



**House of Ruth
Maryland**

Examining Our Beliefs About Abusive Partners

**Angelique Green-Manning
Associate Director of Abuse Intervention**

Objectives

Following this activity, participants will be able to:

- Assess whether personally held beliefs are shared beliefs within a larger group
- Explain how beliefs about individuals and how they change can both negatively and positively impact service design and success
- Determine whether beliefs about learning and change differ between survivors and abusive partners and why
- Use this activity framework within their own communities to identify and build upon shared understanding in the field.

We're going to
work in teams!



Small Group Discussion

In your groups, complete the following statements in a way that EVERYONE in the group believes to be true.

- Abusive Partners are...
- Victims/Survivors are...
- Abusive partners abuse because...
- People change when...



Debrief

Was this activity easy or difficult for your team?

Were there items that had to be left out because everyone did not agree?

Were shared beliefs founded in research?

People change when... was this different for abusive partners and survivors?



Intentional Practice & Policies

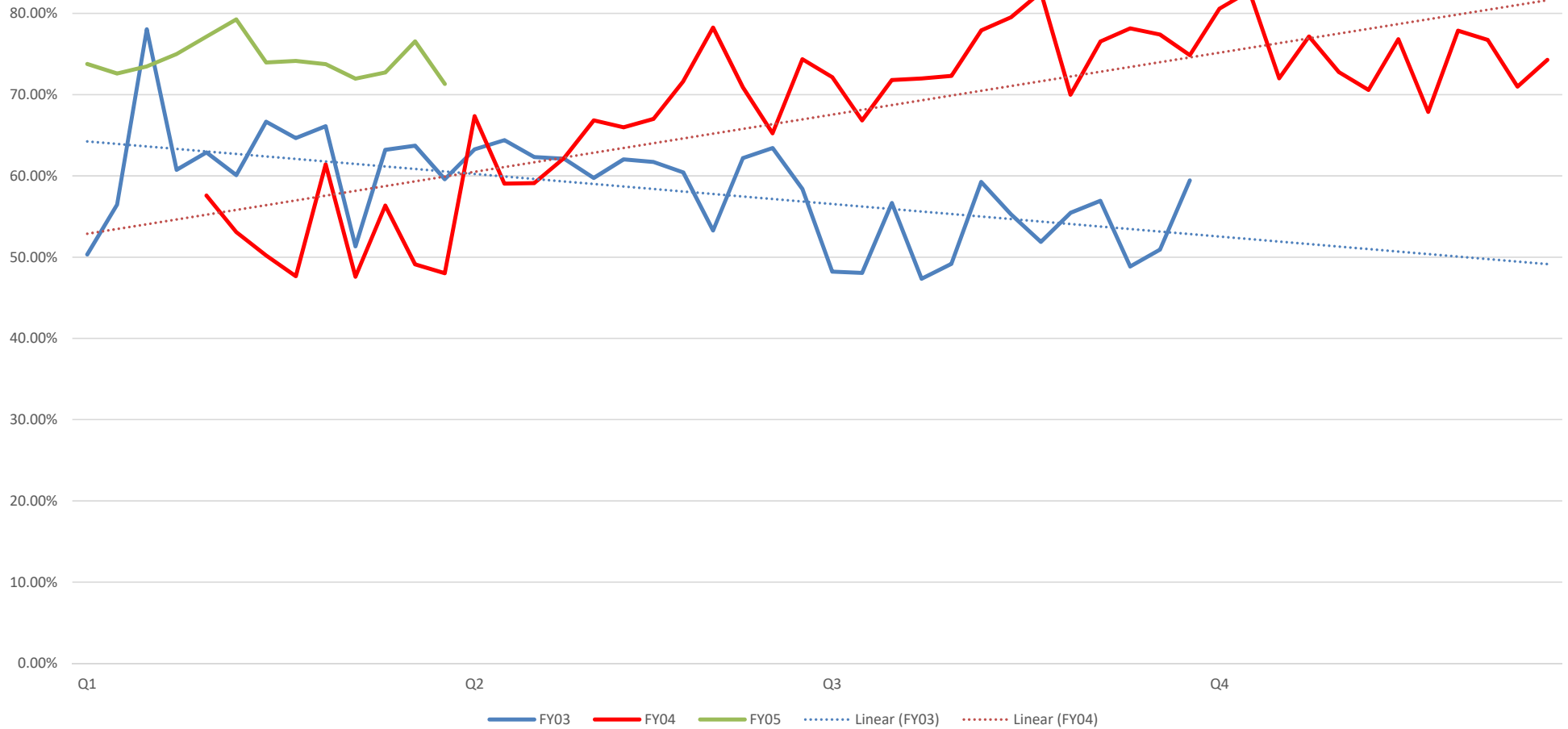
Example:

- Belief: We believe all abusive partners secretly speak French.
- Guideline: We will develop all materials in French and only speak French during sessions.

“Who, moi?”



Gateway Project's Beliefs & Guidelines



Takeaways

Identifying shared beliefs to develop informed and intentional practice:

- Builds community & identifies barriers
- Encourages respect and rapport building
- Promotes victim & survivor safety
 - Intervention programs are a victim service!

