

Ohio Standards for Batterers Intervention

Batterers Intervention Committee
Ohio Domestic Violence Network



The comprehensive resource on domestic violence

4807 Evanswood Drive, Suite 201
Columbus, Ohio 43229
Phone: 614-781-9651
Toll-Free: 800-934-9840
E-mail: info@odvn.org
Website: www.odvn.org

Ohio Standards for Batterers Intervention

Table of Contents

Acknowledgements	2
Introduction	3
Glossary of Terms	4
Overview of the Standards	5
I. ODVN Guiding Principles	
II. Purpose of the Ohio Standards for Batterers Intervention	
III. Purpose of Batterers Intervention Programs	
Standards	6
I. Victim and Community Safety	6
II. Monitoring	6
III. Communication with Referral Source and Other Service Providers	7
IV. Curriculum	8
V. Intake and Other Assessments	9
VI. Participant Confidentiality	10
VII. Discharge	11
VIII. Working with Marginalized Communities	11
A. Appalachian Communities	12
B. Communities of Color	12
C. Disability Communities	12
D. Immigrant/Refugee Communities	13
E. Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Communities	13
F. Religious Communities	14
G. Rural Communities	14
H. Women Who Use Force	15
IX. BIP Accountability	15
References	16
Resources	17
Other States' Standards on Batterers Intervention	17

Ohio Standards for Batterers Intervention

Acknowledgements

The Ohio Domestic Violence Network (ODVN) would like to thank its Batterers Intervention Committee (BIC) members who provided feedback on the revision of the Ohio Standards for Batterers Intervention (Standards): *Paul Castelino, My Sister's Place, Athens; Diane Dodge, STOP, Inc., Columbus; Sondra Fronimo, Voyager Program, Canton; Monika Harasim-Pieper, Artemis Center, Dayton; Gary Heath, Buckeye Region Anti-Violence Organization (BRAVO), Columbus; Dean Jenkins, Cleveland Municipal Court; Melissa Knopp, the Supreme Court of Ohio; Beth Meeks (past) and Ashley Ritz, Open Arms, Findlay; and Carol Smith, Family Service of Northwest Ohio, Toledo.*

ODVN appreciates the time and energy spent by the following members of the Standards Revision Committee of the BIC: *Reiko Ozaki, ODVN; Dona Pierce, Dayton Municipal Court; and Bob Scheuneman (past), Mount Carmel Commitment to Nonviolence, Columbus.*

The following ODVN staff also contributed to the revision of the Standards: *Rebecca Mason, Executive Assistant; Tonia Moultry, Training & Technical Assistance Director; Nancy Neylon, Executive Director; and Krystal Preston, Outreach Coordinator to Underserved Communities.*

Finally, ODVN would like to thank those who assisted the Standards Revision Committee with their expertise on making the revised document appropriate for marginalized communities: *Annelle Edwards, EVE, Inc., Marietta; Hernando Escandon, L & P Services, Marietta; Viola Gomez (past) and Manuela Pana, Pathstone, Bowling Green; and Stephanie Smith Bowman, Sexual Assault Response Network of Central Ohio (SARNCO), Columbus.*

As a statewide coalition of domestic violence programs, all the staff and board members of ODVN hope that the revised Standards will assist local communities promote safety for survivors and the community at large while holding perpetrators accountable.

This project was supported by Subgrant Number 2009-RA-B01-2139 awarded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance, Office of Justice Programs through the State of Ohio, Office of Criminal Justice Services.

The opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this publication are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of Justice or the state of Ohio, Office of Criminal Justice Services.

Ohio Standards for Batterers Intervention

Introduction

The Ohio Domestic Violence Network (ODVN) is a statewide coalition of domestic violence programs, supportive agencies and concerned individuals organizing to ensure the elimination of domestic violence. Since 1989, ODVN has been providing technical assistance, resources, information and training to all who address or are affected by domestic violence, and promoting social and systems change through public policy advocacy, public awareness and education initiatives.

The Batterers Intervention Committee (BIC), an existing committee of the ODVN, was first established in 1991. The BIC is mainly comprised of batterers intervention program (BIP) representatives, victim advocates, and legal system representatives, such as attorneys, probation and police officers. The members represent diverse regions of Ohio as well as diverse professional backgrounds. The BIC has always worked closely with victim advocates through ODVN's statewide network of domestic violence programs.

