

## Creating Curriculum: Women Arrested for Using Force



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BISC-MI: When *She* Hits Him: Why Gender & Context Matter  
Pontiac, Michigan  
November 4, 2010

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## Who Are You?

- Law Enforcement?
- Already Have a Program for Women?
- Planning to Have a Program for Women?
- Advocates?
- Policymakers/Administrators?



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## Workshop Goal

Provide an overview of the philosophy, design, and implementation of our individual and programmatic approaches to serving women arrested for having used force in their relationships.



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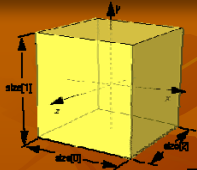
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# WOMen

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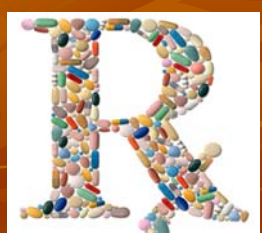
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## We Are Not Alone



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## Framing the Structure: Wood vs. Metal



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## Bottom Line?



- ❑ Majority of the women in the programs have been arrested.
- ❑ The women need assistance exploring choices that will keep them from getting involved in the legal system.



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## Gender Considerations

- Site selection
- Staff selection
- Program development
- Content
- Materials

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To emphasize and promote safety...

*her's, children's, partner's, and community's*

...is our professional duty.



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# Philosophy: The Three Strands...



Safety 

Societal Messages 

Skills & Resources 

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# Program Design

- Fundamentals:   
- Examination:   
- Sankofa:   

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*Women  
Exploring  
Accountably  
Violent  
Encounters*



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## The Framework: Opening & Closing



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### opening

I welcome you to this intervention and support group where women who have used force in their relationships have the unique opportunity to explore individual choices, identify areas of accountability, and recognize how personal responsibility can empower each of us in our efforts to live violence-free lives. In this circle we will reflect upon our relational experiences and behaviors in order to embrace viable resources and resources for our futures.

I have chosen the following (song, poem, etc.) because \_\_\_\_\_.

I welcome any comments or reflections on my selection.

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# RENEW Opening

We light this candle in recognition, reflection, memory, and honor of all victims and perpetrators of intimate partner violence, especially women who have used force in their relationships because they did not see an alternative recourse or resource at the time.

Facilitator announcements.

Check-In.

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# WEAVE Opening

"We welcome you to the WEAVE Program. WEAVE believes that understanding the FUNDAMENTALS of abuse and violence provides the base for EXAMINATION of beliefs and actions. Like the SANHEDIN, as we understand our past we can move ahead to a life without violence and misogynist beliefs. I have chosen to open the group with the following song (poem or reading) because \_\_\_\_\_"

Personal Choice song, reading or poem: *Read or play*

*Candle lighting*

"We light this candle in recognition, reflection, memory and honor of all individuals whose lives are touched by violence, especially those who have been murdered by their family members"

*Light candle*

"We invite any reflections or dedications you wish to share"

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# RENEW

## Closing

What I have contributed to the group...

What I will take away from the group...

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**WEAVE**  **Closing**

*The group stands, holds hands and says:*  
 "We observe 12 seconds of silence in recognition of our mothers, our sisters, our daughters, our partners, our friends who are being severely battered every day."  
 12 Seconds of Silence  
 Blow out Candle  
 Group says Accountability Pledge  
 "I commit all my efforts to seek accountability in my thinking and actions, and to provide safety and respect to everyone in my life."  
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**Fundamentals of Abuse:**

Help Women Be Aware of the Power & Control Wheel

Explore Women's Responses to the Wheel

Remember: it's about having POWER



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**Examination:**  
**Personal Belief System**



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## Accountability



*“Actions, thoughts, or behaviors that reflect the integrity of the person I want to be.”*

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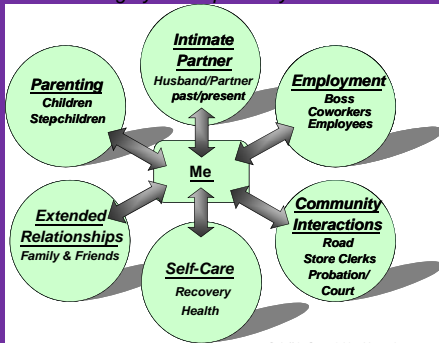
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## Domains of Accountability

**Accountability:** Actions toward or involving others that reflect the integrity of the person you want to be.



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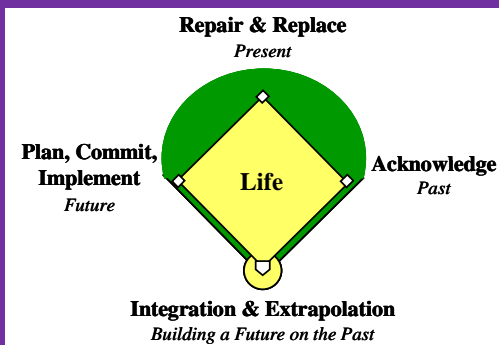
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## Bases of Accountability



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## Bases of Accountability

<b>Baseball</b>	<b>Accountability</b>
Score a run	Long term behavior change
To get to home plate you need to run all the bases.	To become accountable you must go through all the stages.
Getting on base is the first step	Acknowledgement is the first step
To advance on the bases you need help	To progress you need help
You need to hit whatever the pitcher throws	You need to deal with what life throws you

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## Personal Integrity

“I was gonna buy cigarettes and no *man* was gonna stop me!”

-Nicole, RENEW Program Participant



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## Garden of Resentment or Gratitude



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## What Does Your House Look Like?



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## Sankofa



- *How am I continually watching out for the safety of myself & others?*
- *What can I look for in new relationships that will clue me in?*

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## Shoe Theory of Relationships



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## Consider Quality



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## Questions & Answers



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## RESOURCES



- [www.csswashtenaw.org/renew](http://www.csswashtenaw.org/renew)
- W-Catch22 Listserv

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