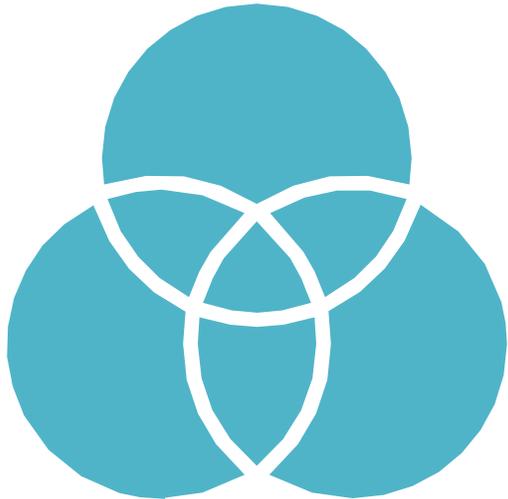


Integrating *Religion/Spirituality* in a Batterer Intervention Program in a Secular Setting

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Key Points



- Review a strength's-based, evidence-informed batterer intervention **design which incorporates spiritual/religious issues**
- Evaluate strategies to **navigate potential conflicts** with secular referring agencies while respectfully addressing participant's various religious and spiritual views.
- Assess the role of BIP's within the Coordinated Community Response Model and discuss strategies to engage and educate the spiritual institutions **to recognize true transformation in the abuser.**

Paradigm Shift

Common goals—different strategies!

Stop the violence (abusive behavior)—can be accomplished thru BIP intervention.

Traditionally batterer intervention has focused more on the “punishment” of the offender, rather than looking at the totality of the person, which includes their own past trauma experiences and their spiritual beliefs and support systems.

Combined with clinical, evidence-informed interventions, the likelihood of changing the offender’s thoughts, beliefs and behaviors can be significantly increased, thereby reducing violence and promoting victim empathy and safer homes for children.

Definitions (Jang & Johnson, 2017)

Two related, but not necessarily interchangeable concepts

Religion: organized by institutional doctrines, rituals, and activities –but also the individual person's perceptions and experiences associated with them.

Spirituality: an individual's person's perceptions and experiences conceptualized without any religious connotation to use in relation to their search for existential meaning in life.

Research (Ellison, et al-2007; Nason-Clark, N.)

Can religious involvement have a protective effect?

Some research says “yes” —especially in the African-American community

In addition, that study showed that evidence of such protective religious effects persisted regardless of whether domestic violence was measured using data from self reports or partner reports, which makes it difficult to attribute these observed religious effects to simple social desirability or other response bias.

Nancy Nason-Clark and colleagues have much research on the positive contribution of incorporating faith-based programming into BIP’s for better outcomes.

