

Tri-County Batterer Intervention Provider Network Meeting minutes - 02-21-06

Present:

Minutes by: Jacquie Pancoast, edited by Chris Huffine

Presentation: Risk Assessments, Curt St. Denis

Curt shared that the Sex Offender Programs have a Risk Assessment – Static 99, which identifies staple factors – areas which can be addressed over a period of time, and acute factors – areas needing immediate intervention. There is a movement in this field to move from just using a risk tool. Static 99 only takes you so far.

Guided Clinical Tool – person doing the risk assessment should be well educated in ability to identify risk factors which aren't always on a risk tool, but are important factors. (Do not rely on instinct, which is often weak).

Canadians developed the ODARA. This is basically a free risk assessment available online. You do have to pay for the pamphlet and get certified to perform the assessment. This assessment is generally done by Canadian Mounties after speaking with the victim at the time of the incident, and telling the victim that this tool will help the officer tell the victim how much risk/danger is present. (A copy of the ODARA was distributed to those in attendance.) There is a Mounties' version and an advocates' version.

Positive aspect regarding this assessment: To do scoring you must have victim contact. Is the victim willing to talk and does she know about the perpetrator. Most say ODARA does better job of assessment, but only takes us so far. Negative aspect: Weak areas – this assessment can miss out on men who are a real risk to a victim, not outsiders, due to questions regarding violence and criminal behaviors. One half of all offenders only offend within the family structure.

Vivid factors: most clear risk factor, a general term to describe factors which stand out – a prompt to keep examining or digging further into other past issues. Examples: Extremely violent episode, a man marries a woman much older with an inheritance.

VRAG – Violence Risk Assessment Guide, Rice and Harris

HCR20 – Historical, Clinical, Risk Assessment Guide - Western Canadian, Hart (author of SARA)

These risk tools are addressing male perpetrators only, and do not seem to address emotional issues such as attachment, over-attachment issues, or animal abuse.

P-SCAN – Scanning for psychopathy. Examiners need to know the person fairly well.

Members were unaware of a youth DV specific risk assessment.

Eric Johnson does adolescent risk assessment but not DV specific.

Danger Assessment by Jacqueline Campbell – this assesses for lethality and is actually showing evidence of assessing for recidivism of violence. This was designed to be used with victim input, not perpetrator input. This is available online.

Abuse Inventory of Adults – Tolman - This would be good if given to victim. Measures psychological abuse and extent of abuse.

Goal all assessments is to stop the most lethal violence first.

SB 81 under Intake Procedure A,B,C addresses assessments.

Angela Schultz shared that advocates use the Danger Assessment with victims, some using it formally and others incorporating questions into general conversations without the form present. The advocate uses the information to develop a safety plan with the victim.

It is important to do a risk assessment as a piece of the intervention.

Statement was made that it would be most productive for BIP's and advocates to share assessment information. This is currently done at some agencies, but not all.