



Taking it to the Next Level

**Advocating for Safe and Just Communities
for Battered Women and Children**

Debby Tucker and Rhonda Gerson



NATIONAL CENTER
on Domestic and Sexual Violence
training • consulting • advocacy



Principles of Intervention

- Victim Safety and Well-being
- Offender Accountability
- Changing the Climate of Tolerance to Violence in the Community



Change Ain't New

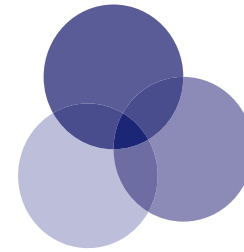


“Insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results.”

— Sir Winston Churchill

What do abused women need?

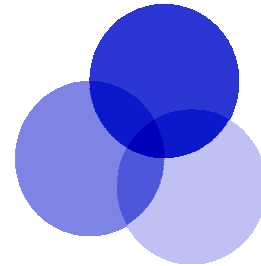
- Safety
- Resources
- Connection
- Power/authority/agency
- Restoration (of spirit, health, and community)
- Hope





What do abused women need?

These needs best be met through building community in advancing the movement.





Profile of Victims

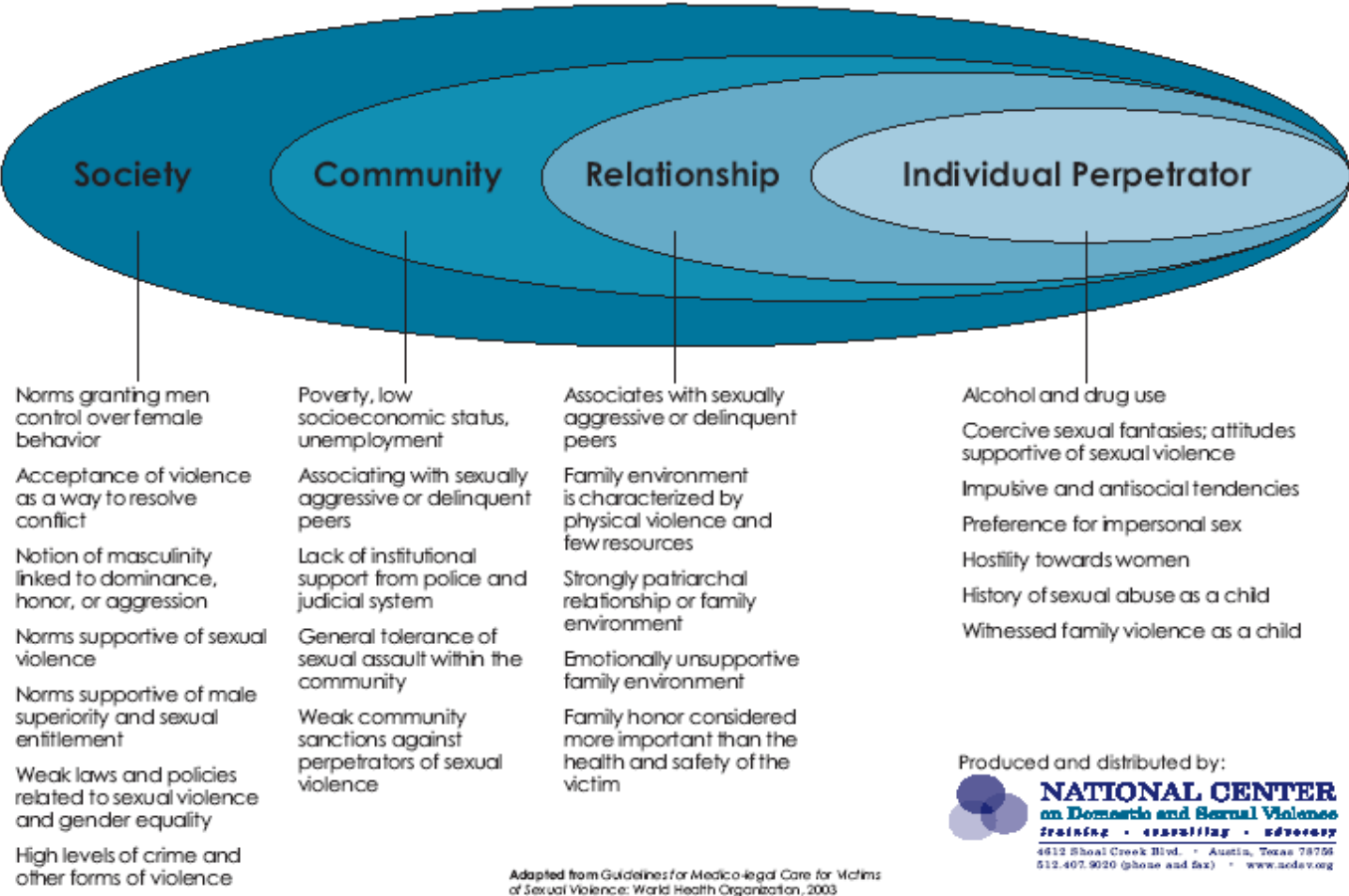
- 65% of the victims are women
- 35% of the victims are men
- No symmetry in actions or motive



