Accountability In BIPP

ALLISON GUERRA, M.ED LPC

AVDA BIPP DIRECTOR

Objectives

- Overview on BIPP
- What is Accountability?
- Challenges in BIPP
- Enhancing Accountability in BIPP
- Why BIPP Matters

Battering Intervention and Prevention Program (BIPP)

- What is Battering Intervention and Prevention?
- BIPP is NOT:

Anger Management

Couples/Family/Individual Therapy

Substance Abuse Counseling

Mental Health Therapy

AVDA- BIPP is fully accredited by TDCJ- CJAD

- 18 week program conducted in a 6 phase model:

1. Client Referral
2. Registration
3. Orientation
4. Evaluation
5. Group Sessions
6. Additional Support

AVDA serves 16 groups across the Greater Houston area.

- Fee based program
- Engl. and Sp. speaking groups available

Intake and Orientation Process

The intake process is a one on one session with a trained BIPP Facilitator

Facilitator will assess: general background, family background, current or most recent relationship history (focusing on past/current abusive behaviors), mental health and substance abuse concerns, and referring incident.

Participants are expected to make a commitment to active participation

Orientation is conducted in a group format

Designed to give participants information on the following:

- Program Services
- Limits to Confidentiality
- Participants rights and responsibilities
- Program Goals

Now the work begins….

1. Responsibility is solely the batterer's
2. Critical thinking/choice
3. Abuse is a learned behavior/choice
4. Relationship between substance abuse and domestic violence
5. Non-violent and responsible parenting
6. Empathy
7. Identifies Sexual abuse a form of violence
8. Effects and impact of abuse on children
9. Fostering Respect, Intimacy, and Commitment
10. Conflict Resolution

Creating a Process of Change for Men who Batter

Reporting and Case Management

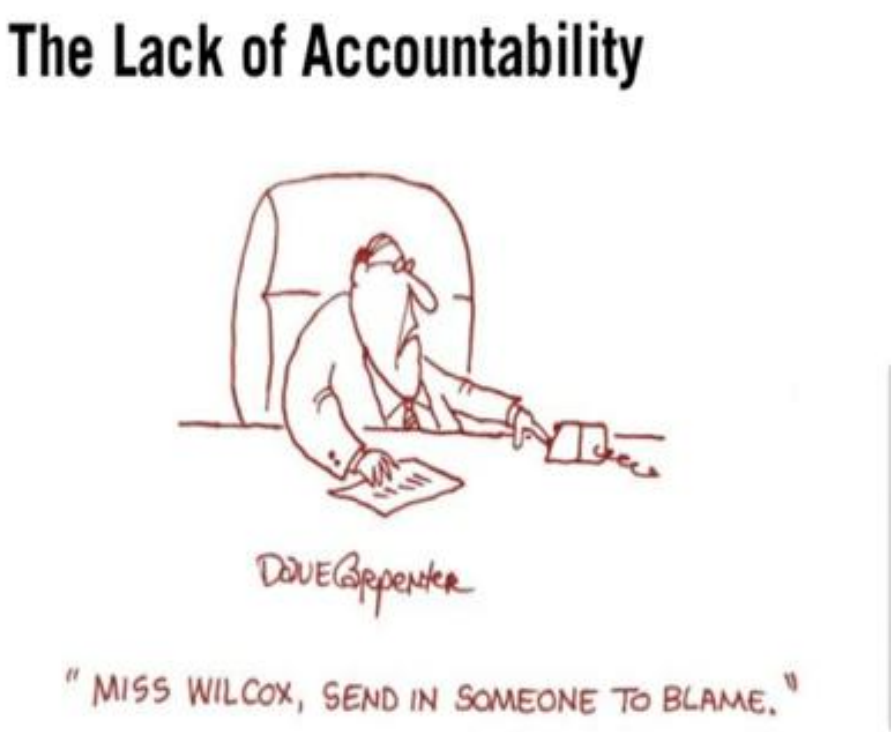
- Reports to Victim/Partner
- Entry into BIPP
- Exit from BIPP
- Status of Exit
- Safety Concerns

- *Program cannot report on change, only COMPLIANCE*

Accountability- Defined

ACCOUNTABILITY IS THE OBLIGATION OR WILLINGNESS TO ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY FOR YOUR ACTIONS, DECISIONS, AND OUTCOMES. IT INVOLVES TAKING OWNERSHIP OF RESULTS, BEING TRANSPARENT ABOUT YOUR CHOICES, AND ANSWERING TO EXPECTATIONS WITHOUT MAKING EXCUSES

Challenges in Working the Batterer



Common Barriers

The Cracks in Accountability

Minimization
Denial
Blame
Justification
Collusion (can occur between group members- that validates, excuses, or ignores abuse behavior)

Challenges in working with the Batterer



NO MORE EXCUSES!

- "I just lost control"
- "She made me do it"
- "It was the alcohol
- "She did it to me first"
- "I was only a little aggressive"
- "I did not know any better"

How do we enhance accountability in group?

Establish Clear Group Expectations

- Define accountability from day one
- Reinforce attendance, participation, honesty, and respectful communication
- Review group rules on a consistent basis

Focus on Impact Over Intent

- Shift conversations from:
- "I didn't mean to " to "What impact does your behavior have on your partner and children?
- Encourage empathy and awareness of harm caused

Encourage Self-Reflection

Facilitators can ask:

- "What choices did you make in that situation?"
- What was affected by your behavior?"
- "What could accountability look like now?"
- "What Patterns did you notice?"

