



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.

Tools for change, in an environment of caring accountability – Our relationship with abusers.



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

FAQ	Anger Management	Batterers Intervention
Is the program government certified?	NO	YES
Who is served by the program?	Anyone, the program is generic	Program is specific for clients with DV history
Does the program stay in contact with the victim?	NO	YES
How many sessions are in the program?	4-12 weeks	52 sessions
Is the program linked to DV victim services?	NO	YES
Does the program assess lethality of the client and risk level of the victim?	NO	YES
What is the emphasis of the program?	Techniques to manage anger trigger	Help clients recognize abuse is a choice that is rooted in issues of power and control



	Anger management	Batteres Intervention
Are facilitators required to obtain CEU's annually, of specialized domestic violence training?	NO	YES 12 CEU's annually
Are facilitators required to have any training in domestic violence?	NO	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



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