See [Reference List](#) attached to this presentation on www.yorkeconsulting.com

Religion/Spirituality—*Roadblock or Resource?*

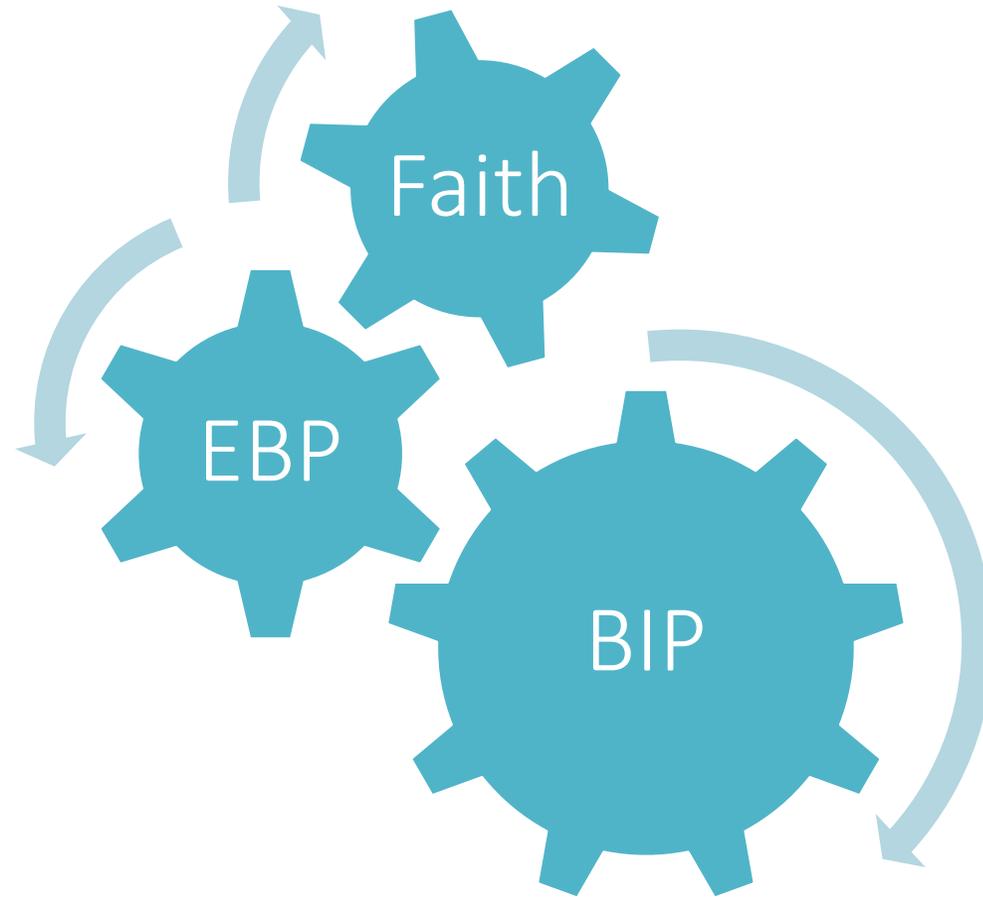
Roadblocks?

Identify challenges with implementing BIPs with faith/religious components

Resource?

Identify benefits of faith when implementing a BIP with faith/religious components

Necessary Components



Research-Informed Clinical Interventions

- ❖ Cognitive-Behavioral
Thoughts/Feelings/Behaviors are interconnected
- ❖ MI/Readiness to Change Model-
*reduces resistance thru cooperative relationship;
recognizes ambivalence regarding change;
encourages self-efficacy*

Additional Interventions

❖ Trauma-informed

*reduces power struggles; models “shared” power;
recognizes prior trauma (ACES)*

❖ DBT & Solution-Focused

Mindfulness; Attachment issues

Homework is reinforcing the POSITIVE behaviors we want to see

Research-Informed Design

- ❖ Adult-Learning Principles
involvement; learning styles;
- ❖ Brain Science Principles
variety of modalities; shorter vs. longer;
- ❖ Victim-Centered approach
building empathy/equality
- ❖ Strength's-based approach
“good lives model”

Identify the Negative—
Teach to the Positive!

Psychoeducational

Skills-based teaching

Additional
Design

Incorporating Spirituality/Religion

DAIP-Women Created in God's Image as Equal to Men
Wheel

Curriculum-Another Way...Choosing to Change
incorporating biblical scriptures into each lesson for
reflection.

Navigating potential conflicts

Secular referring agencies

Staying true to mandates and communicating effectively as to mutual goals and objectives

IDENTIFY mutual goals and objectives

Variety of religious and spiritual views among participants

Focusing on healthy relationship behaviors and outcomes. Trauma is an “equal opportunity experience” irrespective of beliefs.

Different Look-Same Goals



True Transformation?

What does this look like?

➤ Leslie Vernick (Christian counselor)

Key: Safety/Trust; Honesty; Integrity; Equality; Repentance; Respect
Change is in the “Tension” phase—are they acting differently?

➤ Operationalizing Accountability (J. Cape and D. Garvin)

Bases of Accountability

Repair & Replace

Present

**Plan, Commit,
Implement**

Future



Acknowledge

Past

Integration & Extrapolation

Building a Future on the Past

Coordinated Community Response Model

Role of BIP's

A tertiary prevention to “stop” intergenerational violence

FaithTrustInstitute.com

Resource site for IPV issues

Educating Clergy

Questions?

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