Family Violence Intervention Programs

What is a Family Violence Intervention Program (FVIP), and what is the process for certification?

Georgia Commission on Family Violence

In 1992, the Georgia General Assembly created the Georgia Commission on Family Violence (GCFV) to develop a comprehensive state plan for ending domestic violence in Georgia. The Commission consists of legislators, judges, advocates, law enforcement, medical professionals, educators, and concerned citizens.

Objectives of GCFV

- Certify and Monitor Family Violence Intervention Programs in Georgia
- Produce Annual Domestic Violence Fatality Review Report
- Provide Technical Assistance to Family Violence Task Forces in Georgia
- Host Annual Domestic Violence Conference
- Provide Legislative and Policy Advocacy
- Develop plans to address domestic violence in Georgia

What is an FVIP?

- Family Violence Intervention Program (FVIP)
- 24 week educational program for perpetrators of family violence
- Certified and monitored by GCFV
- Holds participants accountable for using physical, sexual and emotional violence against their partners
- One piece of a larger coordinated community (CCR) response to end domestic violence
- FVIP SOP; Rules

Intimate Partner Violence

- Intimate partner violence (IPV) is defined as threatened, attempted, or completed physical or sexual violence or emotional abuse by a current or former intimate partner. IPV can be committed by a spouse, an ex-spouse, a current or former boyfriend or girlfriend, or a dating partner.
- Domestic violence
- Family violence

Coordinated Community Response (CCR)

- Key to FVIP success – a program is only as effective as the system within which it works
- Partnerships with domestic violence agencies, probation, law enforcement, court systems, and the community at large
- Certified program rules are based on establishing a strong CCR

Intimate Partner Violence

- Domestic violence
- Family violence
Victim/victim safety

DV organization:
- services
- shelter
- advocacy
- victim liaison services

Court systems:
- judges
- prosecutors
- victim's assistance

Law enforcement:
- police
- sheriff
- probation officers

FVIP: educational program,
- batterer accountability
- communication with victim liaison

Coordinated Community Response

Victim's Community:
- Family and friends
- Church
- Workplace
- Neighborhood
- School

Batterer's Community:
- Family and friends
- Church
- Workplace
- Neighborhood
- School

FVIP Program Structure

24 Weeks
- Each class is at least 90 minutes long
- Victims may not participate in any way
- Classes cannot mix gender
- 8:1 participant/facilitator ratio

FVIP is NOT Counseling or Therapy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FVIP</th>
<th>Counseling/Support Group</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Approved facilitator</td>
<td>• Licensed therapist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• No confidentiality</td>
<td>• Confidential</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Educational curriculum</td>
<td>• Therapeutic</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Accountability</td>
<td>• Client progress is #1 priority</td>
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FVIP is NOT Anger Management

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FVIP</th>
<th>Anger Management</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Victims are intimate partners</td>
<td>• Victims could be anyone</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Relevant statute:</td>
<td>• No statewide certifying body or oversight</td>
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<tr>
<td>- O.C.G.A 19-13-16(a)</td>
<td>• Average 12 weeks</td>
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<tr>
<td>- O.C.G.A 19-13-10 et. al.</td>
<td>• No required victim safety policies or procedures</td>
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<tr>
<td>- O.C.G.A 19-13-1</td>
<td>• Teaching how to control anger/emotions; better communication skills</td>
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Goals of a FVIP Class

- Take responsibility for abusing partner and children
- Overcome minimizing, denying and blaming
- Work on changing their belief system that gives them authority to use domestic violence
- Make choices that are not abusive
- Support gender equality
- Strive for partnership within relationships
- Teach participants to provide feedback to each other
- Realize the impact of using violence on their partner, their children and themselves.

Women in FVIP

- Women do perpetrate domestic violence, but at much lower rates than men
- Most facilitators find that women court ordered to FVIP are victims of domestic violence who have also used violence
- 14% of Georgia's FVIP participants in 2014 were women
- Use curriculum specific to women
- Why women use violence:
  - Retaliation
  - An attempt to regain control
  - Choose when violence will occur
  - Domination against children
FVIP Curriculum Requirements

- Educational model, not therapy or treatment.
- Focus on:
  - Power & Control — identifies and challenges participants on their use of violence
  - Beliefs & Social Context — identifies and challenges personal beliefs and social contexts that support their use of power & control
  - Effects — identify consistently and hold participants accountable for the effects of their violence on victim and family.
- Holds participants accountable for past, present and future use of violence

Curriculum Options

- Domestic Abuse Intervention Programs
  [http://www.theduluthmodel.org/]
- Men at Work: Building Safe Communities
  Men Stopping Violence
  [http://www.menstoppingviolence.org/]
- Emerge
  [www.emergedv.com]
- Turning Points: A Nonviolence Curriculum for Women
  [www.dvturningpoints.com]

Prohibited Program Activities

- Intervention that blames or suggests that a victim caused or provoked the violence
- Intervention that does not clearly state that the participant bears sole responsibility for his choices
- Couples, marriage or family therapy treatment
- Individual therapy or treatment
- Permitting victims to attend or participate in class
- Issuing graduation certificates
- Assessment tools for court or probation purposes which attempt to predict future use of violence

Victim Safety Requirement

- FVIPs must have a written agreement with Victim Liaison organization to contact the victim according to the Department’s Standard Operating Procedures.
- FVIPs must participate in a community task force on family violence.
- FVIPs must notify all referring sources including Victim Liaison Organizations within 4 days of participant joining or completing program, within 2 days of participant’s termination from program for non-compliance.
- FVIP may initiate a contact with a victim of the FVIP participant through a paid, subcontracted victim liaison, unless the FVIP has a duty to warn.
- [ Victim Contact SOP ]

Keeping Victim Safety First:

- Victim has access to advocates, safety planning, & support
- She knows where her abuser is for 1.5 hours a week
- Message to victim: “You are not responsible for his behavior!”
- Can be a measurement of the abuser’s willingness to change
- Documentation of noncompliance
- The system and community is making it clear that violent/controlling behavior is not acceptable

Steps to Certification

- The program, or firm, is certified, not the individual facilitator
- Two requirement categories: firm and facilitator
- Firms re-certify every two years
Firm Requirements

- Participant Contract
- Participant Completion/Termination Form
- Victim Liaison Contract
- General Liability Insurance

Facilitator Requirements

- Undergraduate degree or at least 2 years of equivalent experience involving batterers and victims or victim advocates

- Completed and signed background check authorization form

Georgia Courts Registrar

- New Account
- Login

- Payments can be made online or mailed to GCFV with a check or money order

- Make sure you have all hours completed and documents gathered before creating an account

Owner's Secure and Verifiable Document

- Owner's Affidavit
- Locations
- Staff List
- Payment

- Health or home care location per provider's record
- Classes must be at least 90 minutes in duration
- Referral source
- Participant's name
- Completion or termination date and reason for termination
- Payment terms
- Signatures of both parties and dates
- Timeframe requirements for notification
- Expiration date
- Coverage of at least $1 million
For additional information please visit our website:
www.gcfv.org

Thank you!