

CONFERENCE 2001 EVALUATION SUMMARY

There were 46 total evaluations out of 78 participants, a return rate of 59%. Following is each category and the total of each response type and unedited list of comments.

Accommodations

Excellent = 32

Good = 14

Fair = 0

Poor = 0

Comments:

Gambling was a distraction from networking in the evenings.

Very nice & fun

Roomy, clean

Except noisy hallways (24-hour casino-goers)

Our room was excellent and comfortable

Clean but thin walls

Very nice facility/ great layout of facility for conference setting

We should have every conference at this location

Comfortable and clean

Non-smoking room, but it smelled like smoke

Meeting was way too cold

Clean, refreshing

Service

Excellent = 34

Good = 12

Fair = 0

Poor = 0

Comments:

Always an employee present to ask for assistance

Friendly, helpful, upbeat

No probs. Here

Very accommodating & flexible, helpful

I felt so taken care of!

Friendly, responsive

Meals

Excellent = 32

Good = 11

Fair = 1

Poor = 1

Comments:

Maybe a morning (10am brunch & evening meal (6pm) Food was good but a little too often.

They were absolutely wonderful

Like to have fruit at breakfast bar, or bagels

Yum! Nice variety

Wonderful

Great nutrition experience

But too much – maybe no food at breaks? Except for Jeff's cookies!

Exceptional food for a conference – very, very good!

*The best conference food ever.
The best yet!
Food is so good!
Food could have been warmer
Excellently prepared, presented, and served.
Delicious, timely, warm and friendly staff*

Location

Excellent = 18

Good = 20

Fair = 7

Poor = 0

Comments:

A fun environment

It is fair to have it closer to our UP colleagues every 2 yr.

Sort of centralized to state and no one had to travel the whole state.

Bit of travel – however excellent facility

Loved having the casino factor

Loved having it in the UP

Affects turnout

Distance from down state may have discouraged some (but not too far for me)

Far from home

This is the most central location if in fact we want to include the UP of Michigan

Quite a drive- but, our turn, I guess

We should have more events in UP

The directions to the location were very helpful and well-prepared.

We had to come too far – it's not you're problem though.

Cost

Excellent = 23

Good = 21

Fair = 1

Poor = 0

Comments:

Was sponsored by BISC – a victim service org.

I was able to come for free

Very reasonable prices

A real value

Breaks

Excellent = 15

Good = 23

Fair = 6

Poor = 0

Comments:

Shorter breaks, more often – take 10 min and mean it.

Longer break at lunch or in afternoon

Could have used more networking time in between speakers/programs – to absorb, reflect, internalize.

Things should start on time or be announced how long of a break, etc., spent a lot of time just waiting

*Nice long breaks – sometimes too long w/Ellen – would like more Ellen!
Too long so content was cut short
Need to be better monitored
Great planning
A wonderful variety of snacks
Too long
Breaks before meals are a good thing
Not enuf – too full schedule
Start session on time, everyone will convene then in a timely way.
12-2 break then 3-6:30*

Ellen Pence

Excellent = 44

Good = 2

Comments:

Was very funny and informative. Great presentation style.

Transforming & transcending message. It illustrates how the messenger is axiomatic in determining whether folks hear the message.

Wonderful, wonderful speaker. Very real with practical sound advice & she shared some personal experience.

Great style. Good history & background on DV movement. Helped us wrestle w/the differences.

As always. Bravo. She is so knowledgeable & so flexible – always learn from her.

A pleasant surprise from past encounters.

Ellen is one of the great “gurus” of batterers services. Also fun & personable.

Ellen was an excellent speaker! Maybe she should have discussed her model because the people here that claim to use it don't know what it is!

Great choice for a presenter. The only problem was some of the language that she used during her presentation.

Great speaker, good info. Can we have 2 days w/her next time?

Would have like more

WOW!

Let's have her return for 2 days next year! More of Ellen please!

Not much new stuff. She is funny and easy to listen to. Could have spoken more about conducting interventions.

