

A CALL TO MEN
Ending Violence Against Women



***History of Batterer Programs,
Philosophy & Curriculum***

**Batterer Intervention Services Coalition
of Michigan**

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A CALL TO MEN
Ending Violence Against Women




OUR MISSION

To galvanize a national movement of men committed to ending all forms of violence against women

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OUR PURPOSE

To influence change in men's behavior through a re-education and training process that challenges sexism

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OUR VISION

**To shift social norms defining manhood
in our culture**

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Offender/batterer Programs

- We all desire for the violence and abuse that is perpetrated toward women to end
- We work with the best of intentions regardless of the model or approach
- We all desire change in men and work in our own way to create it
- Programs have a specific place, purpose and role as an agent for change

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**Some Things to Keep in Minds When Working
With Domestic Violence Offender**

- Men Can change!*
- It is unlikely that the change will occur solely by attendance in a program (any program)
- Learned behavior & can be unlearned
- We cannot be sure if or at what point any change occurs
- We cannot determine how he behaves with her based on how is with us

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Brief Historical Perspective

- Batterers programs began out of the desire to stop men from being **physically** abusive in the late 1970's.
- Domestic violence – at the time – was only about physical abuse.
- Batterers program were created with good intentions. Wanted to get men to be non-violent.
- Barbara Hart called meeting of BP's nationally, hundreds came; she said: Began to deal with the notion of men controlling women. www.acalltomen.com

History of Batterer Programs

- Some BP's saw the women who were partners of the men in their batterers programs as their clients too, and began to talk with them.

Lenore Walker: *Cycle of Violence*

- Batterer Program's focus on individual change - Anger Management Programs develop.
 - Susan Schechter then asked: *Why is his target always his partner?*

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Issues Addressed in the Past

- Anger Management, Self-Talk, Triggers, Time-Out
- Confrontation
- First, Last and Worst
- Contracts
- Partner Contacts

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Causes were defined as

- Stress Reduction
- Lack of Education
- Poverty
- Alcohol, Drugs
- Early Childhood Trauma
- Father Abused Mother (learned behavior)
- Loss of Control

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Program Structure

- Every man can tell about his victimization.
- Only men as Group Leaders, Facilitators, Counselors
- Batterers on television (batterer testimony)

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History of Batterer Programs

- Ellen Pence did seminal work on Comprehensive Community Coordination – she organized battered women – began to use the words *Power and Control* – these words helped battered women to articulate how men were controlling them.
- Duluth Model was developed as a Coordinated Community Response effort. Eventually this led to the misuse of the “Duluth Model” as curriculum for batterer programs, although it was never their intention.

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The Coordinated Community Response to Domestic Violence



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The fact of the matter

- Offender/batterer programs were never intended to be the cure and never will be the solution(DWI)
- Most offenders only attend due to some sort of mandate, leverage or threat (situational)
- Majority of perpetrators are sent *via* a legal issue for an arrest-able offense
 - Nature of being mandated creates resistance
- What is arrest-able when compare to all of that we know domestic violence to be?

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Tactics of Control

- Physical assault
- Sexual assault
- Economic control
- Emotional abuse
- Use of Children
- Male Privilege
- Coercion, threats, intimidation
- Isolation

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■ From those who commit arrest-able offenses – *how many get arrested*

■ From those arrests-*how many are prosecuted?*

■ From those prosecution - *how many receive a meaningful consequence*

■ Is compliance a priority (traffic violations)

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THE FIRST GENERATION OF MEN BEING HELD ACCOUNTABLE

■ System designed to let offenders get by

■ Importance of language

■ Inconsistencies in every system

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Many men feel victimized, picked on and justified

■ First generation of men being held accountable

■ Acting out of their definition of manhood

■ Men are culturally conditioned to be sexist, and dominate control over women

■ It is not about what makes men tick it about the socialization of men

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Just a reminder

- Men Can change!*
- Learned behavior & can be unlearned
- We cannot be sure if or at what point any change occurs
- We cannot determine how he behaves with her based on how is with us

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Not an Illness

- Intermittent explosive disorder (IED) is a disorder characterized by impulsive acts of aggression, as contrasted with planned violent or aggressive acts. The aggressive episodes may take the form of "spells" or "attacks," with symptoms beginning minutes to hours before the actual acting-out. The *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders DSM-IV-TR* classifies IED under the general heading of "Impulse-Control Disorders Not Elsewhere Classified." Other names for IED include rage attacks, anger attacks, and episodic dyscontrol.
- Anti-Social Personality Disorder

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Anger Management

- Implies that the victim provokes the anger and precipitates the abuse.
- Fails to account for the premeditated and controlling behavior associated with the abuse.
- Men manage their anger very well and use anger as a way to control their partner.

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Violence and Abuse is Selective and Exclusive

- Men know how to be respectful and have the capacity to stop being violent
- Men already possess all the tools and skills needed to be appropriate and non-abusive
- Men use these skills throughout their daily lives

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Men's violence against women is not caused By...

