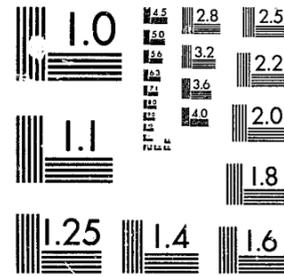


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DECEMBER 1982

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All phases of preventive and correctional activities in delinquency and crime come within the fields of interest of FEDERAL PROBATION. The Quarterly wishes to share with its readers all constructively worthwhile points of view and welcomes the contributions of those engaged in the study of juvenile and adult offenders. Federal, state, and local organizations, institutions, and agencies—both public and private—are invited to submit any significant experience and findings related to the prevention and control of delinquency and crime.

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This Issue in Brief

Shadows of Substance: Organized Crime Reconsidered.—Authors Martens and Longfellow discuss contemporary perceptions of organized crime and how they affect public policy. Arguing that organized crime is neither parasitic nor exclusively functional to the maintenance of the social order, they suggest that organized crime must be perceived as a process. At historical times, organized crime is functional and at other times it is exploitive. The authors assert that contemporary research is empirically weak, ethnically biased, and inappropriately focused by a poor data collection methodology.

Organized Crime, RICO, and the Media: What We Think We Know.—RICO was legislated to combat Mafia-style organized crime. Authors Wynn and Anderson maintain, however, that the precise Congressional target is unclear. RICO provides a formal notion of organized crime whose key is the proof of a "pattern of racketeering activity." But this means only the commission of two predicate offenses within a 10-year period. One result is a body of cases whose only common denominator is unfettered prosecutorial discretion. In addition, Federal jurisdiction and surveillance powers are greatly increased.

Adolphe Quetelet: At the Beginning.—Professor Sawyer F. Sylvester of Bates College reveals that an empirical approach to the study of crime can be found in the history of criminology as early as 1831 in the writings of the Belgian statistician, Adolphe Quetelet. In his work, *Research on the Propensity for Crime at Different Ages*, Quetelet makes use of government statistics of crime to determine the influence of such things as education, climate, race, sex, and age on the incidence of criminal behavior. He not only establishes relationships between these factors and crime but, in so doing, develops a methodology for the social sciences which is still largely valid.

Behavioral Objectives in Probation and Parole: A New Approach to Staff Accountability.—Many

probation and parole agencies have initiated programs of risk and needs assessments for clients in an effort to manage caseloads more effectively,

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reports Dr. Alvin Cohn of Administration of Justice Services. By taking such programming one step further, namely by developing behaviorally anchored objectives, workers can maximize available resources in directing clients toward realistic and relevant outcomes, he states. Workers can thus be held accountable in the delivery of specific services.

The Use of "Third Sector" Organizations as Vehicles for Community Service Under a Condition of Probation.—The increasing use of community service as a condition of probation has provided probation officers with improved opportunities to use such assignments as a way of teaching responsible citizenship as well as achieving community improvement. This article, by Deputy Chief Probation Officer Jack Cocks of the U.S. District Court in Los Angeles, reflects some of the recent developments in formalizing service programs in public benefit "third sector" organizations designed to carry out new strategies of networking.

Not Without the Tools: The Task of Probation in the Eighties.—Traditionally, the role of the probation officer has been viewed as dichotomous with supervision involving maintaining surveillance and helping the clientele. This dilemma is likely to remain with us in the next decade as the field of probation faces the challenge of stiffer sentencing policies. Authors Marshall and Vito outline some of the difficulties to be faced by probation officers and suggest some methods of dealing with them.

Inside Supervision: A Thematic Analysis of Interviews With Probationers.—This article by Dr. John J. Gibbs of Rutgers University contains an analysis of taperecorded and transcribed interviews with 57 probationers in two New Jersey counties. The interviews were structured to elicit the clients' perceptions of probation and to explore their concerns. Each subject was asked to describe his probation experience, and to respond to an orally administered Self-Anchoring Striving Scale, a measure of satisfaction.