She was fantastic speaker – limit Michael Rudy's question – too much! It was our conference too!

Great presenter – really enjoyed what she had to say – madame think about batterers intervention in some different ways.

Ellen did an excellent job of not losing the group and keeping us on track.

She held my attention for the whole day.

She is energizing and thought-provoking. I enjoyed her presentation very much.

Research Panel

Excellent = 4

Good = 18

Fair = 8

Poor = 3

Comments:

Boring

Don't give up – try again – it's important

More "how to" is needed for agencies
Would have been more to my expectations if we had a report on research findings v. how to do..
BISC-MI needs to support more research
Not sure who questions were directed to
Helpful toward doing this locally.
Expand next year
Brought up good questions/ research theories
Some information helpful
Needed more breadth – content!

Diversity Panel

Excellent = 22

Good = 12

Fair = 3

Poor = 2

Comments:

Interesting, keep each person's time shorter (10 or 15 min limit) or add time for questions time limited. Ran too long.

I was hoping these individuals would use their connection to culture to enlighten, not talk just about themselves. When does cultural sensitivity lead to collusion

Need to continue to do this – perhaps consider panel of African Americans, panel of men & women facilitators, panel of non-profit and profit programs, panel of shelter supported/led BIS & non-shelter BIS

Diversity is so specific to each community – better to give tools on how to begin work in our own communities.

Dave did a great job pulling together a very diverse group, very interesting and enlightening. Thank you David!

Wonderful

Need to do this more!

If participants in conference cannot be sensitive to the diversity panelists' accents and ethnic barriers, what can be expected for the people when they come in/ or need our services?

Dave did a great job setting this up.

Open my eyes to approaches used in some cultures. I think we might want to keep abreast of what's happening in more cultures.

The moderator's statement that god appeared to be a common denominator at this conference's participants was out of place. DIVERSITY also includes Atheists! This issue was, once again, another assault on my "diversity."

Could have spent more time on the subject of how to bring awareness of diversity to those areas that don't have much diversity

More relevance of BIS

Truly enjoyed

Very stimulating

Philosophy Debate

Excellent = 17

Good = 10

Fair = 3

Poor = 1

Comments:

Good discussion of programs and philosophical base

Jennifer did a wonderful job

It is very interesting to hear what other programs are doing. Everyone may not agree with every concept of each other's programs, but are working for a common goal and can always use a challenge to the mind.

Would have preferred more q & a

Many programs – one goal thanks for sharing

It's interesting to hear everyone's ideas & opinions.

Jennifer was excellent! Good debate.

Too much "nice" going on – it was easy to focus on Jennifer because she used the "F" word (feminist)

Don, Jennifer, Susan – your contributions were most helpful to me. Thank you.

They were all courageous.

Insightful

Do it again!

Too much panel talk & not enough time for audience comment

What was the most valuable part of this conference?

Networking with others and hearing Ellen Pence

Ellen Pence & tool & Philosophy debate

Ellen Pence – Great background, honesty & thought-provoking, willing to be open to new ideas!! All very informative.

Ellen Pence & Tool Time was great this year!!

Ellen Pence was fabulous. The Tool Time was very helpful on a practical sense.

Networking with other providers

Time away, unity respectful atmosphere (even in sin city)

Ellen Pence and all the other excellent people who attended & worked on the conference.

Ellen Pence was informative and entertaining tool time was very helpful

Ellen Pence

Networking Ellen Pence

Tools. Just starting groups & tools are needed. Group discussions Like hearing varying views.

The presentation that was given by Ellen Pence. She was very knowledgeable and a great presenter. The only problem for me was some of the choice of words she used during the presentation.

Ellen and all her knowledge, material & humor. Especially the humor. Tool Time is good too.

The networking opportunities.

All areas useful in part. Tool Time very helpful Women facilitators breakout very valuable personally.

Listening to other's experiences

Networking, location

Hard to pick! Great presentations & networking & Tool Time – Thanks!

