An Introduction to the Effects of Intimate Partner Violence on Child Witnesses
Goal of the Training

The **goal** of this training is to provide participants with basic information on:

Intimate partner violence, (IPV) and the effects on child witnesses
Objectives

By the end of the training participants will be able to:

• Define/describe IPV in their own words
• Identify at least 3 examples of abusive behavior
• Identify 3 effects that may be experienced by child witnesses
Definition of IPV  Intimate Partner Violence

• Intimate partner violence (IPV), also called domestic violence\(^1\) refers to any behavior purposely inflicted by one person against another within an intimate relationship that causes physical, psychological or sexual harm.

• Such behavior includes acts of physical aggression, psychological or emotional abuse, as well as forced intercourse and other forms of sexual coercion.\(^2\) Additional examples of abusive behavior may include screaming, withholding money. Most often, the violent person is a husband, former husband, boyfriend, or ex-boyfriend, but sometimes the abuser is female.
Recent data from the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention

• More women than men experience intimate partner violence. Intimate partner violence is a major cause of violence-related injuries.

• Nearly two-thirds of women who reported being raped, physically assaulted, and/or stalked since age 18 were victimized by a current or former husband, cohabiting partner, boyfriend or date. One in three women injured during a physical assault or rape required medical care.

• Women are more likely than men to be murdered in the context of intimate partner violence.
PHYSICAL VIOLENCE

USING COERCION AND THREATS
Making and/or carrying out threats to do something to hurt her • threatening to leave her, to commit suicide, to report her to welfare • making her drop charges • making her do illegal things.

USING INTIMIDATION
Making her afraid by using looks, actions, gestures • smashing things • destroying her property • abusing pets • displaying weapons.

USING ECONOMIC ABUSE
Preventing her from getting or keeping a job • making her ask for money • giving her an allowance • taking her money • not letting her know about or have access to family income.

USING EMOTIONAL ABUSE
Putting her down • making her feel bad about herself • calling her names • making her think she's crazy • playing mind games • humiliating her • making her feel guilty.

USING MALE PRIVILEGE
Treating her like a servant • making all the big decisions • acting like the "master of the castle" • being the one to define men's and women's roles.

USING ISOLATION
Controlling what she does, who she sees and talks to, what she reads, where she goes • limiting her outside involvement • using jealousy to justify actions.

MINIMIZING, DENYING AND BLAMING
Making light of the abuse and not taking her concerns about it seriously • saying the abuse didn't happen • shifting responsibility for abusive behavior • saying she caused it.

USING CHILDREN
Making her feel guilty about the children • using the children to relay messages • using visitation to harass her • threatening to take the children away.
Coercion and Threats
Fairness

Economic Abuse
Economic Partnership

Male Privilege
Shared Responsibility

Using Children
Responsible Parenting

Honesty and Accountability
Minimizing, Denying and Blaming

Intimidation
Non-Threatening Behavior

Emotional Abuse
Trust and Support

Using Isolation

Creator

Be kind to others and treat them well. Make decisions for the good of all. Keep in mind the effect they would have on former and future generations. Don’t be greedy. Don’t be stingy. Touch nothing that belongs to someone else, especially sacred objects. Share what you have with your brothers and sisters and other living things.

Don’t fight and don’t trouble anyone. Listen and respect others’ beliefs, visions and dreams. Show respect for elders, parents, people and their customs, religions. Respect Mother Earth and all living things.

Decisions were not finalized without the input from the women. Although men were the spokespersons of the family, women were treated with the deepest respect as the givers of life and the backbone of the family. Women and men respected each other’s roles. Children were the responsibility of the whole extended family. Knowing that they were a gift from the creator, they were not to be used or abused in any way.

Be truthful to self and others at all times. Respect each person for their own gifts and knowledge. Think before you act. Have close ties to your homeland and family. Never intrude on a person’s personal space. Don’t lie, make false promises, or gossip about others for it is your spirit you are degrading.
Impact on Children

Objectives

• By the end of the workshop participants will be able to:
  • Describe how children interpret violence and to identify at least 1 feeling children may experience
  • Identify at least 3 physiological symptom which may result as a consequence to witnessing violence
  • Describe at least 3 behavioral symptoms which may occur in children who have witnesses violence
Developmental Stages of Children

- Physical
- Intellectual
- Emotional
- Social
- Moral
HIERARCHY OF BRAIN FUNCTION

Cortical

Limbic

Midbrain

Brainstem

Slide from Delson-Kokish Associates, 2001, Niki Delson, BCD, LCSW Trinidad, CA 95570 niki@delko.net
Abstract Thought
Concrete Thought
Affiliation
Attachment
Sexual Behavior
Emotional Reactivity
Motor Regulation
"Arousal"
Appetite/Satiety
Sleep
Blood Pressure
Heart Rate
Body Temperature
Children who have witnessed violence…..

- 50% of infants have eating and sleeping problems
- Older children may experience difficulties learning
- Children may be misdiagnosed as ADD/ADHD
- They’re less responsive to adults, and cry a lot
- Violent play
- Social withdrawal
- Aggressiveness
Helping the Child and the Parent

Objectives

• By the end of the training participants will be able to:

• Identify at least 3 developmental stages of childhood

• Identify 3 ways to help a child appropriately express his/her feelings

• Identify 4 useful resources for children, their parents, and/or other caregivers who have experienced IPV