ENHANCING SERVICES TO MALE-IDENTIFIED SURVIVORS SERIES:
GENDER NEUTRAL ADVOCACY

National LGBTQ Institute on IPV

National Resource Center on Domestic Violence
What interested you about this topic?

What are you hoping to take away?
WHAT ARE WE NOTICING?

WHY THIS TOPIC?
How do we meaningfully support survivors of all genders?
How do we meaningfully support survivors of all genders?
How do we maintain & strengthen a collective, feminist analysis on gender, power, and violence?
How do we maintain & strengthen a collective feminist analysis on gender, power, and violence?
2013 VAWA:

FIRST TIME GENDER IDENTITY & SEXUAL ORIENTATION HAVE EVER BEEN PROTECTED UNDER FEDERAL LAW.
“There has to be a shift in culture. We have to have conversations about systems that are in place that allow sexual violence to flourish.”

- TARANA BURKE
Tactics Across Scale

• Dominant groups have long used the language of liberation to entrench their privilege and power. These techniques inevitably work to muddy the waters about who is actually facing discrimination or disparity in a given situation.

• Ignores known statistical data and research about who is disproportionately impacted.

• Undermines the experiences of marginalized communities and works to redefine oppression by framing dominant groups as its primary victims.
More widespread knowledge & use of terminology from the field

Tendency to collapse a lot of experiences into domestic violence.

Collapsing of community-based advocacy and criminal legal system in response to DV.

Increase in “victim defendants”

“we wanted to increase our male survivor support group, so we posted flyers asking if men felt emotionally abused by their partner”

Conflict Tactics Scale

Gender Symmetry

Use of checklists of abusive behaviors
Anything you’ve noticed that you’d like to share?
How do we maintain & strengthen a collective feminist analysis on gender, power, and violence?
The good news is:
We already have the skills, and tools we need to do this!

The less good news is...its difficult and we have to be diligent and savvy and persistent...
Understanding institutional inequality and oppression is essential to this work...from safety planning to systems advocacy to making referrals.

- racism, disproportionate impact of criminalization to people of color, sexism, poverty, ableism, immigration laws, transphobia and all the intersections in between.

People who are abusive rely on inequality and systems of oppression to establish and maintain abusive control.
Oppression, at its core, is the systematic over-valuing of some people and simultaneous under-valuing of other people, based on their membership within particular social groups.
We understand that abuse happens when one of us believes that we have more value than another person and creates a dynamic which, over time, gives us more access to resources, relationships and decision-making than the other person.
Patriarchy

A system of institutional, cultural and individual beliefs and practices which establishes a binary gender system of two distinct genders (“man” and “woman”)...

within which men are given power and privilege at the expense of women, transgender and gender-non conforming folks.
Co-Created Models of Subordination & Domination

White supremacy
Colonization
Patriarchy (Heteropatriarchy)
Unchecked Capitalism
“Interpersonal violence usually belies a whole host of social conditions that are hard to qualify and quantify (i.e. privilege, race, poverty, gender, oppression, resistance, wealth, cultural norms, etc...).”

~Crunk Feminist Collective
Coercive Power Tactics Across Scale

collective/societal

- using physical & sexual violence
- using intimidation/coercion/threats
  - using economic abuse:
    - using children:
  - minimizing, denying and blaming:
    - using psychological/ emotional abuse
    - using isolation

individual/interpersonal
Each person within the pyramid (which is to say, all of us) is capable of prejudice, abuse, and violence

\{however\}

Only individuals/groups with \textit{access to institutional and cultural power} are able to back up their prejudices through policies, laws, and norms.
Lesbian Loses Court Appeal For Custody Of Daughter

By MIREYA NAVARRO

MIAMI, Aug. 30 — A Florida appeals court today upheld a decision by a trial judge transferring custody of a girl, now 12, from her lesbian mother to her father, who served eight years in prison for murdering his first wife 22 years ago.
More than one in four transgender people have lost a job due to bias, and more than three-fourths have experienced some form of workplace discrimination. Refusal to hire, privacy violations, harassment, and even physical and sexual violence on the job are common occurrences, and are experienced at even higher rates by transgender people of color. Many people report changing jobs to avoid discrimination or the risk of discrimination. Extreme levels of unemployment and poverty lead one in eight to become involved in underground economies—such as sex and drug work—in order to survive.