Plans, tools & dialogue on improvement for service. "Progress"

Collaboration

Ellen Pence – her humor & info was excellent. She would have been good to incorporate into philosophy debate.

#1 Ellen Pence! Networking

Ellen was wonderful – AND so was the rest of the conference. This organization is successful I think, because opinions are openly shared & discussed – helping all of us to open our minds and examine our true beliefs. Thank you.

Networking

Ellen Pence – this was the first conference for me and she was wonderful. She gave me a better understanding about the dynamics of how DV works.

Tool time & Ellen Pence

Ellen Pence

I thought Ellen Pence was terrific she kept the crowd captivated

Networking and support, Ellen Pence, Tools

Ellen Pence opened up the conference showing us that we need to be open-minded to others' ideas and be able to laugh at ourselves, and others at times. Having collaboration and being open-minded are so important.

Tool Time, very useful information

ALL

Ellen Pence & Tools

All the components were valuable and useful

Others

Update on Tools – new perspective on BIS

Ellen Pence

What areas could be improved?

More breaks/ free time

Research component could be strengthened

Please offer tea with coffee

Sessions were interesting, but usually started late and so ran over into the time frame set for the next session.

We need to be more mindful of our time constraints. Running late is most disrespectful.

Starting on time! Keeping on schedule! For people that are here on time, it's frustrating to sit around and wait.

Ways to introduce members – get them to interact and meet all others & share information & stories – organized "social" sharing.

Some sections were too long

Need to follow time lines better – start & stop sessions on time.

Have the conference end on Friday, not on Sat.

Generally very good

This is my third conference – and the keep getting better! Thanks for you dedication and energy.

Research Panel

Staying on schedule appears needed more time per presentation

Having a time keeper. Starting on time, ending on time, etc. Marketing to

Probation, prosecutors, judges & shelters. We need a collaboration conference.

Long days – shorten the length of the day and eliminate Sat. morning – make it a 2-day conference (Th&Fri) or start it on Wed. It's too hard to be at t conference on a Sat. morning.

More rural issues and needs addressed more culturally diverse materials & tools as to reflect the diverse races serviced in rural regions.

Tool Time – verbatim reading not appropriate. Too much to cover in time – not respectful. Staying on schedule should be priority of each leader. Networking wasn't as good because of casino.

As said on front- time. Breaks too long – Please start on time. Those who want longer can breaks can straggle in.

None – just get the registrations out earlier.

Include more fun activities

Try to start on time a little better. Then we wouldn't go over time as much.

I think the conference should start on Wednesday and end at noon on Friday. I believe people would stay for the entire conference if we made this change. Multiple tracks of break out sessions.

Topics

No over-riding philosophy that is umbrella for BISC-MI "if you don't stand for something, you'll fall for anything"

Time

Just about everything! At least that's the way it seemed to me Friday evening. Even the evaluation form.

Voting process

Sensitivity to each person's uniqueness (including historical context)

Announcement of facilitators' roundtable on Fri. eve – I'm not sure it happened – who was in charge of it?

Consider hotel check –out time when planning last day's schedule

Start on time, end on time or at least within a brief (15 min) interval.

Report on concrete – ongoing research

A longer break at lunch or in afternoon. It is a lot to absorb all in one day.

Need to start program elements on time – This is important in valuing participants & presenters! I was disappointed that sessions were cut short (ie videos, Jeffrey's research) due simply to poor gp. Time management.

Last year's panels were much better meaning research, etc.

You need to start on time & stop on time. I know from running confs & trainings myself that it's hard, but try harder. It's disrespectful to those who are on time.

2002 Conference suggestions:

Topic:

How do people change & transform what is the process & how do we help men.

Frameworks for community responses; interactions b/t intervention ser, courts, law enforcement, medical.

Multi-diversity focus – other cultures, gay/lesbian/trans.

The "Business" of Intervention – tools for financial resources, fundraising & possibilities for future grants & funding.

More on children

Tools to help hold the men who abuse accountable, How do we know what they are doing at home?