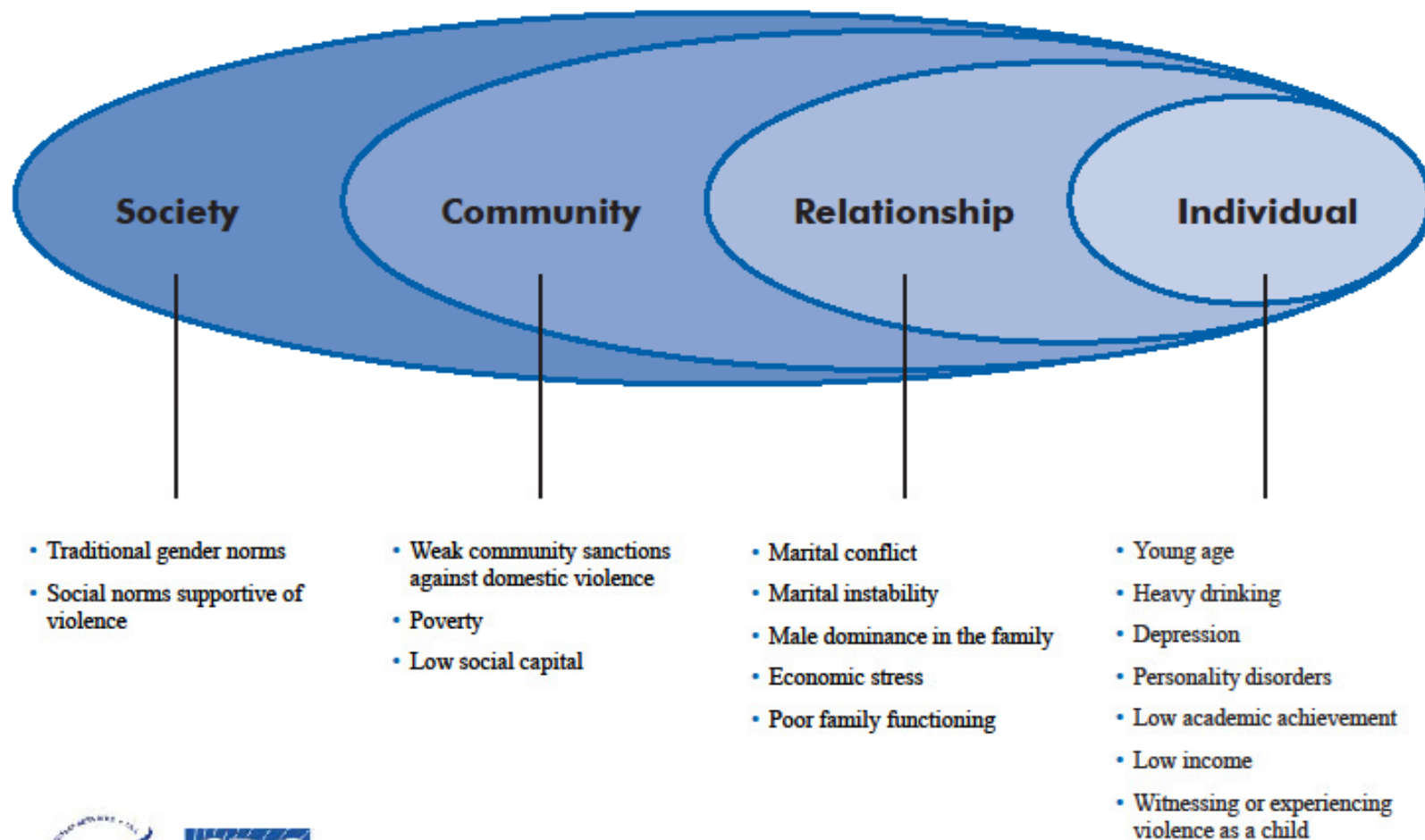
Male Perpetrators

- Men kill wives who have left them
- Men commit murder-suicide
- Men kill when they believe their partner has been unfaithful
- Men kill after lengthy abuse
- Men perpetrate familicidal massacres

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH MEN COMMITTING RAPE



Factors Associated with a Man's Risk for Abusing His Partner



Adapted from the *World Report on Violence and Health* (World Health Organization, 2002)



Female Perpetrators

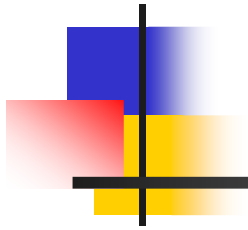
- Women kill in defense of self or children
- Women kill after suffering years of abuse
- Women kill after exhausting all assistance
- Women kill when they feel trapped
- Women kill when they fear for their lives



