

A Shared Understanding of Domestic Violence – Coordinated Community Response (CCR)

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Shared Understanding of Domestic Violence

Goal:

Develop a shared understanding of the causes of domestic violence.

Objectives:

- ✓ Identify three different types of domestic violence and the context of each
- ✓ Deepen understanding of coercive controlling violence and abuse
- ✓ Understand why a shared philosophy on the root cause of domestic violence is necessary when responding as a Coordinated Community Response (CCR)

Four Common Theories about What Causes Domestic Violence

1. Individual Psychological Problem
2. Relationship Problem
3. Cycle of Violence – Anger Management Problem
4. Entitlement and Dominance – Power and Control

Individual Psychological Problem

- Psychologically based and not tied to the social context and culture.
- Illness that can be individually diagnosed and treated.
- Trauma

Remedy to address domestic violence thru this theory:

- Individual therapy
- Medication
- Psychiatry

Relationship Problem

- The problem lies in the two people who are together and how they relate to each other.
- How they communicate with each other
- Lack of respect for each other

Remedy to address domestic violence thru this theory:

- Couples counseling
- Communication skills – "I" statements
- End relationship and find someone more compatible

Cycle of Violence – Anger Management

- Cycle of violence –
 - Tension building phase
 - Violent incident
 - Honeymoon phase

Violence escalates over time

Remedy to address domestic violence thru this theory:

- Anger management skills
- Address problem in the tension building phase to prevent violence

Dominance – Power & Control

- Entitlement belief system, primarily by men, in intimate partner relationships.
 - As the “head of the household” I get to.....
 - Men are smarter with money than women are.....
 - I am rarely wrong.....

Remedy to address domestic violence thru this theory:

- Sanctions – arrest, fine, jail
- Men’s Domestic Violence Group

Three Types of Domestic Violence

(refer to handout)

- 1) Coercive Controlling Violence and Abuse
- 2) Resistive Violence
- 3) Abuse Unrelated to Coercive Control

1) Coercive Controlling Violence and Abuse

- Ongoing patterned use of intimidation, coercion, violence, and other tactics of control to establish and maintain dominance over an intimate partner
- A single incident is part of a larger and complex patterned system of controlling, coercive, and intimidating behaviors and actions
- Perpetrators believe they are entitled to control the actions, thinking, and behaviors of their partner and children

Coercive Controlling Violence and Abuse (continued)

- Creates fear in the victim and a significant gap of power in the relationship
 - Very limited autonomy for a victim
- Typically has an element of entrapment: “You can’t leave me without being punished.”
- Power differential created by violence shapes all interactions between the victim with outsiders and family members
 - The victim lives in fear
- Vulnerability to continued acts of violence influences a victims’ ability to speak freely, leave the relationship, or participate in system interventions

2) Resistive violence

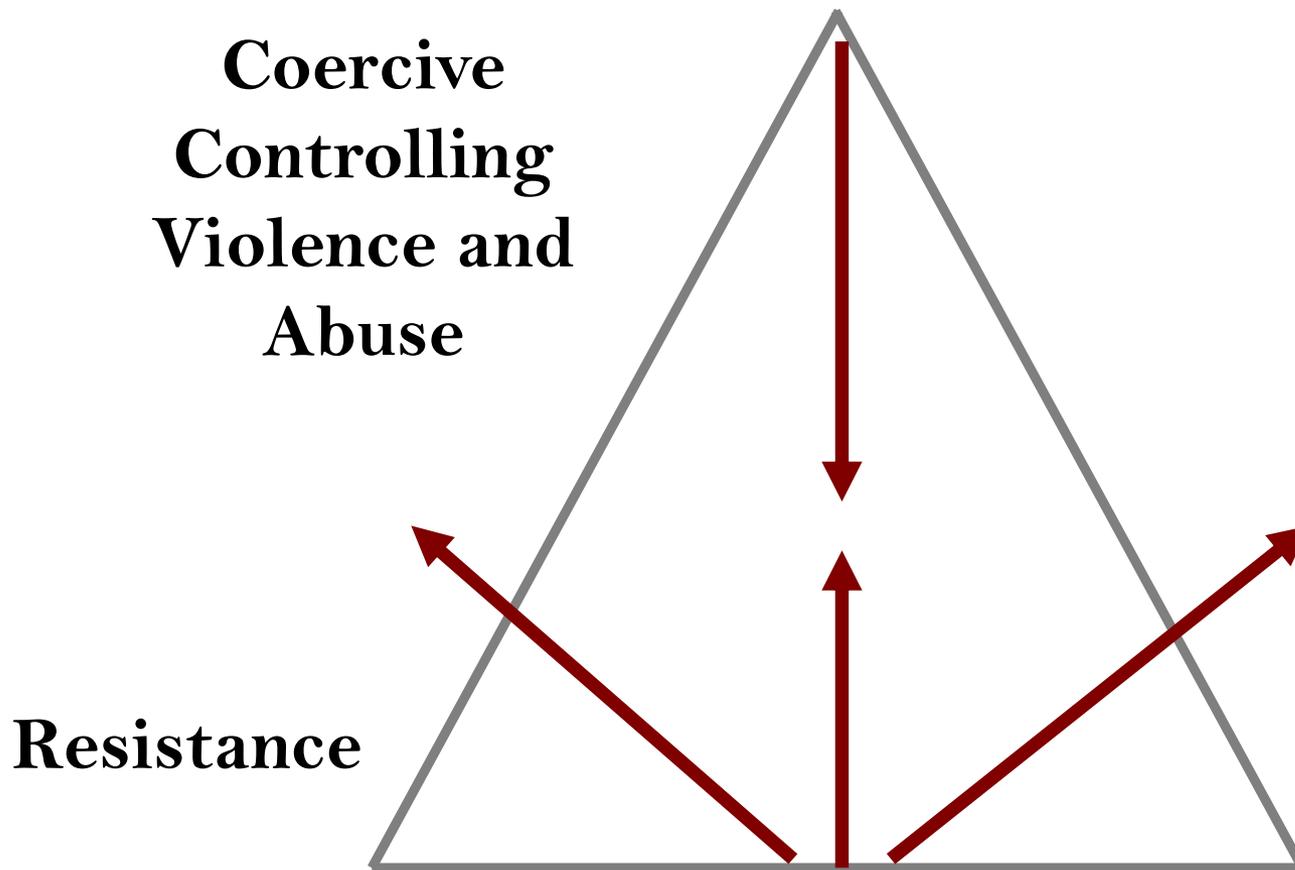
Includes both legal and illegal use of force **in response** to an abuser's **coercive and controlling tactics** or in reaction to other men's violence against them as women