The BIC created the first Standards for Batterers Intervention in the early 1990s and published the revised version in 1998. Although adherence is voluntary in Ohio, the Standards continue to provide direction and support in program development for BIPs. The BIC also developed an addendum to the Standards, The Self-Evaluation Tool for Batterers Intervention Programs, in 2002, to assist BIPs and other community agencies assess and improve their local efforts. In 2009, the BIC started the process of the second revision of the Standards. It was timely to update the document as knowledge and information on batterers intervention have evolved.

The Standards are based on a feminist perspective which believes that domestic violence is gendered in nature: it is an instrument of oppression that arises from the patriarchal cultural and institutional beliefs that support men's power over women. It is important to note that the patriarchy does not only support sexism but also supports racism, heterosexism, classism, and other oppression that allows one group's dominance over another. In this revision, as we strive to create a document that addresses the growing diversity in Ohio with a feminist analysis in mind, we have added a section on working with marginalized communities, including women who use force (WWUF), immigrant/refugee, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Queer (LGBTQ) and other communities.

While the Standards go through revisions time to time, the main theme of the Standards must remain the same: BIPs need to work within the coordinated community effort in keeping victim safety first and holding batterers accountable.

A note on use of language: Although women can perpetrate violence against their intimate partners, the vast majority of cases that BIPs work with are men's violence against women. Therefore, throughout this document, the male pronouns are used for batterers while female pronouns are used for their partners, except in the contexts where same sex relationship violence or women's use of force is discussed specifically.

Ohio Standards for Batterers Intervention

Glossary of Terms

- Anger Management Program: A program that uses a psychoeducational approach to improve participants' coping skills with anger (Novaco, Ramm and Black, 2000). Its intended participants are people with "anger regulatory problems" and not those who achieve short-term or long-term goals with their behavior (Novaco, Ramm, and Black, 2000), which are the case with domestic violence perpetrators.
- Batterer: An individual who uses abusive tactics over his intimate partner in order to exercise power and control over his partner. Other terms used are perpetrator and abuser.
- Batterers Intervention Program (BIP): A program that is designed to help perpetrators stop violence in intimate partner relationships by challenging their belief systems and holding them accountable for their behavior. BIPs should not be confused with anger management programs. Some BIPs in Ohio may call their program "domestic violence program" – ODVN does not use this term for BIPs (see *Domestic Violence Program*).
- Domestic Violence (DV): A pattern of assaultive and coercive behaviors, including physical, sexual and psychological attacks, as well as economic coercion, that adults or adolescents use against their intimate partners. In recent years, another term, intimate partner violence (IPV), has been used interchangeably. *Domestic violence* is used in this document.
- Domestic Violence Program: A program that serves victims of domestic violence. It may be a residential program (shelter) or non-residential program. ODVN specifically uses this term for programs for survivors since it was first used for them, and not for programs for batterers.
- Oppression: The historically constructed personal, cultural, and institutional manifestations of prejudice against a particular group. (cultural bridges, 2002)
- Victim/Survivor: An individual who has been assaulted by her intimate partner physically and/or other ways. She has been victimized, and at the same time, is surviving everyday even if she leaves or stays in the abusive relationship. In this document, the terms victim and survivor are used interchangeably.

Ohio Standards for Batterers Intervention

Overview of the Standards

I. ODVN Guiding Principles

- A. We promote safety, well being, and justice for all battered persons while respecting the adult survivor's right to self-direction and control over their own lives.
- B. We are accountable to those who are or were battered and are committed to listening to their voices and using their expertise to guide our work.
- C. We declare that batterers, not victims, are accountable for their abusive behavior.
- D. We are committed to facilitating changes necessary to end oppression and violence within ourselves, and within economic, social and political systems.
- E. We are committed to advancing the community's responsibility for stopping the violence.

II. Purpose of the Standards

The main purpose of this document is to establish the minimum standards and procedures for BIPs in Ohio. The Standards can be used specifically to provide:

- A. Guidelines for developing new BIPs.
- B. A basis for evaluating and improving existing BIPs.
- C. Guidance to local communities on collaborating with BIPs.

