

Developing A Successful Tribal Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Program

Interdepartmental Tribal Justice, Safety & Wellness -*Government-to-Government Consultation, Training & Technical Assistance – Session 11*



Mending the Sacred Hoop Technical Assistance Project

MSH-TA

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Who Are We

- Began in 1990
- Grass roots advocacy & organizing
- Intervention Responding to Native women
- 1994 – VAWA
- 1996 – Tribal TA 14 tribes
- 8 National Tribal Conferences
- Collaborate w/other TA



Purpose

Our mission is to address violence against women in Native communities on a social & institutional level. Our vision is to reclaim the sovereignty & sacredness of Native women by organizing across Tribal Nations and communities to improve their response to Violence Against Women.



Guiding Philosophy

- The vast majority of those victimized by domestic violence and sexual assault are female
- Violence Against Native Women must be framed in a historical context
- Women & children are vulnerable to violence because of their un-equal social, economic and political status in society
- All forms of oppression, including racism, classism, heterosexism, perpetuate both individual & institutional acts of violence



Overview

- Goals of Presentation:

- 1) Identify the purpose of a Tribal Technical Assistance Providers funded by OVW.
- 2) Convey a broader understanding of domestic violence and it's impact.
- 3) Describe core components of a successful domestic violence & sexual assault program.



Effective Components of Successful Programs

- Common Framework of understanding Violence Against Native Women.
- Community involvement is crucial to success
- Social change approach that builds from the community up, listening to women's voices
- Long-term sustainability requires one-step at a time; avoids mistakes in jeopardizing women's safety



What is social change?

- Think about a time in your life when your beliefs were challenged and a movement was born, what are some of the beliefs or movements you recognize today?



To address domestic violence a community must change the level of social tolerance

- What are social change movements that have been successful in changing societies perceptions on an issue?
 - Anti-smoking
 - Seat belts
 - Drinking & driving
 - Battered Women's Movement



What is Technical Assistance?

- Training for Tribal Grantees
- Resources
 - Toll-free 888-305-1650
 - Website (requests)
 - Email (correspondence)
 - Written Material
 - Model Practices
 - Referrals & Other TA Providers



Characteristics of Good Technical Assistance

- TA Providers should:
 - Be knowledgeable
 - Be accessible
 - Be responsive
 - Offer relevant training
 - Listen to your needs/concerns
 - Help to identify resources for and in your community



Examining the Culture of Violence Against Women

- Culture can be described by beliefs, language, practices, and tradition.
- Culture is a set of norms and as women, these norms translate to the practices and attitudes of violence against women. We experience a power imbalance that marginalizes us in the world we live in.
 - Indigenous Culture – Respect for Women
 - Dominant Culture - Superiority
 - What are examples of the lack of respect and/or dominance?



Violence against women is a global pandemic that encompasses a wide range of physical, psychological, political, and spiritual behaviors and has its roots in the gender inequality of men and women

- Honor Killings
- Dowry-related violence
- Female Genital Mutilation
- Child Marriages
- Trafficking of women & girls
- Sterilization of Native women
- Rape as a weapon of War



Prevalence of Violence

- **Violence Against Women is Epidemic**
61.4% of all American Indian and Alaska Native women will be physically assaulted in their lifetime.

34.1% of American Indian and Alaska Native women will be raped during their lifetime, have a higher rape & sexual assault than any other group



