BATTERING INTERVENTION PROGRAM

at

FAMILY BUILDERS
Family Builders exists to strengthen relationships and break the cycles of family violence.

We target the sources of the abuse, providing accountability, tools for change and support.

We do this work through our Parenting Program, Batterers Intervention Program, Community Education Programs, and Co-Parenting and Divorce Class.

We completed 101 clients in our BIP Program last year. 72% of them showed improvement in Violence Risk Scores on the Domestic Violence Inventory post-test.
Family Builders BIP – 4 full-time staff, 10 part-time staff, 300 active weekly clients, 21 groups for men, in Oklahoma, Canadian and Logan counties, 2 groups for women. Four licensed counselors, one Alcohol and Drug Counselor, one CDSVRP (Certified Domestic and Sexual Violence Response Professional), one child forensic interviewer, seven social workers. A passionate, well-trained, competent team.

Collaborative partnership with YWCA, ICAN, Palomar, Cardinal Point and other victims' services agencies. Work closely with dedicated DV Court, Criminal and Family Courts, Probation at all levels, DHS, others. BIP Provider for Federal Court for the Western District of Oklahoma

Phil Altes, Director – husband of Diane, step-dad to Scott/Marcie, Papa to Addie (12) and Katie (9), love God, life, people, music, outdoors... Pastor for 25 years, Domestic Violence work for 14 years, BIP Director at Family Builders for 13 years. Court witness, CCRT member, Invited to serve on AG Domestic and Sexual Violence Advisory Board, Oklahoma representative on the National BIP Network.
“Never forget that justice is what love looks like in public.”
(shamelessly stolen from Katy Fortune email) Dr. Cornel West

High Accountability, Great Hope for Change

Victim Safety Through Offender Accountability – Our relationship with victims.

BATTERER'S (Battering) INTERVENTION PROGRAMS

The goal of the battering intervention program is to end the offender's abusive behavior. This shall be achieved by confronting and dispelling the individual batterer's justifications for the use of violence within the relationship. Particular attention shall be paid to the belief systems that promote the use of intimidation, violence and coercion against intimate partners and children. Theories or methods which attribute to the victim any responsibility for the batterer's behavior or diminish the batterer's responsibility for the violence are inappropriate. Education shall be provided to the batterer utilizing written curriculum specifically developed for batterers intervention that comprehensively addresses, at a minimum:
(1) abuse and violence as a form of control, and an explanation of the need to give up all forms of controlling and coercive behavior;
(2) a detailed explanation of the range of abusive power and control behaviors, including coercive behavior, chronic verbal abuse, economic abuse, sexual abuse/mistreatment, psychological/mental abuse, physical abuse, abuse of animals, and use of the children as weapons;
(3) that support for and perpetuation of abuse are based on traditional gender roles and privilege.
(4) non-abusive communication techniques;
(5) effective coping strategies;
(6) the impact of battering on children and the incompatibility of violence and abuse with responsible parenting
(7) the batterer must be able to identify all abusive conduct, the pattern of that conduct, and the culture which legitimizes or excuses both individual acts and the larger pattern of battering. This may include but not be limited to accepting personal as well as financial responsibility for child support, court costs, restitution, and BIP related costs; (8) developing healthy relationships; including techniques for achieving non-abusive, non-controlling attitudes and behavior. 
(9) non-abusive behavior planning for the prevention of violent, controlling and abusive behavior; 
(10) effects of domestic violence on victims from a victim perspective, and 
(11) the potential consequences of domestic violence to the batterer
Inappropriate Methods of Intervention.

