Ensuring Meaningful Access: Understanding Domestic Violence Interventions for Offenders Who Are Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and DeafBlind

Tiffany Bell, LCMHC
DVOM Chair & DV Commissioner
Goals for Presentation

What resources are available to abusive partners and those who work with them?

What are DVIPs?

What are some components of DVIPS in NC?
Resources for Abusive Partners
Domestic Violence Intervention Programs

In 2002, the N.C. Council for Women was granted the authority to approve the abuser treatment programs utilized by the North Carolina court system.

The DVIPs re-educate offenders on their behavior and help them to develop new methods of interacting with intimate partners and family members.

These programs are known as Domestic Violence Intervention Programs (DVIP) : Previously BIPs
Domestic Violence is

- Happens within families
- **A PATTERN of POWER & CONTROL**
  - Causes FEAR for SAFETY
  - Prevents victim from doing what they want
  - Forces victim to do something they don’t want
- **More than physical violence**
  - Verbal threats & Intimidation
  - Psychological & Emotional Abuse
  - Manipulation, Blame & Denial
- Chosen behavior that can be changed
Abusive Relationships
Respectful Relationships

- Nonviolence
  - Negotiation and Fairness: Seeking mutually satisfying resolutions to conflict, accepting change, being willing to compromise.
  - Economic Partnership: Making money decisions together, making sure both partners benefit from financial arrangements.
  - Shared Responsibility: Mutually agreeing on a fair distribution of work, making family decisions together.
  - Responsible Parenting: Sharing parental responsibilities, being a positive non-violent role model for children.

- Non-threatening Behavior: Talking and acting so that she feels safe and comfortable expressing herself and sharing things.

- Respect: Listening to her needs, judgments, being intentionally affirming and understanding, valuing opinions.

- Trust and Support: Supporting her goals in life, respecting her right to her own feelings, friends, activities, and opinions.

- Honesty and Accountability: Accepting responsibility for self, acknowledging past use of violence, admitting being wrong, communicating openly and honestly.

- Equality: The central principle of respectful relationships.
Why work with abusive partners?
Why work with Abusive Partners?

Pain that is not transformed will be transferred.

OR

Hurt people hurt people.
Why work with Abusive Partners?

Only Abusers can stop Abuse

Many victims want violence to stop, not relationship
DVIPs in North Carolina
Current DVIPS in NC

Availability

- 31 Programs
- 74 Counties
- 15 programs cover 58 counties (79%)
Current DVIPS in NC

Accessibility

- 8 Virtual only 20 counties
- 10 In-Person only
- 15 counties
- 13 Both Virtual & In-Person 39 counties
Current DVIPS in NC

Spanish Language Classes

• 11 Programs in 30 Counties
Current DVIPS in NC

• 20 Programs in 54 Counties
NC DVIP Referrals

Where were referrals from?

3,163 total referrals

- Criminal Court
- Civil Court
- Probation/Parole
- DSS
- Other
Who participated?

Of those referred, 2,518 people were accepted & enrolled

1,252 people completed the program → 90% men & 10% women

1,915 contacts were made to Victim Service Providers (domestic violence agencies)
DVIP Structure

Weekly Classes for 26 weeks and last 90 minutes

- Total of 39 treatment hours
- Must be completed within 30 weeks

Classes grouped by gender

- Best practice is male & female co-facilitator

2 Facilitators if class size 8+
### Prohibited Activities

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<tr>
<th>The following shall not be used by DVIPs</th>
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<td>• Couples therapy/counseling</td>
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<td>• Counseling that places responsibility for adult behavior on children/victims</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Theoretical approaches that treat violence as a mutual process</td>
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<td>• Counseling that identify the violence as an addiction and children/victims as enabling</td>
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<th>The following shall not be the primary focus of Interventions</th>
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<td>• Techniques that lay primary causality on anger</td>
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<td>• Theories/techniques that identify poor impulse control as primary cause of violence</td>
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<td>• Methods that identify psychopathology as primary cause of violence</td>
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<td>• Interventions that base causation on lack of communication skills</td>
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<td>• Gradual containment/de-escalation of violence</td>
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Anger Management is not DVIP

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Anger Management</th>
<th>DVIPS</th>
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<tr>
<td>• Victim could be anyone</td>
<td>• Victim is family</td>
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<tr>
<td>• No addressing impact on victim</td>
<td>• Impact on victims is addressed</td>
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<tr>
<td>• No victim outreach</td>
<td>• Victim outreach</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Goal= diffuse anger</td>
<td>• Goal = victim safety</td>
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DVIPs vs. Mental Health & Substance Use Programs

Mental Health & Substance Use Do Not Cause Domestic Violence

Mental Health and Substance Use Programs Do Not Address Domestic Violence

Addressing both issues requires Both/And treatment not Either/Or
Support & Resources for Professionals Working with Abusive Partners

Collaborate with local DVIP & VSA

Receive Training on Working with Abusive Partners
- Battered Women’s Justice Project
- Annual NCPAT Conference
- DVIP Curriculum Training
  - EMERGE
  - Duluth
  - Men Stopping Violence
01 NCAC 17.0705  VICTIM SAFETY

All abuser treatment programs shall establish and comply with written policies and procedures regarding victim safety. These policies and procedures shall include the following:

(1) The program shall make good faith attempts, which shall be documented, to make contact with the victim upon the participant’s enrollment in the program. This contact must include information about the program and its limitations, victim confidentiality, and local resources for victims. The program shall attempt, in collaboration with the victim service agency, to contact the victim when the program participant has completed half of the sessions, and at termination, unless the victim declines contact or is unable to be located.

