

Evaluating Cognitive Change in Batterer Intervention Program Participants: *You Can Only Manage What You Measure*

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Introduction / Objectives

Speaker background

Participant experience

Objectives:

- Review measurement instruments to assess program effectiveness and participant's cognitive changes

- Review victim-centered/ trauma-informed curriculum using evidence-informed interventions

Challenges for Batterer Intervention Programs

Offender Typologies

Attachment Issues

Past Trauma Experience

Victim Involvement

Financial Constraints

Co-occurring Substance Abuse

What is “Change” — How do we know it’s “working”?

Common Issues in Batterer Intervention Programs

Participants enroll with HIGH levels of denial and LOW levels of acceptance of personal responsibility for the violence they have committed

Research shows HIGH drop-out rates and HIGH levels of reoffending, even after program completion

Lack of continuity and consistency among program—training, curriculum, time frames

No established definition of “success”

Others????

Prison /Community Pilot Project

Prison Pilot Project

- No voluntary dropouts

- Desire to continue program

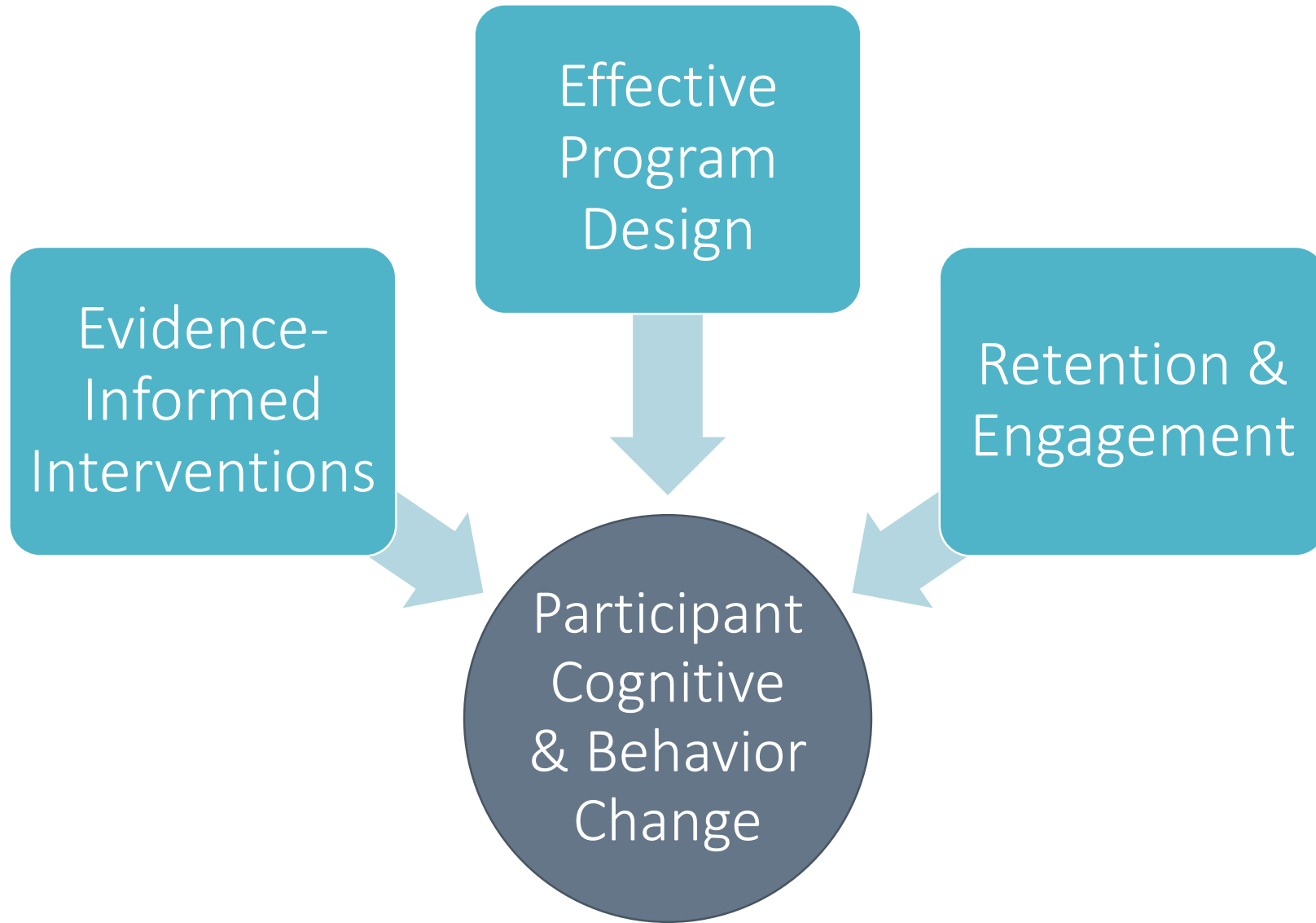
- Statistically significant reductions in denial and increased personal responsibility