Homicide Reduction Formula

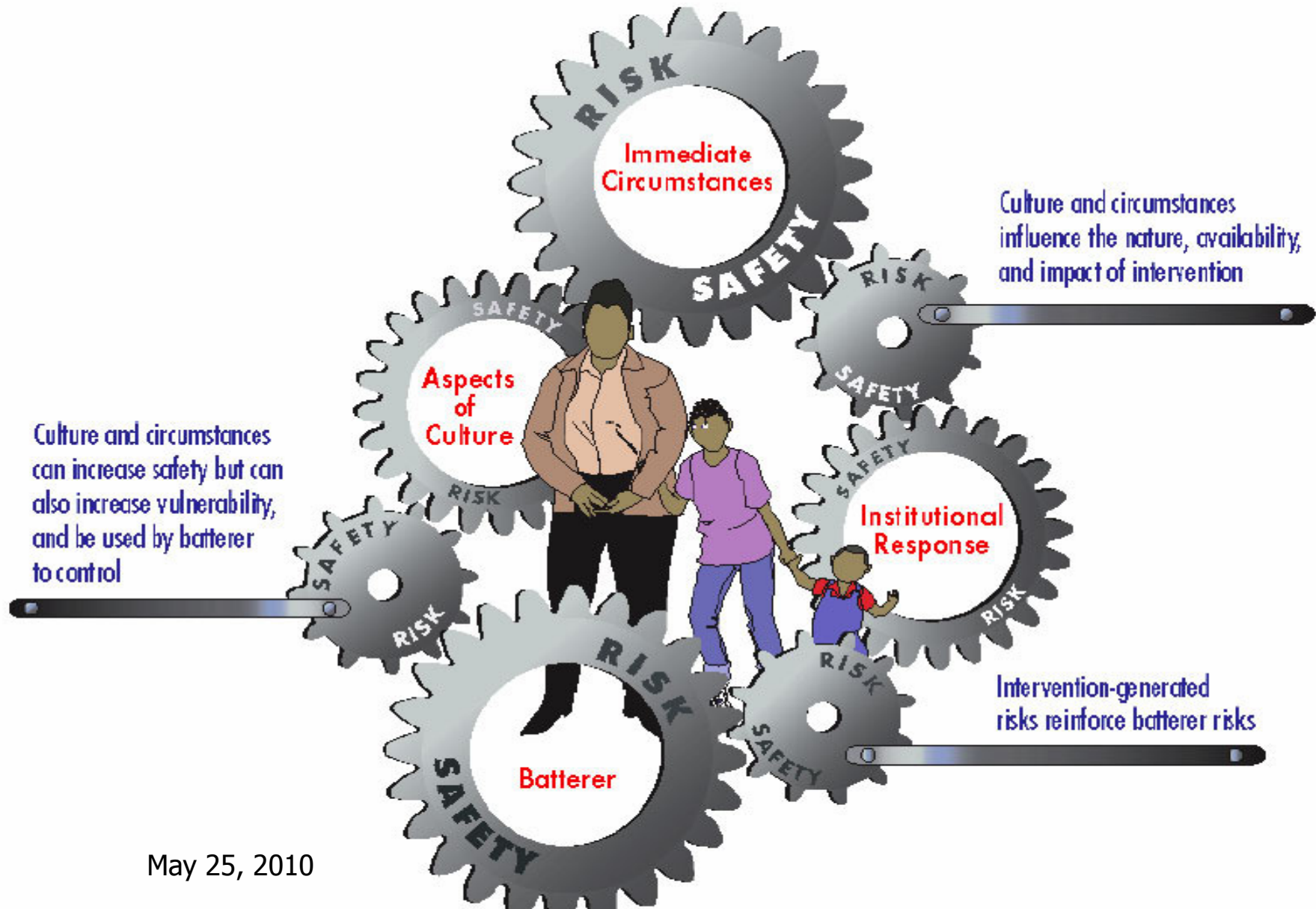
- Strong leadership
- Strong pro-arrest policies
- Community task force / council
- Mandatory training for all
- Coordinated effort by all
- Commitment to change

By Chief Sam Bacca, 1987



Analyzing Risks

For each woman and her children, what risks are generated by...





Culture and Circumstances Analyzing the Risks

- Children
- Discrimination
- Mental Illness/PTSD
- Alcohol and Substance Abuse
- Coping Abuse
- Survivor Skills Limited to Experience



Assessing Risks: Children

- Lack of cooperation among agencies responding to abuse of children and partner abuse exacerbates the lack of safety for victims and accountability for offenders.



Assessing Risks: Children

When analyzing the risk to battered women, we must assess the risks to the children. How will the intervention we propose support the victim's efforts to protect the children from abuse?



Assessing Risks: Prejudice and Discrimination Three Levels

- **Institutional**

- Business, government agencies, schools, media, health care, legal system, religious organizations and other institutions may discriminate on the basis of race, sexual orientation, language and so on.

- **Social/Cultural**

- Acceptable cultural norms and values of society are reflective of experiences of dominant groups.



