

Minutes from Tri-County Batterer Intervention Network Meeting
August 6, 2002

Members Present – Chris Huffine (Men’s Resource Center), Michael Davis (Changepoint), Paula Manley (Private Practice), Courtenay Silvergleid (Portland State University), Naomi Morena (Probation – Washington County), Carla Pinto (Probation – Washington County), Gustavo Picazo (Changepoint), Kathryn Richer Harris (Multnomah County Health Department), Devarshi Bajpai (ASAP), Guruseva Mason, Cassandra Suess (Psychological Services Center) and 3 men who had previously completed batterer intervention

Minutes taken by: Courtenay Silvergleid

Topic for today: Talking with men who have been in batterer intervention. What has worked, what hasn’t and what else do we need to be doing?

The discussion began with Chris quoting from an email sent by a former client. (Paraphrased...) Program gave a start – but only a start. The program is not a cure, but they help to give us tools. Program can’t give us a desire to change. Desire is built from humility and from seeing the larger picture. Very easy to forget. The program gets you on the path and gives you the tools, but lulls you into a comfort zone. You become dependent on the group. Honeymoon wears off about 6 months after you leave the program. They need to have a relapse plan that works in stages. We need more handouts to refer to after we leave the program. My wife and I regularly work the program together. It would be helpful for partners to understand program so that they can participate in long term maintenance if they are interested.

Next we heard from one of