While many states, D.C., Puerto Rico, and over 200 local jurisdictions, and hundreds of employers have adopted clear laws or policies to prohibit this discrimination, just about half the nation still lives without these clear protections. Trans people can also face discrimination in the jobs programs meant to connect them with job opportunities and/or training. In recent years, courts and federal agencies have increasingly taken the view that job discrimination against transgender people is prohibited by existing laws against sex discrimination. This inclusive understanding of sex discrimination laws, accepted by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission in 2012, has the potential to be a powerful tool to combat employment bias. The EEOC has now investigated and settled many cases on behalf of
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Advocacy Model Language</th>
<th>Criminal Legal System Language</th>
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<tr>
<td>A person who experiences a pattern of power and control by another.</td>
<td>Victim A person against whom a crime of battery has been committed.</td>
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<tr>
<td>A person who establishes a pattern of power and control over another.</td>
<td>Perpetrator A person who has been convicted of committing a crime of battery.</td>
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<tr>
<td>The advocacy model understands that people who abuse their partners may:</td>
<td>Meanwhile, the criminal legal system:</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Establish a pattern of control that occurs 24-7,</td>
<td>• is designed to address specific incidents and determine if they are legal or illegal,</td>
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<td>• Control/exploit their partner over time,</td>
<td>• evaluates “moments in time”, not patterns of abusive control,</td>
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<tr>
<td>• use a number of tactics—some of which are illegal, most of which are legal.</td>
<td>• ignores bias and posits everyone as agents under the law—regardless of institutional</td>
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<td>• rely on systems of oppression and social inequalities to maintain their control</td>
<td>inequalities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>over their partner.</td>
<td></td>
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QUESTIONS/PAUSE
How do we meaningfully support survivors of all genders?
LGBTQ Institute’s Approach:

- All programs are “All Genders”
- Survivor Supports are “no people causing harm”.
- Community Engagement activities are open to all.
We know:

“men” ≠ “batterers”
“women” ≠ “survivors”
“women’s space” ≠ “safe space”

Advocates cannot rely on gender or a checklist of behaviors to determine who is abusing power.
Of people who have experienced rape, stalking, or physical violence by a partner: 83% of women and 35% of men reported significant impact.

National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey; Special Reports, 2010 Findings on Victimization by Sexual Orientation. CDC.
How NISVS Measured the Impact of Intimate Partner Violence

For each perpetrator of intimate partner violence, respondents were asked about whether they had experienced:

- being fearful
- being concerned for safety
- symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)
  - having nightmares
  - trying hard not to think about it or avoiding being reminded of it
  - feeling constantly on guard, watchful, or easily startled
  - feeling numb or detached from others, activities, or surroundings
- being injured
- needing healthcare as a result of the intimate partner violence experienced
- needing housing services
- needing victim’s advocate services
- needing legal services
- contacting a crisis hotline
- missing days of work or school because of the intimate partner violence experienced
- for those reporting rape by an intimate partner — contracting a sexually transmitted infection or becoming pregnant (for women)

The questions were assessed in relation to specific perpetrators, without regard to the time period in which they occurred. Because violent acts often do not occur in isolation and are frequently experienced in the context of other violence committed by the same perpetrator, questions regarding the impact of the violence were asked in relation to all forms of violence (sexual violence, physical violence, stalking, expressive aggression, coercive control, and reproductive control) committed by the perpetrator in that relationship. Such information provides a better understanding of how individual and cumulative experiences of violence interact to result in harm to victims and provides a more nuanced understanding of the overall impact of violence.
83% of women and 35% of men reported significant impact.

People of all genders need support to survive the impacts of abuse.

The impacts of abuse are not gender neutral.
“gender neutral” is not the answer.

The DV Movement needs a shared, robust gender analysis.
“Neutrality” is not the answer.

The DV Movement needs a shared, robust analysis of oppression, systems of subordination, patterns of power and control.
To say it plain:

Survivors need *survivor supports*.

(“abuser segregated” *not* “sex segregated”)
QUESTIONS/PAUSE
ASSESSING FOR A PATTERN OF COERCIVE CONTROL
What is your current practice for determining eligibility for survivor supports?
Assessing for a PATTERN of coercive control

(vs incidents of harm or violence)

*Please do not copy or distribute these slides. Thanks!
The Assessment Tool...

There is no simple formula to determine who is abusing or who is surviving that abuse.

We do have a strong framework and intake process, rooted in an understanding of oppression for discerning patterns of power, control and exploitation in relationships.
Advocates use this approach to clarify the:

- Context
- Intent
- Effect

of behaviors, agreements, and events in order to determine who is establishing a system of power and control in an abusive relationship.
Assessing for Coercive Control

Ensures you are serving all survivors, even if their behaviors are complicated & that you have the information needed to direct people who are abusive to intervention programs or other community supports.
When people who batter have access to survivor services and advocacy, their control over their partner INCREASES.
When survivors are placed in perpetrator treatment, their self-determination and safety **DECREASES**.
Understanding institutional inequality and oppression is **essential** to this work...from safety planning to systems advocacy to making referrals.