Assessing Risks of Prejudice and Discrimination Three Levels

- **Individual**

- This is personal attitudes and beliefs of prejudice when one interacts directly with a person or group of people from a group different from oneself.

Allies speak out against institutional, social/cultural and individual prejudice and discrimination.

Sources: "Social Oppression: An Operational System" in Social Oppression in Diversity: Conceptual Framework [Amherst, MA 19-Counseling the Culturally Different: Theory and Practice [1981] - "The Sociopolitical Nature of Counseling". The Counseling Psychologist, 13/4 [1985]. Supporting Survivors of Sexual Assault: A Journey to Justice and Healing, published by the Massachusetts Department of Health.



Assessing Risks: Impact of Trauma/PTSD

- After 1980, when the efforts of combat veterans had legitimated the concept of post-traumatic stress disorder, it became clear that the psychological syndrome seen in survivors of rape, domestic battery, and incest was essentially the same as the syndrome seen in survivors of war.
- Traumatic events violate the autonomy of the person at the level of basic bodily integrity. The body is invaded, injured, defiled.



Assessing Risks: Impact of Trauma/PTSD

- Traumatic events destroy the belief that one can “be oneself” in relation to others. The individual’s point of view counts for nothing, and shame, doubt, and guilt appear in the aftermath of the traumatic events.



Assessing Risks: Impact of Trauma/PTSD

- Many observers who have never experienced prolonged terror or traumatic events and who have no understanding of coercive methods of control presume that they would show greater courage and resistance than the victim in similar circumstances.



Assessing Risks: Impact of Trauma/PTSD

- **Therefore, the common tendency is to account for the victim's behavior by seeking flaws in her personality or moral character.**

Violence and Recovery, Judith Lewis Herman



Assessing Risks: Domestic Violence & Addiction

Both

Involve power and control dynamics.

Impact entire families, often harming 3 or more generations.

Thrive in silence and isolation.

Carry great societal stigma and shame.



Assessing Risks: Domestic Violence & Addiction

Denial serves different purposes:

- Victims fear for their safety or may be coerced into denying the truth C4
- Batterers avoid accountability and may falsely blame their behavior on their partner, substance abuse or anger.
- Alcoholics/addicts fear they won't survive without using and deny avoiding pain.

Slide 24

C4 The first dot doesn't have a period at the end, although the other two do.

I would suggest:

"...denying the truth."

Christina, 5/18/2010



Assessing Risks: Coping Abuses

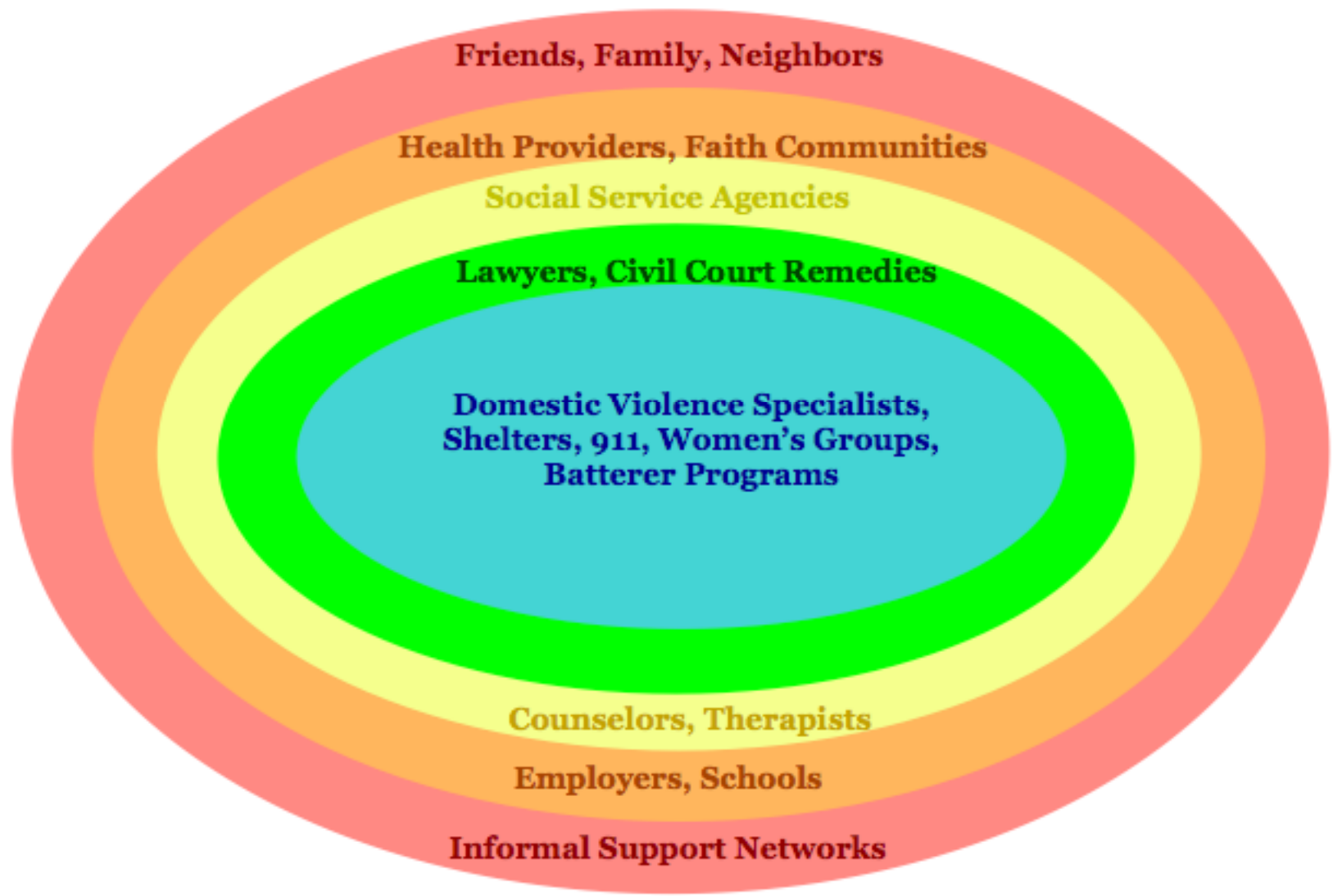
- Substance Abuse
- Gambling
- Eating Disorders
- Compulsive Spending
- Excessive Working
- Sexually Acting Out
- Compulsive Shopping/Shop-Lifting