III. Purpose of BIPs

- A. To provide the community with programming to further the safety of prior and potential victims, their children, and the community at large.
- B. To function as a part of the coordinated community response to domestic violence.
- C. To be an additional tool that the community can use to hold batterers accountable, not in place of appropriate legal sanctions such as jail, probation, restitution, fine or a combination of these.
- D. To provide participants with opportunity to learn new concepts and ideas so they can change their behavior.

Ohio Standards for Batterers Intervention

Standards

I. Victim and Community Safety

While working with perpetrators directly, it is critical that BIPs give a conscious effort in keeping victim safety a top priority in its philosophy and work implementations. In every aspect of the BIP work, including but not limited to policy development, group sessions, and communication with a referral source, safety of the victims should be taken into account.

- A. BIPs shall establish a policy on victim contact contingent upon agreement with the local domestic violence programs. If the local agreement is to implement the victim contact, the BIP and domestic violence program, and other concerned organizations shall collaborate on policy development. The policy shall be in writing, supported by the local domestic violence programs and other collaborators, and be regularly assessed for appropriateness.
- B. The purpose of the victim contact policy shall be to assist with victim safety rather than to observe BIP participants' behavior. Therefore, BIPs with a victim contact policy shall make good faith attempts to notify the BIP participants' partners about the BIP information, limit of BIP work and information about local domestic violence programs and other supportive services.
- C. BIPs shall keep all information provided by the victim confidential.
- D. If the victim informs the BIP of participants' recent use of violence, the BIP shall provide the victim of some options: a) contacting appropriate authority such as law enforcement or probation; and b) contacting local domestic violence program or other support services.
- E. Duty to Warn: If the BIP participant makes direct threats to harm or escalates behaviors that may lead to violence, the BIP shall:
 - 1. Make a good faith effort to contact the victim or person to whom the threat is directed. This may be done through a third-party, such as other service providers and family members.
 - 2. Contact the law enforcement if deemed appropriate.
 - 3. Contact the referral agency, including the court, to discuss appropriate responses and/or to report the actions that took place in response to an imminent danger.

II. Monitoring

Monitoring is an important method by which a BIP remains open and responsive to the perspective of victims of domestic violence. BIP monitoring through observation and review provides a method of evaluating the program's philosophy, goals, and practice, as it relates to the safety of survivors. Collaboration between the BIP and the monitor ensures better strategies for a community-wide effort to end domestic violence.

- A. The monitor shall be a person from a domestic violence program independent or separate from the BIP. The monitor shall have keen

Ohio Standards for Batterers Intervention

understanding of domestic violence in general and have training in batterers intervention work.

- B. The monitoring system shall be designed from the perspective of advocacy for survivors and to safeguard survivors while the BIP is in contact with participants. It shall also be designed to maximize the safety of the monitor and the receptivity of the monitor by participants.
- C. BIPs shall establish a policy on monitoring contingent upon an agreement with the local domestic violence program. In cases where there are more than one domestic violence program, the monitoring structure shall be agreed upon by a collaboration of all domestic violence programs in the community. This agreement shall include:
 - 1. A commitment that the BIP will involve the monitors in the process of establishing program principles, policies, and procedures at an early stage where the monitors' input will affect the results.
 - 2. A commitment that the BIP will involve the monitors whenever policies and procedures are being reviewed and changed.
 - 3. A system for safety for the monitor throughout the monitoring process.
 - 4. A policy for conflict resolution in the event it is needed.
 - 5. A format and timetable for regular feedback to the BIP by monitors.
 - 6. A commitment that the BIP will compensate monitors for services rendered in a manner that is mutually acceptable.
 - 7. A system that details how the monitor will observe sessions be that in person or by viewing recorded sessions, the frequency, and other meaningful ways monitors can assist.
 - 8. The following criteria shall guide monitors in the evaluation of programs and direct services:
 - a. How does the BIP promote batterer accountability and the cessation of domestic violence?
 - b. How is the BIP accountable to the victim? In particular, how does the BIP promote victim safety, confidentiality, and her right to information?
 - c. How is the BIP responsive to the local domestic violence program?

