

Common Purpose Batterer Intervention Program
Brief Descriptions of Workshop Topics
1570 Tremont Street, Boston, MA 02120
617-739-3831

1. **Assessing Dangerousness and Lethality:** *One tool used by Common Purpose to assess an offender's level of dangerousness is a Dangerousness-Lethality Checklist. This is utilized to evaluate the client's potential for harm as well as suitability for treatment. This workshop studies the information-gathering process, examines the importance of such an assessment, for safety planning. This procedure necessitates the establishment of a safe environment in order to identify the relevant questions to ask, the appropriate responses to these questions, and the follow-up to this critical information in terms of suitable treatment.*
2. **Basic Overview of Domestic Violence:** *Within this workshop, the "continuum of control", including the institutional, physical and psychological controls that men use, serves as an umbrella under which the dynamics of a violent relationship, its prevalence and causes are examined. Questions around how one recognizes the different forms of abuse in relationships and in the social environment, including the impact of drugs and alcohol, are thoroughly examined and discussed.*
3. **Victim Contacts:** *Working with victims and ensuring their safety is the foundation of a batterers' program. In this workshop, contact with victims is explored, emphasizing empathic information gathering. This includes learning how to respectfully elicit information about violence and abuse. It is extremely important to know what questions to ask, how to ask them and what information to give in response. Maintaining a keen awareness of the victim's feelings during this process, and how they may relate to other problematic issues is consistently stressed. Also included is material on the referral process and general information about batterer intervention programs (such as particulars, range and limitations), other resources and the role of shelters.*
4. **Difficult clients and disclosure:** *This workshop involves a discussion of offenders' resistance to disclosure, as well as their justifications and excuses for violent and abusive behaviors. A survey of strategies men use to deny responsibility for and to trivialize their violent behavior and abuse is also identified. Strategies for confronting and undoing men's justifications and excuses are examined in detail. Difficulties involved in obtaining disclosures and appropriate treatment are studied, along with a survey of the practice of basic counseling strategies, including focusing on violence, drug and alcohol issues, intentions vs. effects, supportive confrontation, behavioral safety plans, loss of control/provocation, and appropriate and inappropriate use of partner contact material.*
5. **Characteristics of men who batter:** *Given the highly chronic nature of domestic violence offenders, this workshop provides an extensive review of denial, victim-blaming, minimization, excuses and control tactics utilized by batterers as well as how they utilize societal dominance orientation, male privilege, and objectification/stereotyping of women*

in line with the male-role belief system as a justification for their behaviors. Also, within this framework, a discussion is held concerning offenders least likely to be held accountable.

6. **Typography of Cases.** *Key characteristics of diverse types of offenders are highlighted in this workshop to facilitate learning and working with each profile. This includes obsessive jealousy types, highly narcissistic types, hyper-violent men and drug/alcohol dependent men. An overview of issues indigenous to these characters is addressed, including the effects on their partners and behavior with their counselors, appropriate treatment of these men in groups, and the limitations this presents to their working in groups..*

7. **Using the Psycho- Educational Group with Batterers:** *A comprehensive overview of batterers' issues, and of the batterer intervention program itself, is presented in this workshop. The importance and value of intake and evaluation procedures are demonstrated with relevant techniques and tools, including safety plans, check-ins and processing, role-playing, action plans and control logs. Counselor's roles, along with the various themes and exercises used in the Duluth Abuse Intervention Project curriculum are clarified. **(This is a four hour workshop.)***

8. **Case Management Specific to Domestic Violence:** *The task of assessing and assigning appropriate monitoring of offenders requires a coordinated effort by various social institutions in order to determine suitable treatment that will hold batterers accountable and provide safety for victims. The components of these interactions are defined, including working with the courts, the probation officer, Department of Social Services, battered women's programs, shelters, mental health and substance abuse agencies.*

Agencies interested in having one or more workshop topics presented on-site should call Common Purpose at 617-739-3831. The maximum number of participants recommended is 40.

*Fees for individual two-hour workshops are \$200.00. Workshop number 8, **Using the Psycho-educational Groups with Batterers**, is a four-hour workshop. The fee for this workshop is \$350.00. We will work with agencies to design half and full day seminars for staff.*

Common Purpose provides intervention services for court-ordered and self-referred batterers and outreach to abused partners. Prevention education for youth and adults is available for schools and public housing agencies without charge.

Batterer intervention groups are offered on a sliding scale fee basis and are available in Jamaica Plain, Quincy, Roxbury, Cambridge, and Dorchester.

Three-day certification training for treatment staff and those concerned about domestic violence is offered by Common Purpose. Certification training includes:

**Legal and Ethical Issues
Multi-cultural Issues
Lethality Assessment
Role of Facilitator**

**Assessment of Offenders
Non-Controlling Behavior
The use of role-plays in group
Profile of an Assailant (film)**

Individual consultation and supervision is available.

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