Intimate Partner Violence Training for Social Work: a Social Action Approach

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Summary of Presentation

- Ethical consciousness of global issues
- Why training of IPV
- Fields of work for social workers
- The approach
- The process behind the training
- The training program at a glance
- Conclusion
Why Training on Intimate Partner Violence (IPV)

Ethical consciousness of global issues

Social workers need to commit to:

• social responsibility, sustainability for local, national and international community issues
• the power we have to persuade and influence the world
• the power of our intervention
• connect effective knowledge and skills with the ability to make judgements about ethics and social responsibility
Why training on IPV

- Global widespread issue
- Requires multifaceted responses from both government and community
- Affects people of all races, cultures, classes, geographic locations, ages and professions
- Intervening in IPV situations is one of the most difficult aspects of social work practice
WHY …

• To have a better understanding of the issues
• To look at social workers intervention strategies
• To appreciate the significance of knowing your community
• To recognize the implication of collaboration and information sharing in each community
• To view training for social workers as an essential social action approach
INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE: A CROSS-CUTTING ISSUE FOR SOCIAL WORKERS

Social Work Fields of Practice

- CHILD & FAMILY WELFARE
  - Child protection
  - First Nations Child and Family Welfare Services, Housing

- MENTAL HEALTH
  - Community Mental Health
  - Psychiatric Dept in Hospital
  - Medical Centre

- CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM
  - Police Victim services; Policy maker in Justice Dept, in Public Safety Dept.

- FAMILY COUNSELLING SERVICES
  - Family Services

- ADDICTION SERVICES

- MEDICAL SOCIAL WORKERS

- COMMUNITY AGENCIES
  - Transition Homes (12)
  - Outreach Workers
  - Elder Abuse, Client Crikey Centre
  - Multicultural Association

- GERONTOLOGY/DISABILITIES
  - Adult protection

- INCOME ASSISTANCE
Approach

Woman-centered approach – a perspective which recognizes that all family members are an integral part of the healing journey
Approach …

- IPV affects us all in some way, some more directly than others
- Social workers have been touched by violence in their own lives in some way
- Intervening in situation of violence is stressful
The process behind the training program
Goal:
Build the capacity of social workers to effectively intervene in situations of IPV

Importance of Partnership:
- Association of New Brunswick Social Workers
- Women’s Issues Branch
- Department of Social Development
- Working Committee & Advisory Committee
- Four discussion groups across the province
What did the review of the literature tell us about training in IPV?

- Not all social workers have a clear definition of IPV
- Not all social workers are trained in how to properly intervene with regards to IPV
- IPV is a widespread issue and most social workers will deal with clients who have/are dealing with IPV
- Working with victims of IPV can result in vicarious trauma for the intervener
Why the train-the-trainer model?

• This model of teaching is very cost-effective for employers
• This model allows for flexibility in structuring this course to save time
• There are many benefits associated with peer learning
• The participants chosen possess specific characteristics important to implementing the training program
The first four trainers

Miguel LeBlanc – Leslie Monagham – Ginette Petitpas-Taylor – Martine Haché
The pilot training

• Eighteen social workers participated in a pilot training
• Feedback were incorporated into training manual
The training program at a glance
A Train-the-Trainer Manual for Delivering Training on Intimate Partner Violence to Social Workers

Understanding the Impact of Intimate Partner VIOLENCE

Helping Social Workers to Better Intervene

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Training Objectives

Social workers will gain a greater understanding of:

- The nature, impact and reality of intimate partner violence

- The role of social workers in intervening in intimate partner violence situation

- The impact of intimate partner violence on the private and professional lives of social workers
Overview of Training Modules

Module 1: Introduction to IPV

Social workers will learn:

- What IPV is, why it occurs, and the impact that it has on the lives of individuals
- different types of abusive behaviours that constitute IPV
- different theories of IPV
- power and control dynamics and cycle of violence in a violent intimate relationship
- The complex process of leaving
Overview of Training Modules

Module 2: Recognizing and Responding to Diversity & Unique Barriers

Social Workers will learn:

• How to recognize diversity and respond to the needs of individuals from marginalized groups (teens, seniors, persons living with disabilities, same-sex couples, First Nations people, New Immigrants, and rural victims/survivors)
Overview of Training Modules

Module 3: Understanding the Impact of IPV on Children and Adolescents

Social workers will explore:
- the impact of IPV on children and adolescents
- the impact of IPV on parenting
- the links between IPV and child abuse
- practice interventions with children and adolescents in situations of IPV
Overview of Training Modules

Module 4: Social Worker’s Intervention to IPV

• a woman-centered framework
• personal values, responses, and beliefs
• impact of commonly held beliefs and assumptions
• the woman abuse protocols
• legal, ethical, and policy aspects of social work interventions in IPV
• types of social work interventions
• resources and references
Overview of Training Modules

Module 5: Impact of IPV on the Professional and Private Lives of Social Workers

• Gain a greater understanding of the impact of violence in the intimate lives of social workers
• Explore personal, professional, agency/organizational strategies
Thank you

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