III. Communication with Referral Source and Other Service Providers

- A. BIPs shall obtain participants signature for a release of information form in order to exchange information with referring agencies including courts and child protective services. It is also recommended to exchange information with other service providers, such as mental health and substance abuse counselors and medical doctors as deemed appropriate.
- B. If a participant has been court-ordered to a BIP, the BIP shall release information about acceptance to program, attendance, compliance with program rules and guidelines, behavior in BIP, and current abuse or threats of abuse, and other pertinent information to referring agencies.
- C. BIPs will advise the court of referral if it is not able to accept. Examples of unacceptable referrals include, but are not necessarily limited to, offender

Ohio Standards for Batterers Intervention

whose charges are dismissed upon successful completion of the BIP, or offenders with pending charges who are referred by their defense attorney and/or any other professional who is advocating for him.

IV. Curriculum

- A. BIPs shall be based on intervention models or curricula that recognize domestic violence as the result of one person in an intimate relationship purposefully using tactics of abuse in order to maintain power and control over the other person.
- B. The program shall be comprised of weekly group sessions which lasts for a period of no less than 6 months (Montgomery County Criminal Justice Council, 2001) and optimally, shall be for one year.
- C. Groups shall have male and female co-facilitators for the purpose of modeling egalitarian relationships, reducing the potential for collusion, and to check the group process internally. For groups serving WWUF or LGBTQ communities, BIPs shall employ appropriate cofacilitators for the specific group.
- D. BIPs shall have a minimum of the following:
 - 1. An educational approach that places the responsibility for violence solely on the batterer;
 - 2. Encourages participants to develop critical thinking skills that will help him to change his behavior and identify alternatives to violence;
 - 3. Maintains the belief that domestic violence is primarily a learned behavior;
 - 4. Rejects notions of provocation or that domestic violence is the result of poor impulse control, substance abuse, psychopathology, or relationship problems;
 - 5. Attempts to improve participants' ability to identify, articulate, and express his emotions in a non-threatening manner;
 - 6. Challenges participants' belief system that supports abusive behavior;
 - 7. Has strategies geared at helping participants develop and improve support systems;
 - 8. Identifies the effects of domestic violence on other family members including children; and
 - 9. Confronts participants' excuses, blaming, and denials of their actions.
- E. The program shall not include the following:
 - 1. Couples, marriage or family therapy, or any manner of victim's joint participation;
 - 2. Anger management techniques that identify anger as the cause of domestic violence, or anger management program in lieu of BIP;
 - 3. Theories or techniques that identify psychopathology or substance abuse as the primary cause of domestic violence;

Ohio Standards for Batterers Intervention

4. Faith-based ideologies associated with a particular religion or denomination whose goal is to preserve the relationship and/or the family at the expense of safety for partners/family;
5. Interventions that provide any form of advocacy for the batterer that places his partner/family at risk. This can include any action or inaction by the program that serves to decrease the possibility that a batterer will experience appropriate consequences for his abusive behavior and/or serves to increase the possibility that he will obtain privileges that result in any form of harm to his partner/family.

V. Intake and Other Assessments

- A. BIPs shall establish and comply with written policies and procedures regarding participant intake and other assessments. Even though some BIPs need to comply with certain intake procedures to meet funding and other obligations, some additional information specific to domestic violence shall be collected at BIP participant intake.
- B. Intake assessment shall include the following:
 1. Demographic information;
 2. Social history, including childhood experience, use of violence in family of origin, religion, culture, military service, employment status, educational background;
 3. Health history, including physical and mental health;
 4. Substance abuse screening;
 5. History of violent, abusive and controlling behavior in and outside of intimate relationships;
 6. History of past criminal behavior, including arrests, convictions and imprisonment;
 7. Victim name(s) and contact information;
 8. Relationship history, including past and current partners and living arrangements;
 9. Children, including custody and child support payment arrangements;
 10. Assessment of participant's cognitive ability;
 11. Any factor that might interfere with BIP participation; and
 12. Assessment of risk to self or others.
- C. Risk Assessment:
 1. Risk assessment shall be conducted at intake and updated throughout the participant's BIP involvement. Ongoing assessment of risk of violence is a critical part of BIP work.
 2. At intake, a research-based risk assessment tool may be used in order to understand the overall nature of risk the individual may pose.
 3. See the Resources section for ODVN (2006) *Guidelines for Domestic Violence Risk Assessment* for more information.
- D. An intake session shall be utilized to inform participants of the BIP rules, goals, fees, session length, limits to confidentiality, consequences of non-compliance to BIP rules, and other information as deemed necessary.