Adult Victim Survival Skills

- Fighting back and defying the perpetrator.
- Pleasing, placating, and complying.
- Not telling anyone about the abuse lest it get worse.
- Not leaving for fear of the abuse getting worse.
- Leaving to try and make it better.

Where do victims of domestic violence seek help?

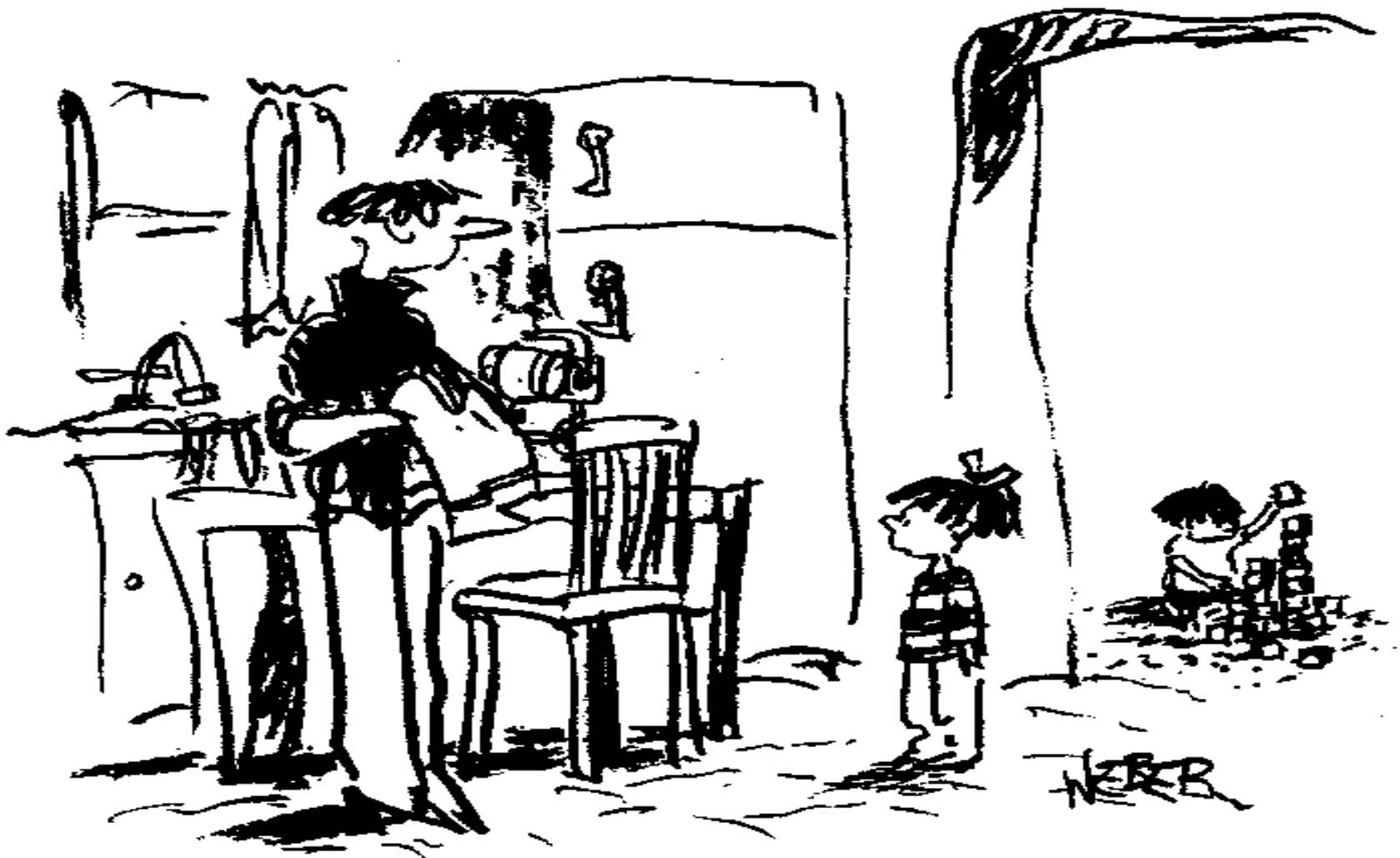




Adult Victim Survival Skills

- Encouraging abuser to drink until they pass out so no one gets hurt.
- Reasoning with the abuser or expressing disapproval.
- Lying about the abuser's criminal behavior.
- Trying to improve the relationship.
- Creating internal space through fantasy that the abuser can't touch.
- Having sex to placate the abuser and protect children from violence.
- Drinking and using drugs to numb one's own pain.

Ganley, A. and Schechter, S., 1996



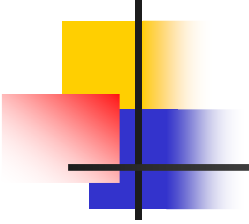
"Norman won't collaborate."

Coordinated Community Response



An interagency effort to change the climate of tolerance of battering by institutionalizing practices and procedures which centralize victim safety and offender accountability in domestic assault related cases.

Eight Activities

- 
-
- 1. Common Philosophical Approach**
 - 2. Standardize Practices**
 - 3. Monitor & Track Cases**
 - 4. Coordinate Information & Interagency Networking**
 - 5. Resources & Services for Victims**
 - 6. Sanctions for Offenders**
 - 7. Undo Harm to Children**
 - 8. Training & Evaluation**