Writing for the Reader.—Nancy Hoffman and Glen Plutschak of the Maryland Division of Parole

and Probation discuss the pitfalls of the bureaucratic style of writing often developed by criminal justice professionals. Such writing is generally characterized by poor organization, extremely long sentences, over-used jargon and unnecessarily complex words. The results are documents which are difficult to read. The authors stress the importance of writing readable communications which are clear, concise, and to the point.

The Male Batterer: A Model Treatment Program for the Courts.—Authors Dreas, Ignatov, and Brennan examine the male batterer from the perspective of court-ordered treatment. A 30-week group treatment program is described in which various aspects of domestic violence are considered, with the ultimate goal being cessation of abusive behavior. Specific steps taken regarding program development and implementation are presented and a description of additional adjunct services is also provided.

Issues in Planning Jail Mental Health Services.—One impact of deinstitutionalization of state mental hospitals noted by many authors is an increased need for mental health services in local jails. Given current fiscal constraints and community attitudes, program development in the 3,493 jails in the United States is often very difficult. In this article, Messrs. McCarty, Steadman, and Morrissey assess the range and structure of mental health services in a national sample of 43 jails.

Victim Offender Reconciliation: An Incarceration Substitute?—Howard Zehr and Mark Umbreit describe the Victim Offender Reconciliation Program (VORP) operated by PACT in Indiana. The program allows for a face-to-face meeting between victim and offender in which facts and feelings are discussed and a restitution contract agreed upon. Trained community volunteers serve as mediators. VORP can serve as a partial or total substitute for jail or prison incarceration. Eighty-six percent of all cases represent felony offenses, with burglary and theft being the most common.

All the articles appearing in this magazine are regarded as appropriate expressions of ideas worthy of thought but their publication is not to be taken as an endorsement by the editors or the Federal probation office of the views set forth. The editors may or may not agree with the articles appearing in the magazine, but believe them in any case to be deserving of consideration.

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The Male Batterer: A Model Treatment Program for the Courts

BY GALE A. DREAS, DOROTHY IGNATOV, AND THOMAS P. BRENNAN*

PEOPLE who give vent to their rage by physically striking their mates, do not, as a rule, seek intervention. They are more likely to deny and rationalize their behavior and project blame and responsibility onto others. This factor, coupled with the magnitude of domestic violence, calls for mandatory coercive intervention.

The Social Service Department, Circuit Court of Cook County, State of Illinois,¹ in response to requests from the Legal Center for Battered Women and as a result of administrative orders by the State's attorney and presiding judge of the First Municipal District of the Circuit Court, established the Domestic Violence Program in the Spring of 1979. The purpose of the program is to address the issue in spousal abuse from the perspective of primarily assisting male offenders. The program addresses the abuse directly and attempts to help the offenders change their abusive behavior. As a result, the program is targeted at the adult, male offender charged and found guilty of battery (or related charge) against his wife or female friend. In addition, a voluntary program for the complainant in these cases is offered, so as to address the problem in a more comprehensive manner, recognizing the multifaceted nature of domestic violence.

The focus of this article, then, will be to examine the phenomenon of domestic violence from the perspective of court ordered treatment. The following will be considered: First, problem awareness and action; second, specific program focus; third, program structure and delivery of services; fourth, supervision/administration of the program; and fifth, conclusions and implications.

Awareness and Action

Investigation into the social problem of domestic violence provided a more acute awareness of its

scope. The staff assigned to develop the program first sensitized themselves and then began to sensitize others in the criminal justice system with whom they would be working. A brief sketch of the scope of the problem, as well as the sensitization process, is provided below.

Scope of Problem

The extent of domestic violence that exists in this country is difficult to determine, in large part because of the reluctance of couples to make public the conflict in their marriages. In addition to this underreporting, the language in police reports and research studies often describes assailants and victims in nonspecific terms. However, Steinmetz, Strauss, and Gelles (1976)² conducted a national survey of 2,143 couples, randomly selected and demographically represented to measure the magnitude of marital violence. From the results, Steinmetz *et al.*, estimates that of the approximately 47 million couples living together in the United States in 1975, over 1.7 million had faced a husband or wife wielding a gun or knife, well over 2 million had been beaten up by their spouses, and another 2.5 million had engaged in high risk injury violence.

