

5-23-00

Tri-County Batterer Intervention Provider Meeting Minutes

Present: Guruseva Mason, Marc Hess, Chris Huffine, Courtney Silverglieid, Michael Davis, David Houston, Songcha Bowman, Carmen Garcia, Vivien Bliss.

Minutes by Vivien with an assist from Chris

Topic: Increasing Awareness of the Consequences of Abuse for Offenders & Empathy.

Not enough time for a lengthy discussion. Some of the comments included ways to address these issues within the context of the group. Vivien wanted to focus on defining the problem accurately, others wanted to go into ways to address lack of empathy in group. This topic has been rescheduled for July, but in the meantime, Vivien asked for suggestions of what people currently do to increase awareness of the consequences of abuse.

Suggestions included:

*Michael - Work on shame, then move into information on verbal abuse. 5th Chapter in the book: The Verbally Abusive Relationship, by Patricia Evans can be helpful.

*Michael uses an objectification exercise where clients identify the types of terms they use to objectify others, then identify how they have been objectified by others.....then asks questions such as: “is that all that a person is....is that all that you are?”

*Songcha focuses on the effect, impact of DV on children.

*The ripple effect on others, other than the victim.

*The effects of DV on Society (\$).

*Vivien – Identification of thinking process involved in objectification. The men compartmentalize the justifications to abuse adult partner (women), however many times display empathy toward their children. Identification of belief system that supports such compartmentalization.

*Chris-Shows excerpts from the movie “Unforgiveable” which tends to focus on the victim experience. He will sometimes share a fictional journal based on one of

the scenes to show the emotional difference between hearing about abuse and actually viewing it.

- *He will do a brainstorm of the various ways abusive behavior affects others, filling the board with the list of possible consequences.

- *He uses the metaphor of how a single pebble in a pond sends out ripples affecting everything on the pond and talks about the many “ripples” caused by abusive behavior, including: immediate effects; delayed effects; long-term effects; immediate effects on those who witness; delayed effects on those who witness; effects on loved ones of the victim; effects on our society as a whole

- *He will also have men identify situations in which they either witnessed abusive behavior or were themselves a victim of abuse (but not at the hands of their own victims) and how they suffered