

Tri-County Batterer Intervention Provider Network meeting--2/3/04

Present: Chris Huffine (Men's Resource Center/Women's Counseling Center), Mychelle Moritz (Domestic Violence Resource Center), Angela Newburg (Domestic Violence Resource Center), David Moore (PSU Community Psychology), Elsie Garland (Multnomah County Juvenile Justice--GRIT Unit), Paula Manley (Manley Interventions), Ed Batis (ChangePoint), Gary Heard (ASAP Treatment Services), Stacey Womack (Abuse Recovery Ministry Services), Cassandra Suess (Pacific University/Men's Resource Center), Matt Johnston (PSU Community Psychology), Songcha Bowman (Multicultural Counseling Services), Ron Leber (Life to the Max)

Minutes by Paula Manley and Chris Huffine

Topic: Topology of abusive men.

Courtney Silvergleid was going to do a presentation but is unable to be here. However, she did fax Chris some handouts/articles which he will summarize for the group. Contact Chris if you would like the complete citations for any of these articles.

Are all abusers' issues the same? Courtney provided results of about 12 studies. Researchers have asked over the years, "Are there different types of perpetrators?"

The Gottman/Jacobs research identified two groups: 1) "pit bulls" - physical reactions, elevated heart rate, blow up, angry-type. Very insecure about her abandoning him. They grab on and don't let go. 2) "Cobras" - a smaller group who are more premeditated and calculated in their abuse. Have a lower heart rate, are more calm. More of a loner, not as concerned with what she does, but he still is going to call the shots.

Meehan et al did three studies examining heart-rate activity that did not have strong support for the connection between heart rate/acting out. The qualities of the perpetrator didn't fit with the above heart rate/behavior connection. In other words, they did not support the above typologies.

Donald Dutton has identified three types of perpetrators: 1) Emotionally repressed men - very passive dependent, very needy, put up with for a long time then blown up. Over-represented for homicidal violence. 2) Antisocial - long histories of criminal behavior, psychopaths, low empathy. 3) Borderline or emotional dependency. Explosive, flame up. He focuses on this type. He believes that many of this third group also have borderline personality disorder.

Gondolf 2001 study - questions Dutton's premise. He is not finding a strong indication of personality disorders. Even in repeat offenders, 60% show no serious personality disorder or psychopathology. He used MCMI.

Article by Leslie Lang 2002 - quotes Gondolf there is little evidence for abusive personalities or PTSD as a primary cause. (Gondolf believes we should not over-pathologize batterers.)

Amy Holtzworth-Munroe - 3 types of abusive men.

1) Family-only, controlled or “typical.” Individuals that are called more typical, family-only abusive individuals. Tend to have less abuse and less severe physical abuse. Not history of PTSD. Primarily only abusive in the home. About half of all perpetrators. May not be as blatantly sexist in attitude. (50% of abusive men)

2) Psychologically distressed or emotionally volatile. More ambivalent attachment to partners. Jealous and rageful. More impulsive. More likely to be violent in public. May be more like to have history of PTSD, show intermittent remorse and more likely to do murder/suicide. (1/4 of abusive men)

3) Antisocial - more extensive arrest record, other types of criminal behavior. Lower level of dependency on a partner. History of PTSD. Attitudes more sexist. Psychopaths are a subgroup of this group. These guys are at greater risk of domestic homicides w/o suicide. (1/4 of abusive men)

The Holzworth-Monroe model has generally gotten the most support in terms of typologies.

One person said the first group may be because of societal socialization. If society were different, they might not have a problem. The second group has been traumatized and are outwardly focused with their reactions to their trauma. Third group is individuals who are generally criminal. They use whatever they use to get what they want and take advantage when they can.

Off-topic comment: Movie, *Monster*. Characterizes where a woman’s violence comes from.

The issue of sexual violence - typically there has been a domestic violence field and a sexual violence field. One person said that DV offenders are not the same as sex offenders, though there may be some crossover.

Finkehor and Yllo- Found three types of marital rapists : 1) Battering - men who batter who also rape their wives 2) Force Only - don’t batter except they rape their wives 3) Obsessive - involved in pornography and obsessed w/sex

Monson article, 1998 (quoted Russell, 1990) also identified three slightly different groups of marital rapists: 1) those who prefer rape to sexual consent 2) enjoy both consensual sex and rape, 3) prefer consensual but are willing to commit rape if can’t get it. They feel they have a right to sex, and she owes him. They will put a lot of pressure to get it.

Shouldn’t there be different types of treatment for different typologies? If there are different types of abusive men, there are some thoughts about having different groups. Some providers believe that, regardless of root factors, that violence is a choice, and looking at anything else minimizes a perpetrator’s responsibility in that it is his choice to do the violence.

The AMEND program in Colorado (*Third Path*, Michael Lindsey) has developed modified groups based on topology.

Gondolf said, while one size doesn’t fit all, one size fits most all.

One study - purely education - worked more effectively with criminal groups, while psychotherapeutic groups worked best with psychologically distressed men.

Focus should be on safety for women and children. It may be good to have different approaches, to deal with different issues. It can be sad for a county if it only has one provider. Different clients may better relate to one facilitator/program than another. Ethnicity should be considered in providing services - providers should be culturally competent.

Need to be open to looking at topology but not mandate it at this point.

Lenore Walker - It would be nice to hold all three levels - individual, group and society accountable.

A concern: providers are thinking of these men in different ways. Some want to emphasize the family only group, as it's the largest group. These include more voluntary men. Violence is less severe, less impulsive. Some programs focus on the criminal element, and others focus on the pathological. Criminal men are the ones that are most likely to become "better batterers" as a result of BIP. Men who do more subtle abuse are harder to identify, arrest, and mandate because much of the abuse may not be physical.

Another concern is that men may stop the most obvious abuse--the physical while continuing or even increasing the more subtle psychological and emotional abuse.

The group briefly discussed ways of intervening with the more subtle forms of abuse. Some suggestions: focus on the impact it has on children; focus more on controlling behaviors; look more at day to day interactions; have men identify their own experiences of being controlled/emotionally abused by others (preferably not their partner); share journals on situations.

How does homicidality fit into this? While some types may be more likely to commit homicide than others, it is still difficult to predict with any high level of confidence who is or is not a risk. It's better to err on the side of safety since you can't know for sure that homicide won't occur.