Ohio Standards for Batterers Intervention

- E. Upon intake completion, if the individual is determined to be a primary victim of domestic violence, the BIP staff shall provide written documentation of such determination and recommendation of alternative services to the referral source. The BIP staff shall also inform the individual of the decision and alternative referral.
- F. Upon intake completion, if deemed appropriate, the BIP shall refer participants to additional services. The participants shall continue in the BIP unless some severe mental health, substance abuse, or physical conditions prohibits the individual from participating in the BIP activities.
- G. Exclusion Criteria:
 - 1. Individuals whose psychiatric and/or medical symptoms prevent them from participating in expected program activities and those very rare individuals for whom a medical condition is the primary cause of violence, such as those with a severe brain injury. The BIP must consult with the individuals' medical/psychiatric care provider(s) and obtain written verification of both the existence and permanency of the condition(s);
 - 2. Individuals with chemical dependency diagnosis who are in need of immediate inpatient treatment shall also be excluded from services until after successful completion of the inpatient treatment. Such diagnosis and successful completion of the inpatient treatment must be verified by written documentation from a licensed chemical dependency counselor, physician, or other appropriate professional; and
 - 3. Upon intake completion, if the individual is determined to be inappropriate for BIP, the BIP staff shall provide a recommendation of alternative services to the referral source and the individual. BIP staff shall provide written documentation of such determination and recommendation to the referral source. BIP staff shall follow local agreement on victim contact and shall pay extra attention to victim safety, IF the victim is to be notified of her partner's ineligibility for BIP participation.

VI. Participant Confidentiality

- A. All BIPs shall establish and comply with written policies and procedures regarding participant confidentiality and provide notice of the policies and procedures to all who provide direct services and those with access to participant records. Except as noted in Paragraph B below, the BIP shall not disclose, without the participant's consent, any confidential communications made by a participant to the BIP staff during the course of the program.
- B. Exceptions to Confidentiality: Participant information shall be kept strictly confidential except under the following conditions:
 - 1. When a participant makes an overt or covert threat to harm self or others and the BIP believes someone is at risk, the BIP shall contact and warn the potential victim and law enforcement personnel. If the potential victim cannot be reached, the staff may

Ohio Standards for Batterers Intervention

contact any appropriate agency that may provide assistance in locating the individual. The BIP shall undertake ongoing assessment of the risk of danger to the victim, the children, or the participant.

2. If a participant is suspected of child abuse or neglect, the BIP shall report such abuse or neglect to appropriate local authority.
- C. **Waiver of Confidentiality:** BIPs shall have a written policy on waiver of confidentiality to be signed by participants at intake that allows the BIP and any appropriate agencies to communicate regarding the participants' enrollment and progress in the BIP.
- D. **Group Confidentiality:** BIP groups are confidential and closed to those other than participants, BIP staff, monitors, and other professionals necessary for the functioning of program services. Those providing services to the deaf, offering foreign language translation and interpretation, or bringing information critical to the group may also attend as deemed necessary.

VII. Discharge

There are two categories of discharge.

- A. **Completion** indicates the participant has complied with the rules and regulations of the BIP, attended scheduled sessions, participated at an acceptable level, and completed homework and other assignments. At the time of completion, additional recommendations may be made and sent to the referring agency.
- B. **Dismissal** indicates that the participant is non-compliant or the BIP determines that the intervention is inappropriate. The BIP shall document the reason and make specific recommendations to the referring agency, and IF agreed upon by the local collaboration, make all attempts to notify the victim. Reasons for dismissal may include:
1. Recurrence of violence (criminal conviction) and or breach of condition of the court order; and
 2. Failure to abide by the rules and regulations of the BIP.

VIII. Working with Marginalized Communities

BIPs shall strive to be inclusive of all populations represented within the community they serve. It is recommended that BIPs cultivate and maintain collaborative relationships with marginalized communities through local and regional task force work, outreach, prevention and intervention initiatives, cross-training, monitoring and other venues. BIPs need to be aware that the majority of the BIP framework in the United States has been developed within the mainstream U.S. culture which is white, middle class, heterosexual, U.S. born, Christian, able-bodied, and urban/suburban environment. BIPs are highly encouraged to provide training for staff to improve their ability to work with diverse populations and employ members of marginalized communities as BIP staff and group facilitators. BIPs shall be aware that some participants may use their membership in a certain marginalized community as an excuse

Ohio Standards for Batterers Intervention

for their abusive behavior or program non-compliance. BIPs shall consult with appropriate experts to determine any validity to participants' claim as deemed necessary.