Mindset for Successful Collaboration

*Too often spurred by a key
event, such as a court-watch
program, election, or
homicide*





Mindset for Successful Collaboration

- **Define your vision and goals** — what you want to accomplish to achieve a successful outcome.
- **Focus on possibilities** — what you can do together, while understanding limitations that may exist. Avoid being cynical — don't decide in advance that nothing can work.



Mindset for Successful Collaboration

- **Create** a recommendation, agreement and/or plan of action with the other parties involved.
- **Be open to being influenced by others.** There may be more than one right way. Be neither doormat, nor immovable object.



Mindset for Successful Collaboration

- **Have a curious/investigating attitude** about others' needs, power, mandates, mission, barriers, and opportunities to move forward.
- **Avoid blaming**, "shoulding," and/or making assumptions about others' motives and meaning.



Mindset for Successful Collaboration

- **Look for connections** rather than differences — the “fit” — meeting your needs and others’ needs.
- **See yourself as a significant partner** with confidence in your ability to “hold your own” when situations are confusing and complex.

— Battered Women’s Justice Project, *Advocacy Institute: Building Comprehensive Solutions to Domestic Violence*, Philadelphia,

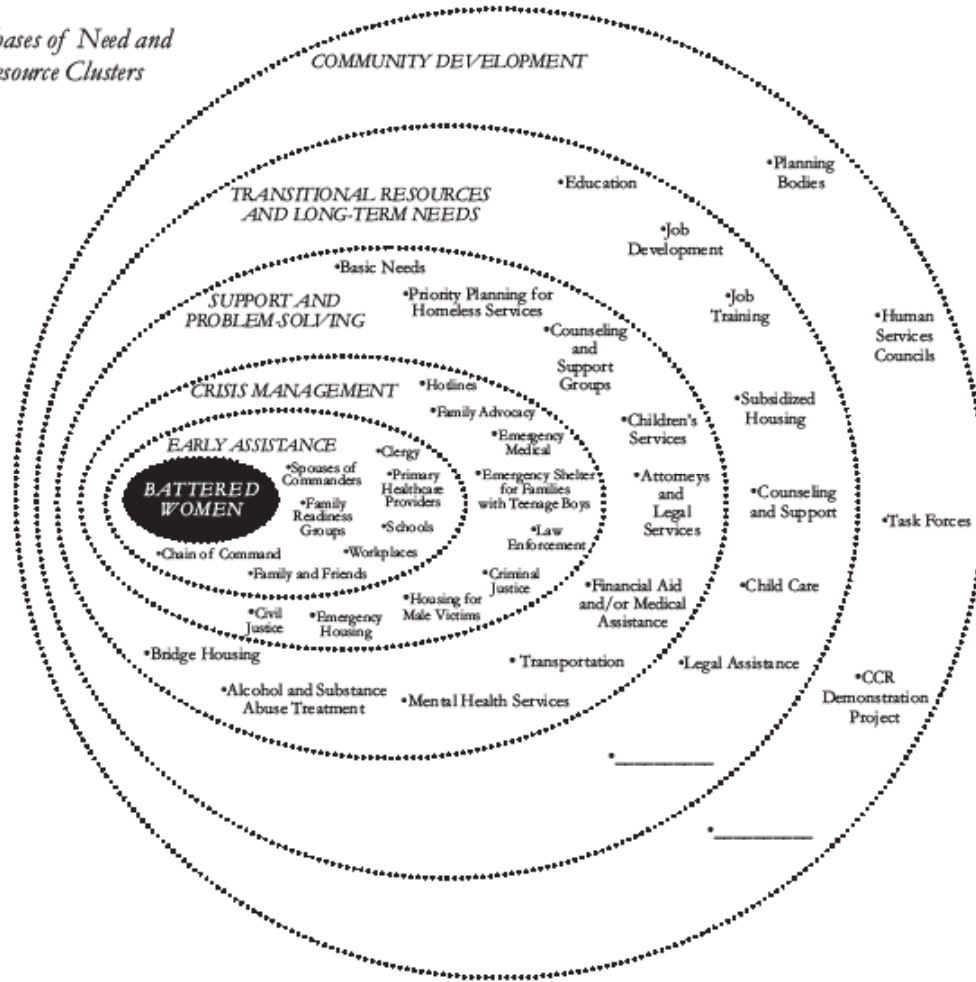
National Center on Domestic and
Sexual Violence

