

## Tri-County Batterer Intervention Provider Network Meeting Minutes--3/1/05

Present: Chris Huffine (Allies in Change Counseling Center), Matt Johnston (Change Point), Jennifer Warren (Men's Resource Center), Patricia Barrera (Baldwin Foundation), Joe Parker (Baldwin Foundation), Paula Manley (Manley Interventions), Cindy Lyndin (Multnomah County FVCC sub-committee on Stalking), William Warren (Portland Office of Neighborhood Intervention Crime Prevention), Guruseva Mason, Stacey Womack (ARMS), Patty Warford (Life Strategies), Songcha Bowman

Minutes by Paula Manley and edited by Chris Huffine

### Sexual Abuse and the Sex Industry

Guest speakers: Patricia Barrera and Joe Parker from the Baldwin Foundation

Portland has a huge sex industry, more active than the city of Los Angeles. Lola Green Baldwin, the Foundation's namesake, helped expose the brothel industry. She was the first commissioned female police officer. She fought against prostitution. The Baldwin Foundation's mission is to help people get out of prostitution. They do presentations to people wanting to get out of the sex industry, educate individuals & others who need accurate info about realities of prostitution and to provide info to the johns. They also target at-risk youth. They help family members as well. They have a drop in center with limited hours. They counsel over phone, mail and internet.

Incest, domestic violence, racism, sexual abuse, etc. are something the pimps count on to recruit victims into prostitution. Every emotional and physical type of force is used to gain control of these women and children. In Portland in particular, there is a level of recruiting going on with pornography industry, strip dancing, etc. Winding up in prostitution is not the result of a series of bad personal choices. It is the result of coercion and violence. There are very sophisticated and methodical ways of coercing.

Counselors need to understand that the victim has often been coerced into becoming involved in the sex industry. Many times the client will leave if they are free to do so. A normal victim reaction is to downplay the violence done to them. Often she may not understand how the decision was made for her by beating her or threatening to beat her.

The sex industry has infiltrated society. Millions of people are involved. Even Walt Disney owns sex-industry related productions. There is no limit on what kind of "respectability" may be used as a cover. The Baldwin Foundation talks to men and boys as to how the advertising agencies are influencing through media messages. They explain how the sex industry promotes sexist ideas of how men and women should be, in order to get them to buy all kinds of things they don't need. This helps men believe they should want to go into a bar with all kinds of half naked women around. The reality of the strip club and pornography businesses are something else

than the fantasy. When you are there, you are into the criminal world, with people who don't care about you.

The sex industry depends on addiction and seeks to feed on it. Six hours per day is the average amount of time Baldwin clients have approximated their partner has spent using pornography. Also lots of money is spent on the sex industry. It's good to ask the men how much they are spending on the sex industry, and what else they could be doing with the money. Research on boys has shown 11 years old to be the average age at which most boys are exposed to pornography. Everyone will have a different experience with pornography, just as they do to alcohol or heroin. There is no way to predict how the experience will affect an individual. Some people couldn't become addicted to pornography if they tried. On the other hand, some people get into it rather quickly and spend large amounts of money and time on it rather quickly. Pornography addicts may become loners. They may spend all kinds of time on it, to the exclusion of other relationships.

Another area of pornography is the detective magazines. They may be stereotypical with a young woman chained and acting terrified, with an indistinct dark presence. This is so that guys who are working their way up to actual violence can get hints as to how to do it from the magazine. They are not identifying to the victim, but rather to the dark presence. If you find someone doing a lot of reading that, the person may be "fueling," and perhaps escalating to become a more serious sex offender. They are priming themselves, breaking down their inhibitions so that they can commit horrible acts. This pornography is essentially preparing oneself to commit actual crimes, and is far different from freedom of speech.

One older man came in and wanted treatment for himself. He said he'd been using pornography continuously since the age of 11 and that his first exposure was at six years of age. His functioning at work was going down, he'd spent all kinds of money on pornography, and he said he couldn't shut his eyes without seeing pornography. He said he wanted control of his mind back. He had ceased to have control of the images in his mind for about 20 years. He couldn't even look at the Olympics without having a large amount of pornography coming into his mind.

They did a presentation at a youth organization. One youth was the son of a pimp. He said he saw it all – porn, beating women, etc. He said he had problems having sex with a girl without pornographic imaging. He needed immediate assistance in sex counseling. He has an enemy in the sex industry. They want to see him there for the rest of his life.

For the johns school, they try to talk to them about the negative impact the sex industry can have on their lives, their family's lives, and on the community, as well as on the victim. The johns are different from the at-risk youth. These are the men going to the strip clubs, buying women. They may be on their first arrest, but they are farther into it than this would indicate.

JOHN'S RULES:

There is a sense of entitlement, that they should get what they want if they pay for it. They feel they deserve it. Baldwin tries to help them realize that most of society doesn't want that, to break the myth. They start with the laws. The johns need to understand they could go to prison for some of this stuff. They go into the sexual disease risks. There is now a new strain of HIV. Almost all of Baldwin's clients have Hepatitis C. There are other viral diseases that occur. Before and after surveys show a noticeable disrespect for women in general of these perpetrators. They have more stereotypical ideas as to a "woman's place." They are extremely self-centered, which is why the Johns' school focuses on what can happen to the perpetrators. Many of them don't care about the damage caused to others.