A. Appalachian Communities

1. The following Ohio counties are considered to be in the Appalachian region: Adams, Ashtabula, Athens, Belmont, Brown, Carroll, Clermont, Columbiana, Coshocton, Gallia, Guernsey, Harrison, Highland, Hocking, Holmes, Jackson, Jefferson, Lawrence, Mahoning, Meigs, Monroe, Morgan, Muskingum, Noble, Perry, Pike, Ross, Scioto, Trumbull, Tuscarawas, Vinton, and Washington (Appalachian Regional Commission, 2008).
2. Appalachian regions face socio-political and economic challenges such as "geographic isolation, high unemployment, lack of public transportation, and high levels of poverty." (Contos Shoaf, 2004). BIPs shall be aware how these factors may affect victim safety. While these challenges may affect BIP participants, BIPs shall not allow these factors to be used as excuses for their abusive behavior.
3. BIPs shall be aware that the Appalachian people who reside in urban and suburban Ohio may face the same challenges as those in the designated Appalachian region.

B. Communities of Color

1. Communities of Color include people who belong to an oppressed group based on race and/or ethnicity and experience the oppression on a daily basis. They include, but are not limited to, people of African, Asian, Hispanic/Latino(a), Native, and Pacific Islander descent and may be of multiple heritages.
2. BIP staff shall be aware of the racial oppression that members of these groups face in their daily experience at institutional and individual levels while not using the experience of oppression as an excuse for their battering behavior.
3. BIPs shall reflect the experience of communities of color in the program materials by adjusting the language, including applicable scenarios in group work, and creating policies that are inclusive of communities of color.

C. Disability Communities

1. A disability is defined as any physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more of the major life activities of an individual; record of such impairment; or being regarded as having such impairment (Americans with Disabilities Act or ADA, 1990).
2. The range of disabilities includes developmental disability (before age of 21), cognitive disability, physical disability, sensory disability, acquired disability, aging-related disability, and mental illness diagnosis (King Akers, 2006).
3. Disability communities are diverse and include individuals who may or may not self-identify as being a member of this community. The deaf community does not view hearing loss as a disability from cultural perspectives. It is important not to label, diagnose, or

Ohio Standards for Batterers Intervention

document that an individual has a disability without a direct inquiry to them and securing supporting documentation with their permission.

4. BIPs shall comply with federal laws such as ADA. The compliance may require such accommodations as acquiring sign language interpreters for deaf/heard of hearing participants; providing extra assistance with homework for participants with a learning disability; providing physical accommodations for a member who utilizes a wheel chair, and others.
4. BIPs shall also accommodate if a participant's partner has a disability.
5. BIPs shall implement effective strategies in utilization of culturally appropriate, linguistically and visually accessible curriculum and materials to foster maximum participation and learning for participants with self-identified disabilities.
6. BIPs shall be aware that the participant's or his partner's disability status may be used as an excuse for his abusive behavior or program non-compliance.

D. Immigrant/Refugee Communities

1. An immigrant or refugee could be of any race and ethnicity and was born outside of the United States. They may not be proficient in English, may have a limited personal support network, and may not be familiar with customs and norms of the United States.
2. In case the participant has limited English proficiency (LEP), the BIP shall, to the extent possible, provide the services to them in the native language, or arrange interpretation and translation services. Agencies receiving federal funding must ensure that their programs normally provided in English are accessible to individuals with LEP and thus do not discriminate on the basis of national origin (Civil Rights Act of 1963 Title VI).
3. BIPs shall not utilize as an interpreter the participant's partner, children, other family members or friends to ensure safety and confidentiality of all individuals involved. BIPs shall seek trained, professional interpreters.
4. BIPs shall have program materials translated if possible, fully, in the language that the program participant can understand, or at least provide sight translation with the interpreter present.
5. BIPs shall be aware that the participant's status as an immigrant or refugee and LEP may be used as an excuse for his abusive behavior or program non-compliance.

E. Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer (LGBTQ) Communities

1. The term lesbian refers to women who are romantically, emotionally, and sexually attracted to other women while gay is used for men who are attracted to other men romantically, emotionally and sexually. The word bisexual describes those who feel romantic, emotional, and sexual attraction to both males and females. Transgender is a term that describes those who transcend the traditional binary concept of gender. Queer, formerly an exclusively

Ohio Standards for Batterers Intervention

derogatory term for all LGBTQ people, is now proudly used by some as an umbrella term for the entire LGBTQ community.

2. When LGBTQ community members are referred for services, BIPs shall provide a thorough assessment in order to hold the batterers accountable and avoid re-victimization of partners.
3. BIPs shall be particularly careful in keeping sexual orientation of the participants and their partners confidential.
4. BIPs shall reflect the experience of LGBTQ communities in the program materials by adjusting the language, including LGBTQ scenarios in group work, and creating policies that are LGBTQ inclusive.
5. BIPs may, in collaboration with organizations serving the LGBTQ communities and domestic violence program, develop a sexual orientation specific group(s). The BIP shall appoint facilitators who are members of the specific community while paying attention to the needs for confidentiality.
6. BIPs shall be highly cautious when placing LGBTQ participants in groups. BIPs shall place members of the LGBTQ communities in heterosexual groups if it is possible to do so safely. Otherwise, the LGBTQ participant shall be placed in LGBTQ specific groups or be seen individually if the number of participants is not enough to form an on-going group.

F. Religious Communities

1. Christianity, particularly Protestant, is the religion practiced by the majority of people in the United States (CIA, 2007). Marginalized religious communities include individuals who experience oppression based on religious affiliation with non-Christian spiritual practices, such as, but not limited to, Jewish, Buddhist, Muslim, Hindu, indigenous, and atheist.
2. BIPs shall treat all religious practices with respect while not allowing any religious practice or belief be used as an excuse for abusive behavior.
3. BIPs shall reflect the experience of non-Christians in the program materials by adjusting the language, including applicable scenarios in group work, and creating policies that are not religion-specific.

G. Rural Communities

1. A rural community is characterized by small population size and/or population density as well as a higher density of acquaintanceship (DeKeseredy and Schwartz, 2009).
2. BIPs shall be particularly careful in keeping participants and their partners' information confidential as personal information may spread easily in rural communities where people tend to be acquainted with each other.
3. BIPs shall be aware of the isolation in rural areas that participants may use as a control tactic against their partners.
4. BIPs shall be aware of the prevalence in presence of firearms in rural communities and its impact on safety of partners, children and other community members.

Ohio Standards for Batterers Intervention

5. As many curricula and other materials for BIPs are often created for urban or suburban populations, BIPs serving rural communities shall reflect the experience of the community in the program materials.
- H. Women Who Use Force (WWUF)
1. Women who are arrested for domestic violence are mostly victims who used violence against their abusive partners, with self-defense being the most common reasons (Stuart, et. al, 2006).
 2. BIPs shall collaborate with local domestic violence program, courts, and other community partners on establishing policies on working with WWUF. As a majority of them are primary victims, women arrested for domestic violence in general may be best served by domestic violence programs rather than BIPs that traditionally work with male perpetrators of domestic violence.
 3. Women shall be served in women only groups, or individually. In case of LGBTQ individuals, refer to E above. Women, even if assessed as predominant aggressors, shall not be placed in groups for male perpetrators.
 4. See the Resources section for ODVN (2010) *Guidelines for Programs Working with WWUF* and Harasim-Pieper, M. (2010) *WWUF in their intimate partner relationships: Common language and concepts* for more information.

IX. BIP Accountability

A. Ethical Standards

1. BIPs and their staff shall meet standards outlined by professional groups with which they are affiliated, including any licensing board for organizations and individual professionals as well as employing agencies.
2. All BIP staff, including administrators, group facilitators, and others who are part of the program operation, shall familiarize themselves with the Standards and strive to meet the Standards in their programming.
3. All BIP staff shall be violence free, and willing to sign a statement to that effect.
4. All BIP staff shall also communicate and act in ways that are free of victim blaming, sexism or misogyny and remain open to self-examination and be receptive to feedback on issues of power and control, sexism, and collusion in their work and their own lives.