PA, May 1999

CONTINUUM OF CARING: COMMUNITY RESOURCE CLUSTERS

*Coordinated Community Response Demonstration Project 2006
Fort Campbell Army Installation with Christian County, KY and Montgomery County, TN*

*Phases of Need and
Resource Clusters*



Developed for the Coordinated Community
Response Demonstration Project from
The Coordinated Action
Plan for Battered Women's Advocates,
The Kentucky Coalition Against Domestic Violence (1997)

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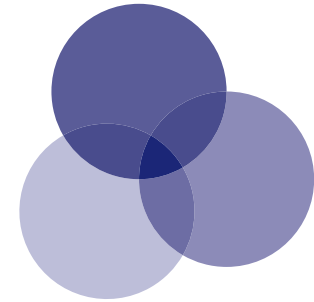
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May 25, 2010



Eight Steps...



*...to Building Effective
Collaborations*

Eight Steps to Building Effective Collaborations



- 1. Analyze** the program's objectives and determine whether to form a collaborative.
- 2. Recruit** the right people.
- 3. Devise** a set of preliminary objectives and activities for the coalition.
- 4. Convene** the collaborative.



Eight Steps to Building Effective Collaborations

5. **Anticipate** the necessary resources.
6. **Define** elements of a successful collaborative structure.
7. **Maintain** collaborative vitality.
8. **Improve** through evaluation.

— *Violence Prevention News*, Winter 2002, Vol 9, No 1, Illinois
Center for Violence Prevention



Family Justice Centers

- Co-location of multi-disciplinary team
- Provide coordinated comprehensive services to victims, children and offenders
- Visit: www.familyjusticecenter.org



Cooperation

- Relationships usually formed around one area of information exchange.
- Resources and organizations kept separate.
- May be short-term or project-oriented.
- There will be little planning or evaluation, but will be some problem-solving.



Coordination

- Relationships broader in scope, in-depth communications.
- Resources specifically allocated by the partnering organizations.
- Individuals designated as responsible.
- Usually longer-term, more of a *program* rather than a *project* and involves some planning and evaluation.



Collaboration

- Relationships intertwined; open communications to problem-solve and create new approaches.
- Resources avidly shared and sought jointly.
- Responsibilities and roles in the effort clear, with leadership coming from several organizations.
- The venture has an articulated vision and is planned, with evaluation and redesign based on performance.



Challenges...

*...to Coordinated Community
Response*



Challenges for Coordinated Community Response

1. Keeping a shared focus on victim safety
2. Maintaining trust and information exchange between agencies
3. Building effective child protection into domestic violence response
4. Reviewing policies and procedures using interagency working groups
5. Holding each other accountable while maintaining effective working relationships



Overcoming Challenges

- 1. Meet to Plan**
- 2. Work the Plan**
- 3. Evaluate the Plan**
- 4. Revise the Plan**



Action Planning Steps

Vision the desired change

- Who:
 - Are our allies?
 - Will be opposed?
 - Will we need to recruit?
 - Will be our strongest collaborator?



Action Planning Steps

- Where:
 - Are the resources we need?
 - Can power be best organized to bring about change?
 - Are there other communities that have achieved the change we want?



Action Planning Steps

- When:
 - Is this the best time to push for this change?
 - Do we want to achieve the change?
 - Can we expect results?



Action Planning Steps

- How:
 - Do we obtain our own organizational commitment to the effort?
 - Will we organize to be effective in managing the new initiatives?
 - Do we define success?



Action Planning Steps

- What:
 - Will need to change?
 - Tells us the change is desirable?
 - Advocacy will be required and with whom?
 - Will we bring to the effort?
 - Does our strongest collaborator bring?