While it may appear that it occurs more frequently among lower class families, domestic violence crosses all boundaries of economic class, race, national origin and educational background. Lower class families may be more apt to call police or seek the services of other public agencies, but that is usually due to the fact that they have fewer resources and less privacy. Middle or upper class families experience violence at the same level as lower class families, but have greater access to private support services and thus are less apt to come to the attention of authorities. With this in mind, the sheer numbers of violent male-female relationships indicate that serious attention must

¹The Department provides correctional social services to misdemeanor cases referred to it by the courts. Cases are referred either because defendants are placed on supervision or sentenced to conditional discharge usually for a period of 1 year. Defendants, whether placed on supervision or sentenced to conditional discharge, are found guilty. If the conditions are fulfilled, the supervision order will not result in a conviction and consequent criminal record. On the other hand, the conditional discharge sentence is a conviction and does result in a criminal record.

²Steinmetz, S., Strauss, M., and Gelles, R. "Family as a Child of Violence," *Society*, 10 (6), 1973, p. 62.

*Gale A. Dreas, caseworker, and Dorothy Ignatov, supervisor, were two of three individuals who developed and implemented the program. Gale A. Dreas is principal author; Dorothy Ignatov and Thomas P. Brennan, assistant director, assisted in the completion of the article. The program continues to be implemented by ongoing caseworkers, Social Service Department, Circuit Court of Cook County, State of Illinois.

be paid to examining and attempting to alleviate violence in the home.

Sensitization to the Program.—Prior to developing a program philosophy, it was necessary to become familiarized with the underlying processes that contribute to abusive behavior. This was accomplished by: (1) researching existing literature on the subject of domestic violence; (2) meeting with professional personnel actively working in the field; (3) attending conferences related to domestic violence; and (4) integrating personal ideas, expertise, etc., based on the population to be serviced.

After the initial period of sensitization, program staff began the task of engaging the total agency in problem identification so as to facilitate referrals of domestic violence cases specifically to this program. This required an ability to ask appropriate diagnostic questions to determine whether the criminal offense was related to violence between a man and woman.

Once internal sensitization was accomplished and departmental procedures had been established, steps were taken to obtain cooperation from outside personnel, such as judges, assistant State's attorneys and public defenders. Meetings were arranged in which the nature of the program was explained both in terms of the problem of domestic violence and the specific way in which we hoped to address it using the legal system. This was to be accomplished through a specific order from the judge that the defendant attend the Domestic Violence Program of the Social Service Department for a 30-week period.

Once this initial groundwork had been completed, implementation of the program could begin.

Specific Focus

The specific focus of the program was determined by our assumptions about domestic violence, the male batterer, and the women who are battered. The philosophy, as well as the goals and objectives, hold the individual responsible for his/her behavior and teaches/reinforces this individual responsibility. This section presents those underlying assumptions, the philosophy of the program, and the goals and objectives.

Underlying Assumptions.—Some of the identified assumptions underlying the structure of this program include the following: (1) Domestic violence is a learned behavior; (2) alcoholism is a frequent cause of domestic violence; and (3) the

legal system is an appropriate intervention technique in addressing domestic violence.

Some of the assumptions regarding the men who batter include the following: (1) They have very low self-esteem; (2) they believe in male superiority and the prescribed male sex role in the family; (3) they are pathologically jealous and possessive of their partners; (4) they are highly symbiotic toward their partners; (5) they are basically "loner" type individuals; (6) they frequently come from homes where there is a lack of respect for women; and (7) they have low frustration tolerance.