Promote Peer Accountability

- Group members can respectfully challenge unhealthy thinking
- Healthy peer confrontation often increases insight and reduces denial
- Encourage constructive, not shaming feedback

Connect Accountability to Behavioral Change

Accountability must include actions steps

- Improved communication
- Emotional regulation
- Compliance with program requirements
- Repairing harm where appropriate
- Safety focused decision making

How do we enhance accountability in group?

Facilitator Skills That Support Accountability

- Motivational Interviewing Techniques
- Active listening
- Trauma-Informed facilitation
- Managing resistance without escalating
- Maintaining boundaries
- Cultural humility and awareness

Use Consistent Facilitator Reponses

- Address excuses and manipulation respectfully & directly
- Maintain consistency across participants
- Avoid power struggles while staying firm

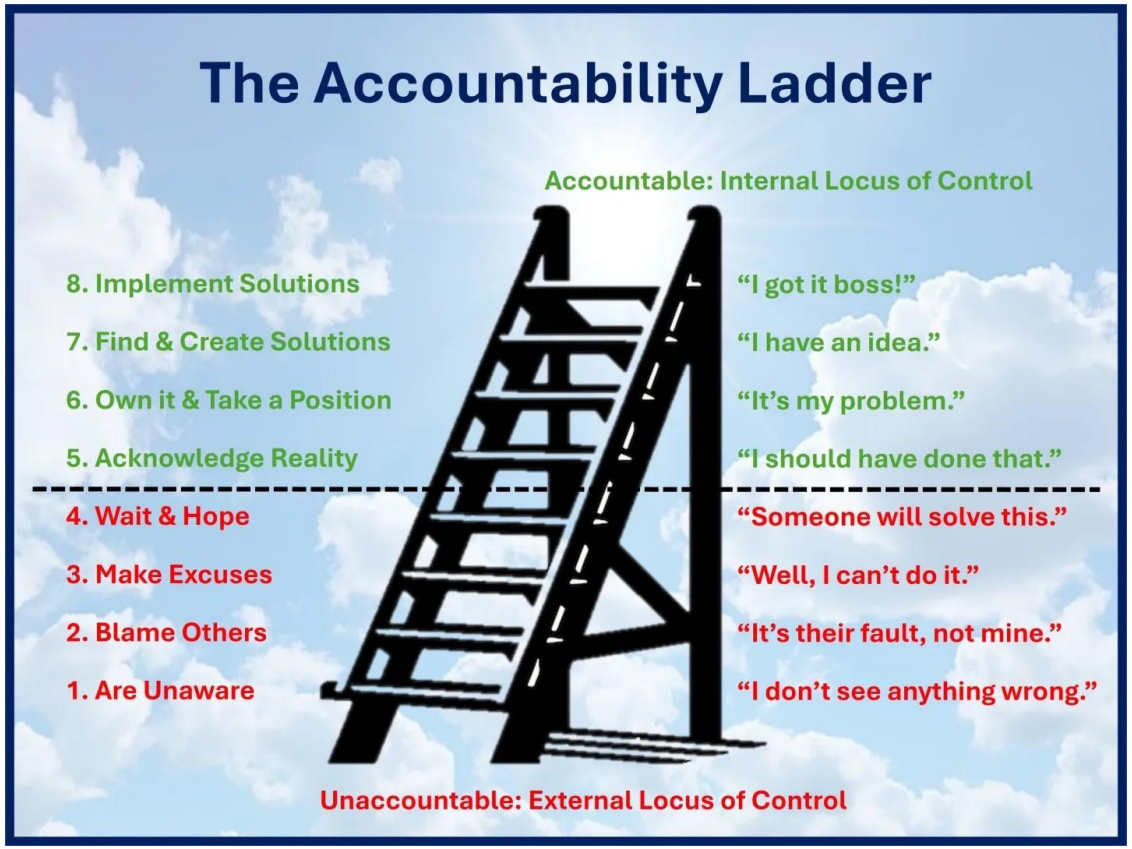
Signs Accountability is Increasing

- Reduced blaming language/roadblocks
- Increased ownership statements (i.e., "I chose")
- Improved attendance and participation
- More honest self-reporting
- Willingness to discuss harmful behaviors openly
- Demonstrated behavioral changes outside of group

Development of a Non-Violent Lifestyle

- Increase in the ability to identify feelings
- Effective communication skills
- Conflict Resolution Skills
- Challenge gender role expectation
- Non-violence plan and strategies
- Identify distorted thinking
- Development of sexual respect

How do we enhance accountability in group?



Accountability is not simply admitting what happened. It is understanding the impact, accepting responsibility, and making consistent choices that support safety and change.

Why BIPP Matters



- Promotes Victim Safety
- Addresses Patterns- Not Just Incidents
- Supports Long Term Behavioral Change
- Helps Break Generational Cycles
- Strengthens Communities

It's all about CHOICE

BIPP is prevention work, intervention work, and community safety work

BIPP matters because it creates opportunities for accountability, behavioral change, and safer families while strengthening the health and safety of our communities

Thank you!

ALLISON GUERRA, M.ED, LPC

ALLISONG@AVDA-TX.ORG

713-715-6942