(2) Program participants and persons who have been victimized by those participants may receive direct services from the same agency. In those instances, the same staff person or volunteer shall not provide services to both parties.

(3) All information about or from the victim shall be kept confidential from the program participant, except with written permission from the victim.

(4) The program shall not schedule victims’ groups and abuser treatment groups to occur simultaneously at the same facility.

(5) The abuser treatment program shall network with its local victim services program and have a current memorandum of understanding regarding cooperation with that program in place.

History Note: Authority G.S. 15A-1343(b1)(9a); 50B-3(a)(12); 143B-394.16;
Other Certification Requirements

- Program Philosophy
- 3 signed letters of support from community members
- Signed and notarized MOU from local Victim’s Advocacy Agency
  - Victim contact a program requirement
- Certificates of training for each facilitator and assessor
- Copies of materials to be provided to participants and victims
- Provision of quarterly statistics to CFWYI
- Yearly Recertification
  - 6 hours of training for facilitators
  - 20 hours of training for assessors
DVIP Program Requirements: Intake

- Family, Social History
- Mental Health/Substance Abuse
- Criminal History
- History of Violence
- Lethality Assessment
- Participant Agreement/Contract
- Victim Contact Information
**DVIP Curriculum**

- Types of domestic violence
- Impacts of DV on victims & children
- Accountability
- Identifying abusive behaviors and alternative behaviors
- Healthy Relationships
- How MH/SA impact DV
- Identification of cues/triggers leading to abusive behavior
EMERGE Curriculum

- What Counts as Violence?
- Negative Versus Positive Self-Talk
- Effects of Violence on Women
- Quick Fixes Versus Long-Term Solutions
- Psychological, Economic & Sexual Abuse
- Abusive Versus Respectful Communication (2 weeks)
- The Effects of Violence on Children
EMERGE
Curriculum

- Accountability
- The Benefits of Stopping Abuse
- Objectifying Others/Using Entitlement
- Ending Relationships Respectfully
- Jealousy
- Roadblocks to Communication
- Dishonesty
- Focusing on Positive Attributes of Partner
- Self-Care
- The Bully
EMERGE Curriculum

- Getting a Relationship History
- Goal Setting
- “Taking a Turn”
- Role Playing
- Abuser Self Evaluation
Common Questions & Concerns

- Cost
- Length
- Effectiveness
Around class 3 or 4, it hit me. This is my life that I’m in control of. I gotta take this serious for me and my son. Arguments and disagreements that I get into now, I know the steps to keeping calm and not looking at every situation as a reason to explode and react negatively. Everything about me has changed. Everything. And that’s making me a better partner for the future, better father and teacher for my son, and a better man overall.

This Program was very helpful to identify all the types of abuse and helped put me in the eyes of the person that is being abused and how they would feel and taught me a way to not be abusive and think about things before I say or do them.
Success Rates/Stories (NOVA)

I would like to share with everyone that if you are starting the class it may seem like a bunch of BS but give it time eventually things will come into perspective and you will learn from this experience to identify the different types of abuse when starting you may not realize that you’re doing to your partner and it will help your relationship grow stronger when you ultimately realize the actions that you do to your partner is wrong and hurtful.
Summary

What resources are available for abusive partners and those that work with them?

- While there are resources on working with abusive partners in general, there is very limited information on work with specific populations, such as the Deaf Community. However, websites, such as the Battered Women’s Justice Project, and conferences, such as the annual NCPAT conference, provide information & training on working with abusive partners.

What are DVIPs?

- DVIPs are Domestic Violence Intervention Programs

What are some components of DVIPS in NC?

- DVIPs consist of 26 weekly classes.
- Victim safety and outreach is a key component of these programs.
- Curriculum focuses on topics of domestic violence, its impact and accountability.
Questions?

Tiffany Reid Bell LCMHC
DVOM Chair
Pronouns She/Her/Hers

The SPARC Foundation
225 E. Chestnut St.
Asheville, NC 28801
Email: tbell@thesparcfoundation.org
Questions?

Lori Gerber
Western Region Director
Council for Women and Youth Involvement
NC Department of Administration

46 Haywood Street, Suite 315
Asheville, NC 28801
828-641-7730 office
lori.gerber@doa.nc.gov
Resources

Council for Women and Youth Involvement: Domestic Violence Intervention Programs
https://ncadmin.nc.gov/divisions/council-women-youth/domestic-violence-intervention-programs

NCPAT
https://www.ncpat.net

The ALMA Center
https://almacenter.org

DeafHope
http://www.deaf-hope.org
Resources: DVIP Curriculum

EMERGE
https://www.emergedv.com/

DULUTH
https://www.theduluthmodel.org/

Duluth You Tube: https://www.youtube.com/@theduluthmodel2108/videos

Men Stopping Violence
https://menstoppingviolence.org/

Allies in Change
https://www.alliesinchange.org/
Resources: Battered Women’s Justice Project
Pre-Recorded Webinars

Facilitating Groups with Men Who Batter
https://www.bwjp.org/resource-center/resource-results/facilitating_groups_with_men_who_batter.html

Assessing & Responding to Men Who Pose High Risk to Their Intimate Partners
https://www.bwjp.org/resource-center/resource-results/assessing_and_responding_to_men_who_pose_high_risk_to_their_intimate_partners.html

Working with Men Who Batter as Fathers