B. Training for BIPs

Training shall be an integral part of BIPs. BIP group facilitators shall have on-going training in the areas including:

1. The dynamics of domestic violence and the behaviors used by batterers as part of a pattern of power and control;
2. Issues of victim safety and batterer accountability;
3. Strategies for effectively confronting excuses for violence, including substance abuse/addiction and victim blaming;

Ohio Standards for Batterers Intervention

4. The impact of battering on partners, children, and others;
 5. The role of BIPs in a coordinated community response; and
 6. In addition to above, new facilitators shall receive comprehensive training on domestic violence in general.
- C. Supervision
1. BIPs shall have a supervisor experienced in the batterers intervention work for facilitators. If such supervisor is not available, BIPs may arrange for peer review or other forms of internal monitoring of BIP activities.
- D. Self-Evaluation
1. BIPs shall engage in regular empirical self-evaluation which may include recidivism rate check through the court records (ODVN-BIC, 2002).

References

- Americans with Disabilities Act, 42, §12102, 2 (1990).
<http://www.ada.gov/pubs/adastatute08.htm#12102>. Retrieved May 19, 2010
- Appalachian Regional Commission (October, 2008). *Map of Appalachian counties*.
http://www.arc.gov/images/appregion/Appalachian_Region_Map.pdf. Retrieved May 19, 2010.
- Central Intelligence Agency (2007). *The World Factbook*.
<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/us.html>. Retrieved May 19, 2010.
- Civil Rights Act of 1963 Title VI. <http://www.lep.gov/>. Retrieved May 19, 2010.
- Contos Shoaf, L. (2004). *Domestic violence in Appalachian Ohio: The victim's perspective*. Columbus: Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services.
- cultural bridges (2002). *Dismantling oppression and forging justice: Training manual*. Questa, NM: Author.
- DeKeseredy, W. S. and Schwartz, M. D. (2009). *Dangerous exits: Escaping abusive relationships in rural America*. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press.
- King Akers, D. (2006). *Balancing the power: Creating a crisis center accessible to people with disabilities*. Austin, TX: Safe Place.
- Montgomery County Criminal Justice Council. (2001). *Domestic violence protocol*. Dayton, OH: Author.
- Novaco, R. W., Ramm, M., and Black, L. (2000). Anger treatment with offenders. In C. Hollin (Ed.), *Handbook of offender assessment and treatment*. (pp. 281-296). New York: Wiley.
- Ohio Domestic Violence Network Batterers Intervention Committee (2002). *The self-evaluation tool for batterers intervention programs: Addendum to ODVN Standards for Batterers Intervention*. Columbus, OH: Author. www.odvn.org. Retrieved February 9, 2010.
- Stuart, G. L., Moore, T. M., Gordon, K. C., Hellmuthm J. C., Ramsey, S. E., and

Ohio Standards for Batterers Intervention

Kahler, C. W. (2006). Reasons for intimate partner violence perpetration among arrested women. *Violence Against Women*, 12, 609-621.

Resources

Buckeye Region Anti-Violence Organization (2002). *Lesbian, gay, bisexual, & transgender language*. (informational sheet) Columbus, OH: Author

Harasim-Pieper, M. (2010). *Women who use force in their intimate partner relationships: Common language and concepts*. Columbus, OH: Ohio Domestic Violence Network.

Holmes, Sarah. (2009). *Definitions*. (informational sheet) Portland, ME: University of Southern Maine Safe Zone Project.

Ohio Domestic Violence Network (1998). *Standards for Batterers Intervention*. www.odvn.org.

Ohio Domestic Violence Network (2006). *Guidelines for domestic violence risk assessment*. www.odvn.org.

Ohio Domestic Violence Network (2010). *Guidelines for programs working with women who use force*. Columbus, OH: Author.

Websdale, N. (1998). *Rural woman battering and the justice system: An ethnography*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.

Other States' Standards on Batterers Intervention

The following states' standards, which had been updated since 2002, were referred to for the revision of this document: Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Missouri, New Hampshire, North Carolina, and Vermont.

Some standards were obtained through individual contacts to agencies responsible for the state's standards. However, the majority of them were obtained through the Batterer Intervention Services Coalition of Michigan website at: http://www.biscmi.org/other_resources/state_standards.html