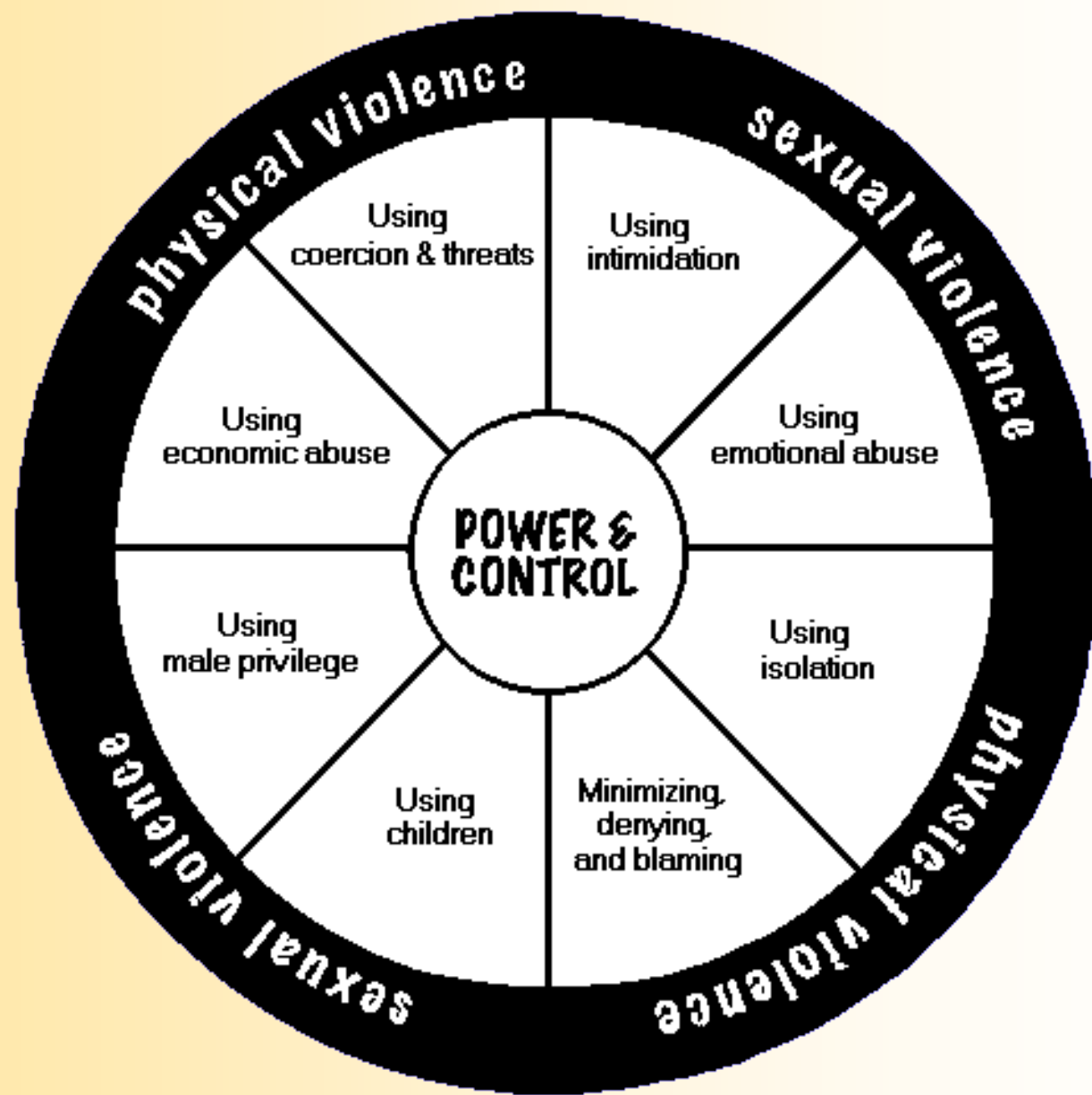
Understand the historical context of violence for Native women

- Tracing the path of violence through historical impact
 - Institution impact through boarding schools, domestication of women's roles, the separation of kinship and eliminating the ability to provide for your community.
 - Replacing indigenous values of family, accountability, and relationships with non-Native concepts



Domestic Violence

- The most common form of violence against women is domestic violence of which there are two definitions:
 - *Behavioral – A pattern of physical, sexual, psychological and economically assaultive and coercive behaviors used to gain compliance or control*





Domestic Violence

- *Legal – Incident focused that is inclusive of any cohabitating household members (siblings, relatives, adult children, elders, partners; past & present). History of relationship, primary or predominant aggressor takes into consideration self-defense*



Women and the Impact of Violence

- What are social, health, economic impacts of violence against women?
 - Homelessness – 26% - 46%
 - Employment – 55% to 85% missed work and 24% to 52% lost their jobs, 96% of employed domestic violence victims experience some type of work related problem
 - US economy \$10 billion to \$67 billion per year in health care, law enforcement and the judicial system, as well as lost labor productivity.