COMMUNITY ACCOUNTABILITY WHEEL

This wheel *begins* to demonstrate the ideal community response to the issue of domestic violence. Community opinion, which strongly states that battering is unacceptable, leads all of our social institutions to expect full accountability from the batterer by applying appropriate consequences. This wheel was developed by Mike Jackson and David Garvin of the Domestic Violence Institute of Michigan (P.O. Box 130107, Ann Arbor, MI 48113, tel: 313.769.6334).



Inspired and adapted from the "Power & Control Equality Wheel" developed by Domestic Abuse Intervention Project
202 East Superior Street
Duluth, MN 55802

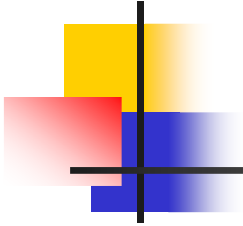
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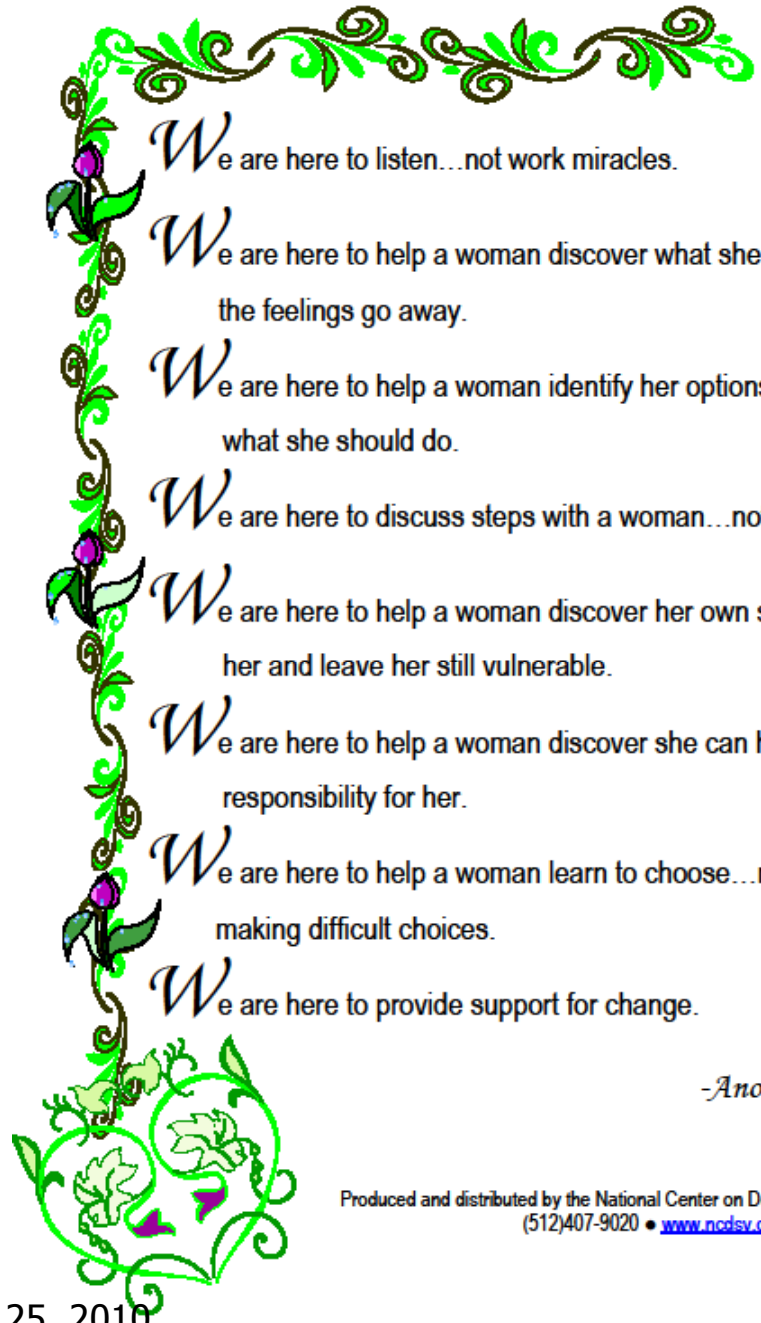
May 25, 2010

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“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens, can change the world. Indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.”

— Margaret Mead



We are here to listen...not work miracles.

We are here to help a woman discover what she is feeling...not to make the feelings go away.

We are here to help a woman identify her options...not to decide for her what she should do.

We are here to discuss steps with a woman...not to take steps for her.

We are here to help a woman discover her own strength...not to rescue her and leave her still vulnerable.

We are here to help a woman discover she can help herself...not to take responsibility for her.

We are here to help a woman learn to choose...not to keep her from making difficult choices.

We are here to provide support for change.

-Anonymous

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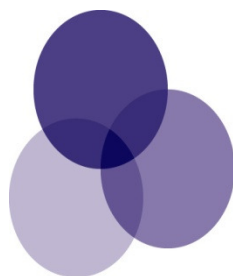
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