2) Resistive Violence

Part of a victim's broader strategy to stop (contain) the abuse:

- Negotiation
- Appeals to family and friends
- Appeasement
- Anger and hostility
- Separation
- Withdrawal
- Use of force

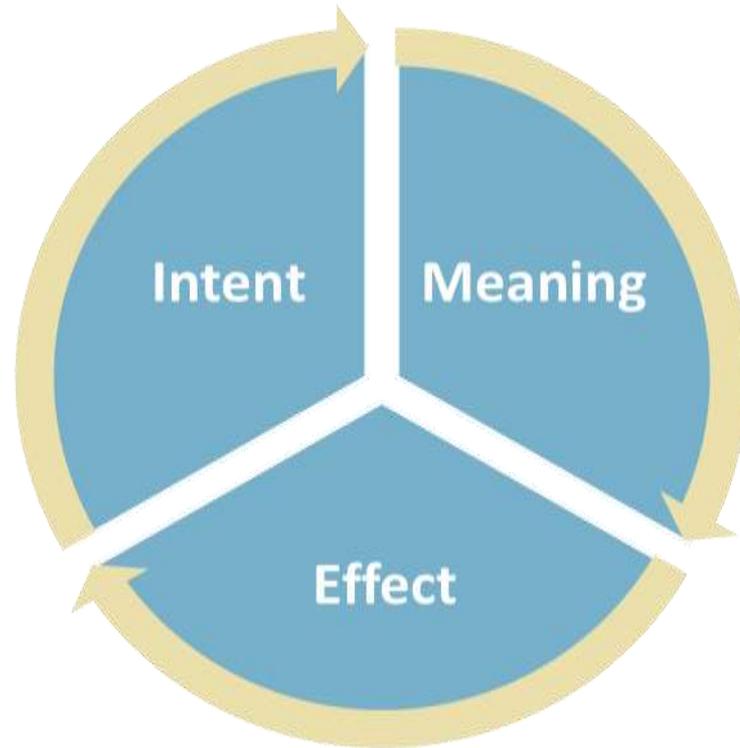
Understanding Resistance in a System of Control



3) Abuse Unrelated to Coercive Control

- Used by one intimate partner against the other and is neither an ongoing attempt to exert coercive control, nor a response to coercive control
- All other acts of domestic violence, subdivided into categories:
 - **situational violence;**
 - **anomie;**
 - violence that stems from **mental health** or **chemical dependency** issues

Context in cases of domestic violence



Examining the Context of Domestic Violence

- What type of domestic violence is in this case?
- What is the intent of the violence?
- What is the effect of the violence on the victim? On the children?
- Is this offender of domestic violence likely to end his violence because of an intervention?

Importance of a Shared Philosophy

- No internal debates on root cause of violence
- Cause of violence = what we believe that cause is will leads us to intervene based on that cause
- Understand counter-intuitive actions of victim
– do not blame the victim

Questions / Comments