Some of the assumptions regarding the women who have been battered include: (1) They have very low self-esteem; (2) they believe in the traditional, prescribed feminine sex-role in the family; (3) they accept responsibility for batterer's actions; (4) they come from a traditional, but not violent, family background; and (5) they attempt to control other people and events in the environment to prevent abuse.

Program Philosophy.—The Domestic Violence Program maintains that a physically violent resolution of conflict in relationships will not be tolerated. It operates on the premise that domestic violence is a crime and the safety of the individuals within an intimate relationship is emphasized over the right of either of those individuals to privacy.

Each person in our program is held responsible for his/her behavior regardless of the reasons cited for the abuse. However, it is recognized that both individuals in some way contribute to a maladaptive process in the relationship that can result in or lead to violence. This may include manipulation of the environment in order to prevent abuse or provocation to encourage abuse during the tension buildup phase (Walker, 1979). Environmental manipulation is done to placate or please the abuser in the attempt to keep from being hit; provocation would occur, on the other hand, as a means of "getting the abuse over with," knowing that it will occur eventually, regardless of what is done or not done, said or not said. However, these attempts either to "fend off" or to provoke the violent episodes may succeed only in creating maladaptive behavior within the relationship that results in sustaining the physical violence rather than eliminating it. This adaptive response on the part of the victim, then, to maladaptive behavior on the part of the abuser usually does nothing to inhibit further abuse; instead it may serve as a reinforcer of the violence.

Goals and Objectives.—The goal of the Domestic Violence Program is to eliminate physical abuse in

domestic relationships. The objectives utilized toward accomplishing this goal include the following: (1) facilitating understanding and acceptance of the problem; (2) increasing acceptance of personal responsibility for behavior; (3) providing alternative ways of handling stress; (4) encouraging conflict negotiation of anger-producing situations; (5) encouraging peer support; and (6) reducing isolation. The manner in which these objectives are carried out is primarily through a group approach, supplemented with individual counseling, home visits, couples counseling, crisis intervention, and outside agency referrals.

Program Structure and Delivery of Services

The design of the program uses the group modality as the selected intervention style with individual interviews interspersed before, during, and after the life of the group. It is a 30-week program, with separate groups for men and women. Ideally, men who have been identified as having an alcohol or drug abuse problem are assigned to a separate group.³ The first 15 weeks are essentially didactic and lead into the second 15 weeks' focus of problem-sharing and problem-solving. Crisis intervention, home visits, women's shelter placement, and court appearances are some of the adjunct services delivered. This section discusses the program structure, program elements, goals of the groups, content, and adjunct services.

Program Structure.—The Domestic Violence Program is selective in that it is designed for a very specific segment of the population. Those eligible include men who have been charged with the misdemeanor of battery or a related offense against their wives or female friends, and who have been placed on supervision or sentenced to conditional discharge with subsequent referral to the Social Service Department for a period of not less than 1 year. In addition, women who have been complainants in the above cases are also eligible to participate.

The program consists of three types of groups: two for men and one for women. The men's groups meet once a week for 1 hour over a period of 30-weeks while the women's group is open-ended. The men's groups are divided according to whether or not a drinking or drug problem has been diagnosed. These men are then separated from those for whom drinking and drug abuse is not problematic.

Attendance is mandatory for the men and any one of the following conditions determines whether a case will be brought back to court for violation: (1) absence at five consecutive meetings; (2) absence at seven total meetings; (3) recurrence of physical abuse if a complaint is signed; or (4) new arrest or conviction for any criminal offense. Failure to participate or additional abuse by the offender while in the program results in his case being returned to court. At this time, a recommendation is made, including possible incarceration or alcoholic treatment. At the end of the supervision period, if the offender has participated in the program and has complied with all of the court orders, a recommendation for termination is presented to the court.

The women's group, on the other hand, is voluntary, and comprises women whose partners have been convicted of battery or a related offense. This group meets biweekly and does not terminate at 30 weeks. Because of its voluntary nature, this group tends to be small and, as such, is designed as an open-ended, ongoing support group.

