

## 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
- FVIP SOP; Rules



- 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

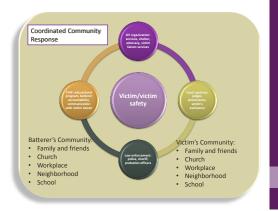
#### Intimate Partner Violence

- 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





#### **FVIP Program Structure**



### FVIP is **NOT** Counseling or Therapy

- Approved facilitator
- · No confidentiality
- · Educational curriculum
- Accountability
- Victim safety is #1
- priority

Counseling/Support Group

- · Licensed therapist
- Confidential
- Therapeutic
- · Client progress is #1 priority

### FVIP is NOT Anger Management

- · Victims are intimate partners
- · Relevant statute:
- O.C.G.A. 19-13-16(a) O.C.G.A. 19-13-10 et. al. O.C.G.A. 19-13-1
- State certified
- 24 weeks
- Victim safety/coordinated
- community response Challenging belief systems

#### Anger Management

- · Victims could be anyone
- No statewide certifying body or oversight
- · Average 12 weeks
- · No required victim safety policies or procedures
- Teaching how to control anger/emotions; better communication skills

#### 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
- 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

- · Why women use violence:
  - Retaliation
  - · An attempt to regain control
  - Choose when violence will
  - · 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 ad 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/
  - http://www.menstoppingviolence.org/
- Emerge <u>www.emergedv.com</u>
- 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
- 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



### Firm Requirements



### Facilitator Requirements



### **Facilitator Requirements**

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

Completed and signed background check

Personal Identification Information

### Georgia Courts Registrar



### Georgia Courts Registrar



For additional information please visit our website:

www.gcfv.org

## Thank you!