Community Pilot Project

- 90% retention at 90-days

- 68% graduation rate after 52-weeks

- Zero new arrests for DV 18-months post graduation (vs 30% for non-graduates)



Participant Cognitive / Behavior Change

Objective Measurements

Recognitive & Personal Responsibility Scale (RPRS)

Criminal Thinking Scales (TCU-CTS)

University of Rhode Island Change Assessment (URICA)

Subjective Measurements

Participant Program Evaluation

Process Group/Facilitator Evaluation

Recidivism Follow-up

Arrests vs. Convictions

Victim Reports

Objective Measurement Goals

RPRS—focuses on levels of denial and acceptance of personal responsibility

5 categories—goal for scores to increase (=diminishing level of denial)

Need to develop confidential code /Discreet collection of assessments

CTS—focuses on criminal thinking

6 categories--Scores increase or decrease depending on category

Reverse scoring used

URICA—focuses on motivation levels

4 categories—scores increase/decrease depending on category

Recognition & Personal Responsibility Scale (RPRS)

Based on the Abusive Behavior Inventory (Shepherd & Campbell, 1992).

36 Questions-Designed to measure psychological and physical abuse with victims.

Redesigned to measure levels of denial and minimization among batterers. Added a few questions based on experience as a victim advocate—combined some questions and reworded others.

*Used to measure program effectiveness in helping batterers reduce denial and increase acceptance of personal responsibility. **BEST USED ANONYMOUSLY***

Criminal Thinking Scales (TCU)

Six Subscales

- A. Entitlement
- B. Justification*
- C. Power Orientation*
- D. Cold Heartedness *
- E. Criminal Rationalization
- F. Personal Irresponsibility *

Available in Spanish

University of Rhode Island Change Assessment (URICA)

32-item assessment

Various versions for drug/alcohol, psychology, etc. / Available in Spanish

4 categories

- A. Precontemplation
- B. Contemplation
- C. Action
- D. Maintenance

Additional Measurements

Subjective Measurements:

Participant Program Evaluation

Process Group/Facilitator Evaluation

Recidivism Follow-up

Arrests vs. Convictions

Victim Reports

What else????

Evidence-Informed Interventions

Cognitive-Behavioral Interventions

Connecting Thoughts, Feelings, Behaviors

Motivational Interviewing

Readiness to Change Model

Dialectical Behavioral Interventions

Mindfulness / Self-Soothing

Trauma-Informed Design

ACE's / Resiliency / Solution-Focused Homework

Effective Program Design

Opportunities to Maximize Healthy Socialization

Room set-up / Group activities

Identify the Negative—Teach to the Positive

Power & Control Wheel / Equality Wheel

“No Shame” Zone

Shame vs Guilt—unintended consequences

Acknowledge Past Grief /Loss /Trauma experiences

Increase personal awareness & Increase victim empathy

Meaningful Homework

Solution-focused vs Worksheets

Retention & Engagement

Adult Learning Principles

Learning Preferences

Bloom's Taxonomy

R.I.D.E.M

Brain Science Principles

Attachment Issues

Safety & Security

Batterer Typologies

*Physiological Responses /
Violence Motivation*

Financial Barriers

*Strategies to Reduce (Jail
Programs/ Private-
Government Grants, et al)*

Questions