The 30-week program is staffed by supervised male and female co-leader teams. Co-leadership is stressed over single or same sex leadership because of the nature of the problem and the perceived need for appropriate role modeling behavior.

Program Elements.—Once the case has been diagnosed as one involving domestic violence, the following steps are taken:

- (1) An intake is scheduled during which information is gathered related to:
 - (a) the extent, frequency, duration and type of abuse;
 - (b) precipitating reasons for battering behavior;
 - (c) antecedant and consequent actions of the battering behavior;
 - (d) the nature and extent of injuries;
 - (e) recognition of a pattern of abuse;
 - (f) the ability to predict when abuse may occur;
 - (g) marital history;
 - (h) parental background information;
 - (i) medical/psychiatric history; and
 - (j) drinking history.

On the basis of this information, an individual treatment plan is determined as a supplement to the group program.

- (2) Following the intake interview, approximately three or four individual appointments are scheduled with the man for the purpose of rapport

building as well as determining additional problem areas.

- (3) The man is then placed in one of the two men's groups and a choice is provided regarding day or evening meetings.

(4) Individual appointments are scheduled with the offender every other month to evaluate progress in the group as well as to determine what is occurring in his relationships with significant others in his life.

(5) Court appearances are made, for violation, review or termination hearings as needed, for each individual case.

For the complainant, the following contacts are made:

(1) An intake interview is scheduled, which obtains the same information asked of the defendants. When needed, a home visit is done in order to accomplish this task.

(2) The woman is encouraged to participate in the women's group which meets biweekly.

(3) Individual appointments and/or phone calls are made with the complainant to report any changes in her relationship with significant others.

(4) Referral information is provided relative to crisis phone numbers, shelters, legal assistance, etc.

In addition to the above, couples counseling is provided as requested by the couples themselves or as perceived as a need by the ongoing caseworkers.

Goals of the Groups.—The program comprises groups of men and women. With both kinds of groups, the aim is to provide a support system for discussion of problem areas, to foster insight into their behavior, and to help them discover alternatives to expressing feelings in a violent manner.

For the men, the purpose of the group format is to acquaint them with some of the dynamics involved in the area of domestic violence, to allow them to share their frustrations, difficulties, etc., with other men who have experienced situations/problems similar to their own, and to suggest alternative behaviors to battery. Because many of these men have isolated themselves from persons outside of their primary relationships, they have become unable to deal with problems that arise within that relationship in any but a violent manner.

In relation to the women, who have also become isolated from others, the purpose of the group is to provide a support system for discussing the pro-

blems, difficulties, etc., that they have experienced as victims of domestic violence. They are encouraged to examine alternatives available to them whether or not they remain with their partners and also to understand some of the dynamics in their relationships that have contributed to violent behavior.

Since a high percentage of domestic violence cases cite drinking as a precipitating factor of abuse, a decision was made to separate the men into drinking vs. nondrinking groups. The underlying philosophy for this rests on the belief that the abuse is symptomatic of the alcoholism. As such, the drinking behavior is addressed and treated before other problems are considered. It is believed that, since alcoholism is a disease that results in a variety of acting out behaviors, if it is successfully treated, repeated violence will be eliminated. Successful treatment in the eyes of this program is continuous involvement in the program of Alcoholics Anonymous⁴ which is regarded as the most successful approach to maintenance of continued sobriety. This is in direct contrast to a "dry drunk" in which an individual remains sober, but is not involved in Alcoholics Anonymous. In these cases, the possibility for continued violence is high contrasted with those involved in AA, when the possibility for violence is extremely low.

Content.—The content of the instructional material was developed to address ways in which the battering behavior could be alleviated. The methods which were employed include: (1) a multifaceted exploration of the dynamics of intimate relationships; (2) specific techniques regarding control of violent behavior; and (3) treatment of alcoholism/drug abuse by utilizing education and confrontation techniques.

