moment for individuals, and acknowledges that people learn differently.

You can have an individual with A/D use role play their funeral, or focus on the impact of DV on children.

Ask men, “What kind of man do you want to be?” and have them pick out characteristics.

One agency will do role play around an incident showing aggressive/assertive behaviors, reactions. They will often focus on children's accepting changes in men's behavior from aggressive to assertive, using multiple responses. They will sometimes read a scenario first, ie: an auto accident where an intoxicated individual gets out and confronts the client who he hit. Person has alcohol on his breath. They will have 3 clients respond differently: aggressively, assertively, and passively, then get the perspective/reaction of "wife, child" who may witness this behavior.

Role play can give you a true idea of where clients are in stages of change. Who is internalizing information for change or trying to say what they think the counselor wants to hear.