Effects of Violence on Native Women

- Brief summary of effects: destroys trust & intimacy between partners, depression, broken spirits as well as bodies, self-blame and isolation from friends and family, self medicates to survive and cope, particularly in survivors of sexual assault, experience multiple victimization as children & adults



Effects of Violence on children.

- Brief summary of effects: basic need for attachment disrupted, frequent illnesses, difficulty sleeping, focusing at school, fluctuating between anger and need to please, bed wetting, eating disorders, anxiety, regression, developmental delays, externalized behavior problems



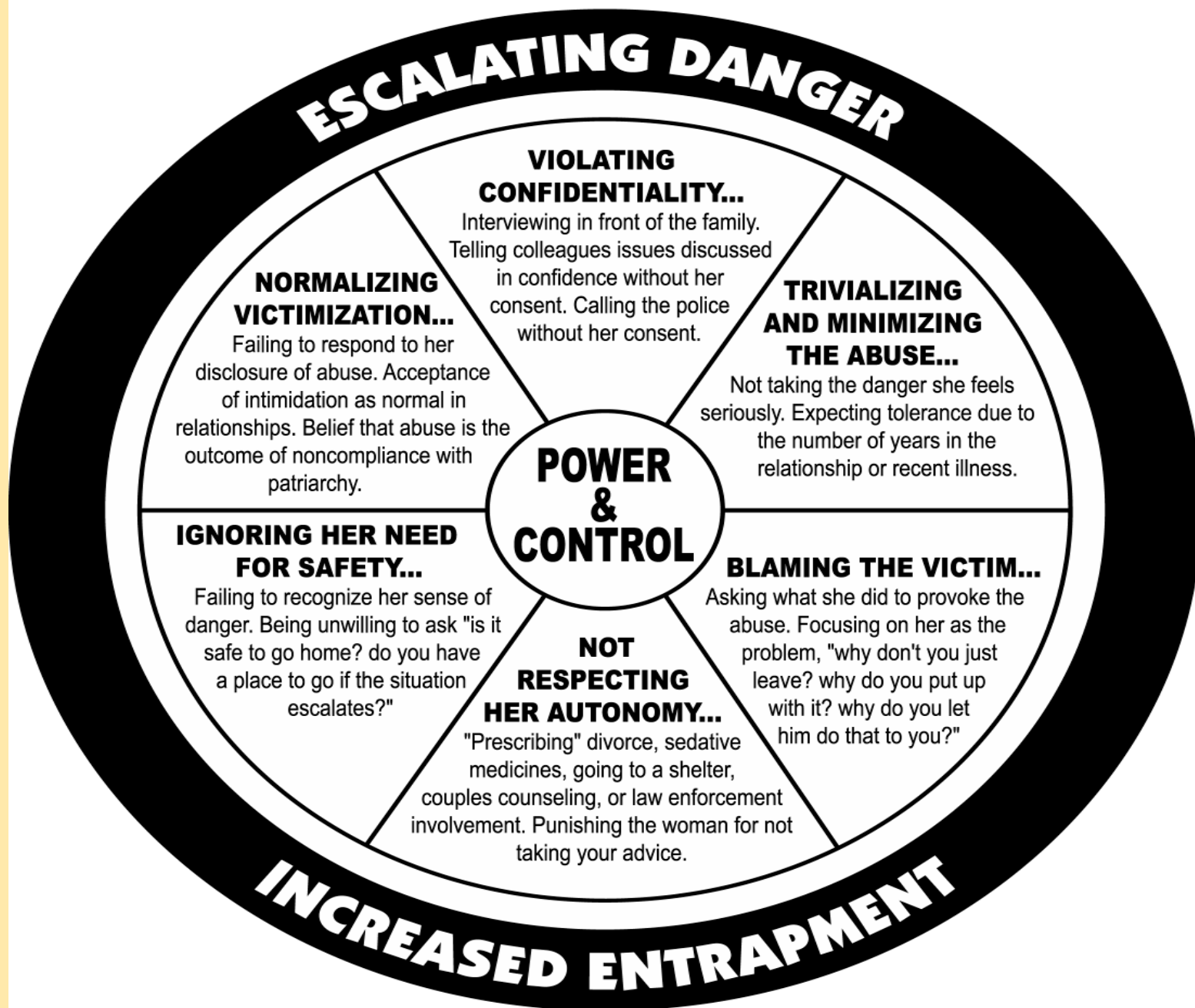
Children and the Impact of Violence

- What are social, health, and economical impacts of violence against children?
 - Each year an estimated 3.3 million children are exposed to violence.
 - Child abuse occurs in 30 to 60% of DV cases.
 - Male children who witness DV are more likely to become men who batter than those of violent-free homes.



Things you should know and leaving a relationship

- *A woman is more likely to be killed by a male partner (or former partner) than any other person, averaging 4000 each year, about 75% were killed when leaving a relationship.*





What We Need In Order To Do This Work

- Understanding the power dynamics of domestic violence
- Core of the work must have safety for women as the focus, at each intervening level, ask yourself if a women is safer.



Visioning – A long-term process

- Developing programming begins with an idea.
 - Mission Statement
 - Vision Statement
 - Where do we began
 - Tribal DV/SA Program Workbook



Defining A Coordinated Criminal Justice Response

- Role of Advocacy/Shelter
- Role of Law Enforcement
- Role of Courts (Judges/Probation
- Monitoring/Tracking
- Role of Re-education Groups
- Creating coordination in your community



Effective Intervention

- Centralizing victim safety
- A method that shifts responsibility from the victim to the community/institution