Using the methods mentioned above, the content material is examined through a series of systematic didactic presentations. Being a non-voluntary, court-ordered treatment program, the clientele are typically resistant and hostile toward therapeutic intervention. Acknowledging this, the group leadership is initially directive and instructional in style. The attempt is to engage the clients by providing them with information relevant to their situation while requiring minimal participation beyond their attendance at meetings. The opportunity for the client to express opinions regarding the presented material or any other subject is made available in each session. Gradually, the group members become more willing and ready to participate.

³Initially, this separation did exist. However, as the program grew, staff limitations occurred, resulting in groups comprised of both alcoholic and nonalcoholic men. For purposes of this article, we will present the original program design supporting a separate group for men manifesting problems with alcohol or drug abuse.

⁴The Alcoholics Anonymous program embodies a life philosophy that addressed a person's physical, emotional, and spiritual needs. Central to the program is the practice of its "Twelve Steps" which is dependent on continuous support of and sharing with others in the program. As a result, violence would obviously be considered contradictory to the practice of the "Twelve Steps."

The didactic content of the men's groups is quite varied, emphasizing information about violence, emotions, roles, and relationships.

The meetings begin with an identification of general learned patterns of violence in the larger society: i.e., our government's use of military power as a negotiating arm in the world, socialization, television programming which romanticizes violent themes, etc. Gradually, the "violence" theme is narrowed, until members are asked to consider the extent of violence in their families of origin and, finally, in their own intimate relationships. In particular, the men are alerted to the battery cycle as identified by Walker (1979)⁵ and are asked to consider their own behavior in terms of that cycle.

The general approach to all subject matter is done with the purpose of enhancing consciousness of the existence and function of some very basic human emotions. In particular, the groups are sensitized to the topic of the emotions of anger and frustration. The use of charts and anger diaries is emphasized. In addition, teaching the identification of these feelings as well as alternative subsequent behaviors is emphasized. Focus is directed to becoming conscious of separating the emotions of anger and frustration from the behavior that follows, providing added alternative choices for behaviors which can express these emotions without violence.

Anger is looked at in terms of how it is often used as a cover for the expression of feelings traditionally identified as "feminine," such as sadness, hurt, compassion, and guilt. Members are asked to present anger-producing situations and attempt to identify underlying feelings.

Men's and women's roles are then examined in relation to the attitudes that the members have toward these roles. It is pointed out that there is a wide variance in our society regarding these attitudes, and the differences that do exist frequently breed conflict in relationships. Understanding what our attitudes are, however, can help to determine what approach to take in terms of alleviating that conflict.

In the area of relationships, the issues of trust, communication (verbal, nonverbal, and behavioral), and expectations are discussed with an emphasis on the didactic approach. Films, role plays, and group exercises are frequently incorporated into the lecture presentations.

In conjunction with presentation of the didactic material, the leadership encourages use of group

time for members to discuss specific problem areas they are experiencing and use of the group format as a method of problem-solving.

The content of the alcoholism group comprises much of the material presented above, but the focus is on the use of mood altering chemicals and how they interfere with basic human functioning. The primary function of this group is on confrontation of the illness. This is approached by addressing the denial symptom of the illness and attempting to help the member accept this illness.

The following topics are presented to facilitate understanding of the disease: (1) generalization of alcoholism to the larger society; (2) overview of alcoholism as a disease; (3) overview of progressive nature of alcoholism; (4) discription of symptomatic behavior of alcoholism; (5) examination of effect of alcoholism on significant others; (6) exploration of individual group member's drinking patterns; (7) confrontation of denial; (8) steps to sobriety and its benefits; (9) examining consequences of continued drinking; and (10) resource information and referral.

Once acceptance of the illness is attained, a person becomes willing to accept needed help. Referral at that point to a hospital or to Alcoholics Anonymous is regarded as the most successful treatment of this disease.