The following methods have been determined to be inadequate and/or inappropriate, and shall not be the focus of intervention:

(1) therapy, whether psycho-dynamic, individual or group;

(2) communication enhancement, anger management or stress management techniques that blame anger as the root cause of domestic violence;

(3) systems theory approaches that treat domestic violence as a result of mutual actions of the victim and perpetrator, thereby attributing some responsibility to the victim;

(4) addiction counseling models that identify domestic violence as an addiction;

(5) gradual containment and de-escalation of domestic violence;
6) theories that identify poor **impulse control** as the primary cause of domestic violence;

(7) methods that identify **psychopathology** on either parties' part as a primary cause of domestic violence.
### Anger Management

- Anger is viewed as the primary problem
- Primary focus is on managing emotion
- Intervention is short term
- No outreach to the victim
- Non-confrontational, denial not addressed

### Battering Intervention

- Abuse and control are seen as the primary problem
- Primary focus is on changing beliefs and behaviors
- Intervention is long term
- Outreach to the victim prescribed
- Denial confronted, accountability regularly addressed
## Anger Management

- Gender is not considered an issue
- Issue is considered to be one of personal mental health
- Issue confined to specific service provided

## Batterers Intervention

- Sexism and gender socialization are viewed as significant factors
- Issue is considered to be one of learned behaviors and choices
- Intervention is just one part of a coordinated community response
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FAQ</th>
<th>Anger Management</th>
<th>Batteres Intervention</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Is the program government certified?</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td>YES</td>
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<tr>
<td>Who is served by the program?</td>
<td>Anyone, the program is generic</td>
<td>Program is specific for clients with DV history</td>
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<td>Does the program stay in contact with the victim?</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td>YES</td>
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<td>How many sessions are in the program?</td>
<td>4-12 weeks</td>
<td>52 sessions</td>
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<td>Is the program linked to DV victim services?</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td>YES</td>
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<td>Does the program assess lethality of the client and risk level of the victim?</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td>YES</td>
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<tr>
<td>What is the emphasis of the program?</td>
<td>Techniques to manage anger trigger</td>
<td>Help clients recognize abuse is a choice that is rooted in issues of power and control</td>
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<tr>
<td>Are facilitators required to obtain CEU’s annually, of specialized domestic violence training?</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td>YES 12 CEU’s annually</td>
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<td>Are facilitators required to have any training in domestic violence?</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td>Every facilitator must have a social work related degree, and experience. In addition, they complete 8 hours of onsite orientation, 20 hours of AG training and must complete 12 observations of BP classes</td>
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BIP at Family Builders – Start to Finish

A Referral is Received

Criminal Courts

DHS

Family Courts

Self-Referrals
An Intake or Assessment Most Often Results

Sources of Information: Tools, History, Interview

Post-Eval – Gather Info, Contact Victim, Consult, Report

Recommendations – BIP, Anger Management, Victims' Services, No Services, Mental Health, Substances

Reporting – Initial and on-going
Victim Contact

Sources of Information: Client, DHS, DA...

Initial Contact – Assessing Staff Member

Ongoing Contact - Susan, CDSVRP. Secure Number, Database, Change of Client Status, Any Threat

Referral to Victims' Services – Assistance, Communication
Group Sessions

Intake Completed – Assignment to home group, sliding scale option, curriculum, expectations, report

Facilitators – Trained, Passionate, Full and Part-Time, Respectful Accountability, Charting, Consulting

Curriculum – Evidence-based, Dynamic, What Constitutes DV, Tools for Change, A.C.E.s, Responsibility, Goals...

52 Sessions – Weekly, 1.5 hours, Attendance/Absence Rules, Group Appropriateness, Client Interaction
Ongoing Services

Client Services and Accountability – In-House, as a Team, Client Meetings - Intake, Discharge, and as Needed

Referring Agency Communication – Two-Way Sharing, Compliance, Drops, Re-enrollments, Progress...

Discharge/Completion: Evaluations, Discharge Session, Completion Report, Recommendations

The importance of community partnerships Information, Accountability, Resources, Client Meetings...
“If we are to fight discrimination and injustice against women we must start from the home, for if a woman cannot be safe in her own house then she cannot be expected to feel safe anywhere.” — Aysha Taryam

“Never forget that walking away from something unhealthy is brave even if you stumble a little on your way out the door.” — Unknown

“You are not the darkness you endured. You are the light that refused to surrender.” — John Mark Green