

The Office on Violence Against Women in partnership with Praxis International

AUDIOCONFERENCE
TRAINING

ALL CALLS ARE
FROM 2:00 - 3:30 P.M.
Central Time

Audio Conference Training Binder

A Batterer's Impact on a Child's Belief System

with trainer Melissa Scaia,
Praxis Technical Assistance Partner

January 31, 2008

Call at 2:00 p.m. Central Time
Dial 512-623-5114, then enter guest code 52533#

Things to Know:

Cost: Long distance telephone call. All expenses can be covered by your OVW training funds.

Participation: Remember to say your name and state every time you start speaking – we can't see you!

Muting: Unless the operator has muted all of the lines, please keep your telephone on mute EXCEPT when you are speaking on the call. Press *6 on your keypad to mute your line. To un-mute, press *6 again.

To Leave: Hang up your telephone. This does not interrupt the session. If you need to step away temporarily, do not put the call on hold, as we may hear "on hold" music – simply rest the receiver on your desk.

Problems: Rarely, a caller may experience long-distance connection difficulties, such as a fast busy signal or message saying "All circuits are busy". You may simply re-dial the number to try to complete the call. If you have repeated problems, try using any standard long-distance calling card. Alternatively, you may use one of the following dial-around sequences: 1010636 + 1-405-244-5555 (Clear Choice – currently 5¢ / min), 1010220 + 1-405-244-5555 (MCI WorldCom – currently 99¢ for first 20 min, 7¢ / min additional), 1010834 + 1-405-244-5555 (Penny Plan – currently 9¢ / min). If you lose your connection when dialing the guest code, call in again, enter 9393 and do not press #, wait 15 seconds and you will be connected. For other problems, please call us at 218-525-0487, ext 100 and we'll do what we can to assist you.

Trainer Biography:

Melissa Scaia

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Melissa Scaia is the executive director of Advocates for Family Peace, a six-program agency that provides services to families experiencing domestic violence and child abuse in Itasca County, Minnesota. She provides training and technical assistance as a consultant for Praxis International. She wrote her master's thesis on the effects of domestic violence on children. She is also a faculty member for the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ) for their educational courses for judges about domestic violence. She is currently co-writing a curriculum on working with men who batter in their role as fathers. She also co-facilitates a batterers intervention program (BIP) group that focuses on fatherhood. Outside of her work life she is a wife, mother of two children under the age of four, a professional grant writer, an avid scrapbooker, and a United States Figure Skating Association instructor.

A Batterer's Impact on a Child's Belief System

Melissa Scaia, M.A.

Technical Assistance Partner -Praxis International
Executive Director of Advocates for Family Peace

Transformation from man to father

- Experience of women who are in a battering relationship when they become mothers
- How do men become fathers?

Belief system of men who batter in their role as fathers

- Children who live with a father who is battering have a belief system that is:
 - Narrow
 - Rigid
 - Destructive
 - Sexist
 - Violent
 - Sometimes anti-social

Shaping of child's belief system by men who batter

- Victims of violence are to blame for the violence
- The use of violence is justified to resolve conflicts
- Boys and men should be in control and girls and women should submit
- Women are weak, incompetent, stupid, and/or violent
- Father's are better parents than mothers and know how to handle "big decisions" or "tough situations."
- When you are angry you use violence

Beliefs of men who batter in their role as fathers

Hierarchy / patriarchy

- Role of the father is superior because he is a man
 - \$ and fun
 - How adult relationships work and how to treat and think about women
 - Entitlement of "my child"
 - Teach children that mom is weak and inferior and the "problem" of the house
- "I have done nothing to my child. I would never hurt my child."
 - "It is my child and I decide how to discipline him/her."
 - "MY son will not....."
 - "MY daughter will not....."

Children see, children do

- Children see their father dominate; young boys living with a man who batters seeks to emulate this behavior
- Older children often act disrespectful or even violent towards their mother
- Children seek models of behaviors from their parents

**Goal for working with men who batter
in their role as fathers**

- To help end violence against women by motivating men to become better fathers (or father figures) and more supportive parenting partners
- The term “parenting partner” in the context of this audio conference call refers to battered women as a current or ex-partner to the man who has battered them. The utilization of this term infers that men must follow any court orders related to no contact or restricted contact with their ex-partners and children.

**Designing a Change Process for Men
Who Batter in Their Role as Fathers**

- 1) Addressing the Impact of Domestic Violence on Children
- 2) Addressing their experience as children
- 3) Seeking non-violent, nurturing fathering
- 4) Examining how to respectfully co/parallel parent
- 5) A reparative framework for change

**A few “Universal Messages” for men
who batter as fathers**

- Woman abuse is child abuse
- Violence begets violence
- There is an impact on children when they live in a home with domestic violence
- Your children are living feedback of your life
- Abuse of children is more than physical
- Children see, children do

References

- Bancroft, Lundy & Silverman, Jay. "Assessing Risk to Children from Batterers". 2002.
http://www.Lundybancroft.com/pages/articles_sub/JAFFE.htm
- Scott, Katreena. "Effecting Change in Maltreating Fathers: Critical Principles for Intervention Planning. Clinical Psychology: Science & Practice March 2004, Vol. 11 Issue 1, p95-111

Creation of Future Curriculum

- Group process curriculum for working with men who batter in their role as fathers
- Appropriate for men as fathers and father figures in concert with a batterers intervention program
- Available for purchase July, 2009
- Contact: Advocates for Family Peace for additional information; 218-326-0388 or mscaia@stopdomesticabuse.org

Contact Information

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