The focus of the women's group is one of nurturance and support. Because a great deal of ambivalence is often experienced by these women, they are helped to clarify their feelings in a manner that then allows them to determine alternatives to accepting the battering behavior. Many of the topics addressed in the men's groups are also considered in the women's group. However, more attention is paid to the feelings of helplessness experienced by these women and attempts are made to help them exercise more control over their lives. In addition, the women are encouraged to remain in contact with each other outside of the group, since isolation is often a contributing factor to these feelings of helplessness.

Adjunct Services.—In addition to group treatment, several other services are offered as part of this program. For example, individual appointments are scheduled regularly with the client in order to determine any special problems or issues that need to be addressed outside of the group setting. Further, continued contact with the complaining witness is maintained in order to obtain additional information regarding the ongoing status of the relationship in terms of any further evidence or potential for physical abuse. Couples counseling is provided as requested or as a perceived need of the workers.

Perhaps one of the most important additional services provided by this program lies in the area of crisis intervention. Because of the seriousness of domestic violence in terms of its ongoing volatility, the potential for explosive situations to arise is heightened. The group sharing experience combined with consistent contact with the ongoing caseworkers provides an atmosphere of trust, which is frequently actualized and solidified when a crisis occurs.

Consequently, it is important that intervention be provided at these critical points in order to solidify the client-caseworker relationship and to facilitate and/or encourage alternative methods of handling potentially abusive situations. With this in mind, a team of two caseworkers responds by making contact with the client and/or partner.

Since the initial contact is by phone, the seriousness of the situation is immediately assessed and suggestions are provided at that time in an attempt to alleviate any potential explosiveness that might result. A determination is then made as to whether inperson contact is needed and, if so, a male-female team responds. Once the field visit is underway, further decisions are made regarding contact of other agents: i.e., hospitals, police, shelters, etc. The case is then followed through until the crisis has been abated. Followup services by way of phone and inperson contacts are also provided.

Referrals to outside agencies are also made during the course of the program or after completion, depending upon the expressed or apparent need of the client or the complaining witness: i.e., legal services, shelters, mental health facilities, alcoholism treatment centers, etc.

In order to facilitate widespread knowledge and use of the Domestic Violence Program, community education services are also provided. In addition, speaking at conferences, meeting with interested community groups, and consultation with various agencies are encouraged.

Supervision/Administration

The supervision of the development and implementation of a new program requires utilization of skills not necessarily tapped in the individual supervision of workers assigned to established programs. The supervisor is faced with several important tasks: role definition; representation of the

program's performance and needs; protection and safeguarding the program from outside interference; and, above all, patient diplomacy both inside as well as outside the Department.

Conclusion/Implications

The Domestic Violence Program is an attempt to assist in alleviating violent domestic relationships. It operates on two premises: That family violence should be considered a crime and that the safety of the individual is emphasized over the right of the individual to make choices for himself that include harming another. Because of the nature of the problem of spousal abuse and the reluctance of those affected by it to seek treatment, a form of coercion is an essential component at this time to its resolution. It gives the court necessary control over the offender while assuring the victim that the court is necessarily responsive to her request for assistance. Possibly the most overriding justification for this type of mandatory program is the fact that it appears to be a reflection of the changing attitudes toward the family system. Historically, the family has been considered as a sanctuary, a respite from the impersonal and violent laws of the larger society. The integrity of the family system has frequently received more consideration than the safety and civil rights of its members. The belief that "a man's home is his castle" and that outsiders are not to interfere in private family matters is still widespread. However, the recent explosion of this belief system, and the recognition that violence is and has been an integral part of this system, has sparked a reevaluation of familial relationships and a desperate need for change.

Part of this change must include an examination of male and female roles in light of contemporary society. It may also mean that, before we reach the stage when prevention of violence in the family is achieved, we must demand that those who engage in physical abuse within the home be forced to participate in mandatory programs, such as the one described in this article or suffer more serious consequences. Ultimately, of course, it is hoped that compulsory participation will not be required, but that persons will be able to seek assistance from a network of facilities designed to focus on the problems existent in violent family relationships.

⁵Walker, L.E., *The Battered Woman*. New York: Harper and Rowe Publishers, 1979.

END