- Alcohol or other drugs
- Stress or poor communication skills
- Mental or physical illness
- Loss of control
- Anger (switch-fist)
- Poverty
- Lack of education
- Victim provocation

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Alcohol and Drug use Leads to Domestic Violence

- This is a myth
- There is no scientific evidence of causation
- Alcohol and drug use does not cause domestic violence
- Understand that treatment systems, as designed will inherently support the offender

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POWER ANALYSIS

- Sexism occurs because of the historically created and maintained belief in the men's right to deny women civil rights and equality, while controlling legitimate access to resources.
- Domestic Violence is rooted in sexism
- Domestic Violence is supported by the existence of legal and social traditions and institutions.
- Although Domestic Violence is no longer overtly sanctioned by law, it continues to be tolerated in our communities.
- The solution to Domestic Violence will not be accomplished through individual change, but through social and political change.

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Domestic Violence is the Manifestation of Sexism

- Domestic abuse is not an individual Mental health problem.
- Not an individual ill but a social ill requiring a social response and social change
- It is a global social ill that has been legally sanctioned for centuries by....
 - Male privilege, dominance and entitlements
 - Societal norms & laws that shape our culture.
 - Religious
- Domestic violence is a manifestation of sexism.

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Men may benefit from other supports in their life

Counseling
Therapy
Healing practices (soul)
Resolving inner child issues
Exercise
Eating right

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How are alcohol and drugs used by women who are being victimized by their intimate partners?

- Women will often use drugs in attempt to:
- Cope with his demands
- Ease the pain
- Escape
- Alleviate feelings of shame and guilt
- Momentary relief

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What about Co-dependency and other forms of Family Treatment?

- All are dangerous to women victimized by domestic violence
- Survival skills often labeled as co-dependency

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Safety First Approach/Self Determination

- Challenging our socialization and belief systems to:
- Understand that treatment systems, as designed will inherently support the offender
- Respect and support her decisions regarding her safety
- Work collaboratively and respectfully with domestic violence programs and their advocates

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Offender Accountability First Approach

- **Accountability vs. Treatment Don't allow domestic violence to be pathologized.**
- **Name it** (treat the CD don't pathologize violence)
- **Pro-feminist atmosphere- teaching men to confront men**
- **Hold offenders accountable for what you can**
- **Accountable relationships with women who are or were formerly abused, local, state and federal domestic violence programs and their advocates**

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Collusion / Confrontation

- **Collusion:**
- a secret agreement or understanding between two or more persons
- the act or an instance of colluding
- **Confrontation:**
- a meeting of persons face to face.
- an open conflict of opposing ideas, forces, etc.
- a bringing together of ideas, themes, etc., for comparison

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Collusion

- When we fail to hold offenders to a high standard of accountability
- When we do not make the offenders violence, abuse and controlling behavior the primary issue and focus
- When we allow men to deny, minimize and when we permit sexism in our programs
- Issues of collusion for male professional
- Issues of collusion for female professional

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Based on This History the Domestic Violence Accountability Program Does Not Focus on;

- Anger Management
- Insight Therapy
- Family Counseling
- Pathology
- Individual Change

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Purpose and Role

- The Domestic Violence Accountability Program is a service to the court.
- An additional disposition available to the court.
- Court orders should never be used as a diversion for a more serious consequence.
- DVAP developed systems of accountability to women who are abused & their advocates.

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Function and Purpose continued

- Mandated men only
- Minimum of 26 week
- Information about men' violence against women in our society and how to end it.
- The historical, social and cultural aspects of domestic violence.
- Emphasis on accountability and personal choice.

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Curriculum - Suggested topic

- Domestic Violence 101- overview / definition and dynamics
- Domestic Violence and Effects on Children
- Tactics of Power and Control
- History of Violence Against Women in the United States
- Domestic Violence in the Context of Sexism and male dominance
- Male Privilege, Entitlements and the Oppression of Women
- Intersectionality – meeting and similarities of oppression
- 10 Things Men Can do to End Violence Against Women
- How Individuals and Communities can Work to End Men's Violence Against Women

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What can the batterer/perpetrator be held accountable for?

- Creates enforceable policies and procedures.
- Program only measures how serious the mandate is taken by the perpetrator.
- Is based on the knowledge that batterer programs can determine nothing about how he is with his partner based on how he is in class.

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Limitations, Pitfalls and Risks

- Research indicate inconclusive results: men who attend the classes most often continue to behave in abusive, controlling ways, both during and after the period of time they are attending.
- Batterers Program cannot assess how he is with his partner
- Seeing batterer programs as a solution misrepresents their impact on ending domestic violence

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Offender Program Summary

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ PROS ■ Criminal Justice Response ■ Disposition ■ Tool of Accountability 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ CONS ■ Don't Stop Abuse ■ False sense of hope ■ False sense of safety ■ Minimize Penalty ■ Quick Fix Mentality ■ Supports Pathology
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The Benefits of an Education, Accountability & Social Change Model

- Supports the reality of battered women and their advocates.
- Does not create obstacles for battered women or domestic violence service providers
- Focuses on the importance of social change efforts

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Accountability

- No matter what the modality or process accountability is essential and should be present
- Accountability from the men to the program
- Accountability from the program to the experience/perspective of Women who are abused and battered

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**Comprehensive Coordinated
Community Response**

Social Service Agencies	Local Domestic Violence Program	Communities of Faith
Workplace	Battered Women	Batterer Intervention Program
HealthCare	Law Enforcement	Mental Health & Chemical Dependency

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**COMPREHENSIVE COORDINATED
COMMUNITY RESPONSE**

- Leadership from local Domestic Violence programs and their advocates
- All systems share the same analysis
- All systems invested in the same goal
- Cultural Competence
- Continued Training/Education

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