- Consistent response, creating effective protocols, written policies that support accountability
- A shared philosophy about domestic violence



Batterer's Intervention Programs (BIP's)

- What are they?
 - Accountability, alternative to work on behavior
 - Follows a curriculum
 - Not anger management
 - Connected to the courts
 - Length of program; incorporates traditional components.



Examining Collusion

- What is collusion?

25 women died in the state of MN in 2009 because of domestic violence

25 men killed their (ex) wives, girlfriends or partners in MN in 2009



How are tribes addressing domestic violence & sexual assault in program development?

- BATTERED WOMEN
 - Shelters, legal advocacy, systems change.
- Tribal Coalitions
 - Organizing within a region to build capacity of other tribal programs, provides training and technical assistance



How are tribes addressing domestic violence & sexual assault in program development ?

● Sexual Assault

- Tribal Sex Offender Registries
- Sex Offender Treatment
- Development of SANE/SART Programs
- Tracking & monitoring of sex offense cases
- Health clinic screening
- Restoring traditional healing practices for women survivors.



How are tribes addressing domestic violence & sexual assault in program development?

● Men

- Engaging men, educating men who work in tribal programs. Accountability, and batterers education programs.
- Men as allies, supporting shelters, respect, language and concepts around respectful relationships
- Supporting advocates, creating allies, mentoring, men's march, honor songs



How are tribes addressing domestic violence & sexual assault in program development?

● CHILDREN

- Effects of domestic violence on children
- Visitation & Safe Exchange Programs
- Mentoring youth, camps for boys & girls.
- Transitional Housing Programs



Envision A World Without Violence

- Picture all the violence in society, where you see it, what you see, and who is doing it. If we stopped women's violence what would change? If we stopped men's violence, what would change?



Wrap Up & Close

- Questions
- Thoughts