Many johns feel that if they buy a 16 year old on the street, that she's the one who should be punished. If you want to make a dent in the armor of these people, you need to focus on what will happen to them. They either don't care that much for the victim, or actually like the destructive effect they are accomplishing. Two thirds of the time, trying to get these guys to feel empathetic, you are wasting your time.

Johns are also at greater risk of becoming victims of crime. Assaults and thefts with johns happen all the time. Murder isn't as frequent, but is a possibility. This helps show the johns it could happen to them. Patricia says they want johns to understand that every hour they spend in the sex industry is an hour they don't spend doing something else productive.

They ask the johns who have kids, how old are they and if they are female, helping them understand it could happen to their kids. 70% of johns are married and 76% have kids.

It is only the people society cares about that you'll see in the paper. But they try to tell the johns that while it is presented that most of the prostitutes are on their own, most of them have pimps. One man thought he could use a prostitute and to be totally in control of the situation. But he didn't know that the prostitute left the door of his house open, and the pimp was five minutes behind her. The man got mouthy with the pimp and the pimp shot and killed him.

## PIMP'S RULES

The need for power over other people is a central thing in the sex industry. Different people are greedy for different things, and subject to different addictions. There is a certain type of greed that wants to own human beings. A lot of the pimps get satisfaction from this, but so do some johns, and some batterers as well. It seems to be like any other greed, where they will often mess up their own lives with it.

There is a set of people – historically – who have a high degree of greed for owning other people. Nowadays, this can be shown by keeping someone under control in a relationship, force someone into prostitution, etc. A visible portion of people in hip hop culture – rappers – came from the prostitution industry. Snoop Dog, Ice T and Malcolm X were pimps. Snoop Dog creates pornographic materials in his home, and was involved in trafficking, even when he got big in music. Ice T did not.

Joe tells the prostitutes that sadism is a different thing. The proportion of people with serious sadistic problems is about 10% of the population as a whole. He explains to the clients that sadism is an ability. An example is that for a while, many tried to develop a paper and pencil test to identify gays. We cannot identify sadistic people any more than we can identify people who are gay. It is a singular trait. This seems to be the same thing with sadistic individuals. The difference is that they can take pleasure in the pain or displeasure experienced by others. Part of the problems is that people are not morally screened for their careers – they are judged by their grades, etc. There is no known successful treatment for sadistic people.

Thus prostitution victims can run into people who are supposedly helpers, but who are sadistic. Sadists' anger management skills are quite good. It's a matter of power and using it to make others suffer. They ask victims to consider, when they are trying to understand how the sadists could do what they did to them, that they won't be able to understand.

With the Neil Goldschmidt incident, the media inadvertently used inappropriate language, which Joe confronted. All his tactics, etc. appear to indicate he probably had other victims.

Michael Jackson had pornography in every part of his home. The use of pornography is a tool perpetrators use to both train and get victims to accept the behavior the perpetrator wants.

The johns are not being arrested as they should be – the women are being arrested. Portland has 1.2 million people, has 3 and is going down to 2 people on the vice squad! This helps protect all the big wigs getting the benefits of the sex industry. In effect, prostitution has been legalized in Portland. The men who are caught are the lower income or middle income folks. The rich get a fancy lawyer and pay a big fine to get off.

Men are not being arrested for prostituting other men. There are many boy prostitutes. In downtown Portland it is almost 50% male. There is an understanding with the security force that the "boy stroll" won't show up til after 9 PM, when all the legitimate businesses close. This reduces citizen complaints.

80% of the young men doing gay prostitution are straight. They do it for the same reason female prostitutes do it – thrown out of their home, lack of resources, etc. The boys are not perceived by society as victims, are labeled "gay" and thus overlooked. Many johns view themselves as "real men" so long as they are not the one at the bottom.

Average age of entry into prostitution is age 13 (Justice Department statistic, 2004). So if someone is using prostitutes there is a good chance he is using a child. Youth are used because they are easily manipulated. This is built on the foundation of incest, etc. Homelessness really puts kids at risk. Kids are likely recruited within 72 hours of being on the streets. A kid can't recruit tricks on her own without drawing the attention of pimps.

Prostitutes in Canada (it's legal there) have a death rate 40 times that of kids not being prostituted. Sadistic people are attracted to this population. They can hurt these

people and get away with it. Men take out their anger on them. The viciousness, the societal uncaring of whores, transmission of sexually transmitted diseases, etc. all contribute to the early death rate.

There is a difference between porn and erotica. The difference is someone being hurt. Violent pornography is a big seller, not necessarily the only thing selling well now.

Johns school is for six hours. They would like to have more time – such as a whole weekend. It is not enough for the johns to just show up for the course. They try to show the men the negative impact of their actions. Probably about a third learn what risks they are taking that they weren't aware of before – although probably not thinking what they did was wrong. "Everybody is innocent" is the attitude in about 80% of the johns. It's like talking to sex offenders. Joe says there are only about 5 stories to excuse these behaviors. "I'm innocent, it was the other guy, she wanted it," etc.