Brain based Learning with regard to violent behaviors

Sexual respect

Professional/personal development

Diversity

Various group styles in action

Naming Men's Violence

Substance abuse & its compounding factors

A Maturity Model for Relapse Prevention / Responsible Sexuality

Issues of Substance Abuse & Domestic Violence. How to intervene with each. When to intervene w/survivors & their substance abuse.

Making men allies vs. adversaries.

Healing our Spirits

Changing culture beyond individual & BIS group

Diversity & tools for such groups.

Domestic violence & Affect/Treatment/service to different races.

Report writing/ Safety audits

Collaboration – The big picture

Religion – How it impacts & reinforces battering & what can and is being done to counteract what is used to give license to battering women and children.

Speaker(s):

Phyllis Frank

Bill White – substance abuse

Andy Klein – probation

Barbara Hart – prosecutors

Ellen Pence (please!)

Hispanic Speaker, Black speaker, etc. to express differences & complexities

Marie Fortune

Judge Halloran – to answer questions about the legal system & Michigan Domestic Violence Prevention & Treatment Board

Jackson Katz

More Ellen

Donald Wilde

Jackson Katz – to explain feminism & masculinity

Jackson Katz – Naming Men's violence

Claudia Diaz – diversity

Joan Lisson –Firestone (or she can refer...)

James Garbarino?

James Garbarino,

Jackson Katz

Robert Pasick

Sister Helen Prejean

Location:

Someplace Fun

Grand Rapids

Tree-Tops

Thumb area –not in Wayne Co.

Keep in Northern LP or Eastern UP - helps with travel- Gaylord to the Soo works well.

Port Huron (Jim says so) or Bad Axe or Hell or Paradise or actually , if the topic is sexual respect – Climax

Region 5

Total Health Education, Lansing,MI

Detroit

This hotel was great. Would like it again.

Ann Arbor?

In Detroit, Wayne County

Garland/ Port Huron

Not at region 5. Let's go somewhere we don't visit often. Wayne County is too same old/ same old. How about Thumb area or on the west side of the State. Port Huron?

Novi

New York

Other comments/ suggestions:

Breakfast – have bagels on a standard

Bring in battered women
Liked going to the Soo
Looking forward to the next one!
Consider audio taping each breakout session so all can benefit – could sell tapes for small fee.
Have breakfast & snacks in conference room to stay on schedule & stay together to network.
Always put breakfast in the back on large meeting room, like at the PO conference.
It's important that these meetings issues addresses reflect the diverse race population we have in Michigan in it's entirety. Do add a sexuality/responsibility segment.
Need more participation of courts, police, probation, shelters – reach out, don't conflict with other conferences if possible.
Better evaluation sheet that covers all sessions.. example – too time left out & breakouts not covered - need that specific feedback.
Thank you! My first time. I'll be back!
Repeat breakouts
Nice, well run & smooth conference.
Offer a meal package or meal price for spouses or children.
Tool Time Excellent
Facilitator accountability/ development
Most unbelievable stories – what have the facilitators survived in working w/clients?
BIS as private entity vs. shelter offering
Liabilities of working with batterers & running BIS
Dot or sticker on name tags of Council members - something else for Regional Reps on name tags.
I'd like to work w/others to develop programmatic tools for BIS e.g. – lethality scale (incorporating lethality indicators) – probation reports (incorporating acct. progression)
Judges' panel – what they see, what they expect from us
Victims/survivors panel – what works... what makes it worse
How do we measure success, how do we decide discharge if out group is not time limited?
Stable (?) funding sources ideas
Best practices in men's facilitators getting info from victims
Excellent facilities & meals.
We seem to be growing/ maturing as an organization – this is exciting.
Do a role play of a group or individual assessment demonstrating "gentle confrontation". We talk about it – what does it look like – I dare say it is quite variable depending on the interventionist's philosophy & theory on change.
More options for survivor service providers & others not facilitating men's or women's groups, probation, etc.