People who are abusive **rely on inequality** and systems of oppression to establish and maintain abusive control.
QUESTIONS?
MEANINGFUL ADVOCACY WITH BI+, TRANS & GAY MEN
How do we meaningfully support survivors of all genders?
What have you noticed as areas of advocacy in your work with gay, bi+, and trans men?
Rich areas of advocacy:

- Understanding disparities & impacts of oppression in survivor’s life and in rebuilding from abuse
- Gender socialization & gender roles - redefining rigidness of masculinity and gender roles
- Equity in relationships
- Power and parenting
- Addressing entitlement when it comes up
- Trans parents & custody, parenting
- Disrupting notions of normalized use of violence in relationships/conflict
- Biphobia
- Femme-phobia
- Internalized oppression
- Skill building re: emotions
- Cost of Patriarchy and Toxic Masculinity
People of all sexes have the right to explore femininity, masculinity-and the infinite variations between-without criticism or ridicule.

— Leslie Feinberg —
EVERY GIRL  EVERY BOY
FOR EVERY GIRL WHO IS TIRED OF ACTING WEAK
WHEN SHE IS STRONG, THERE IS A BOY TIRED
OF APPEARING STRONG WHEN HE FEELS
VULNERABLE. FOR EVERY BOY WHO IS
BURDENED WITH THE CONSTANT
EXPECTATION OF KNOWING EVERYTHING,
TIRED OF PEOPLE
HER INTELLIGENCE.
WHO IS TIRED OF
OVER-SENSITIVE,
WHO FEARS TO BE
FOR EVERY BOY
COMPETITION IS
TO PROVE HIS
THERE IS A GIRL
UNFEMININE
FOR EVERY GIRL
HER E-Z-BAKE
BOY WHO WISHES
FOR EVERY BOY
NOT TO LET ADVERTISING DICTATE HIS DESIRES,
THERE IS A GIRL FACING THE AD INDUSTRY’S
ATTACKS ON HER SELF-ESTEEM. FOR EVERY
GIRL WHO TAKES A STEP TOWARD HER
LIBERATION, THERE IS A BOY WHO FINDS
THE WAY TO FREEDOM A LITTLE EASIER.
Creating Structures for Difference

Examples:

• Built Environment—You are welcome here!

• Let folks know what to expect in your advocacy and groups. Be clear & flexible.

• Share values, expectations, & negotiate in a fair and equitable manner

• Support group agreements focused on holding difference, normalizing conflict and setting expectation that racism, sexism, trans/phobia will be addressed.

• Support Group: Create intentional structure for welcoming folks into the group and saying goodbye when folks leave group. (Welcome Group, Goodbye Group)
Plan for Conflict

Conflict is internal discord that occurs because of a difference in ideas, values or perceptions or in the interpretation of a situation (Kelley, 2006).

Conflict is an inevitable part of all human relationships.

When we expect & plan for conflict, we are in a better position to intervene earlier and put in place more effective intervention strategies.
Conflict in Support Group

• Conflict is not the same thing as abuse

• Group Agreements and Values Statements are displayed regularly as reminders

• *Old Business* as a regular agenda item

• Two Facilitators

• Model asking & being asked
What areas do you or your program need more support in welcoming folks of all genders?
Remembering strengths of LGBTQ communities

- Self-Determination
- Pride
- Resilience
- Diversity
- Creativity
- Resourcefulness
QUESTIONS?
THANK YOU!
NOTE:
The following slides are just extras or for reference or just didn’t make the final slide-deck.
Cis-gender

• Referring to an individual who has a match between the sex they were assigned at birth and the roles and behaviors considered by society to be appropriate to their particular gender.

LGBTQ Abuse & Oppression

**Power:** “the person we are at our best moments.”

**Status:** “the up-and down dynamics of interactions”

**Rank:** “how society systematically and consistently advantages the same people while marginalizing others.

**Leticia Nieto’s Onion**
Stay conscious. Get skills.

Internalized sexism & sexism really complicates relationships.

What are some of the drawbacks of "women's only" services/spaces? The tensions from where we have come from and where we are going
Chat Question:
What does Feminist Program mean to you or to your agency?
Impacts of Trauma & Oppression

- Scarcity
- Lack of Creativity
- Attachment
- Rigidity
Chat Question

[CHANGE] What have programs (not necessarily yours) found challenging about supporting survivors who identify as men, trans, or gender nonconforming?
The National Resource Center on Domestic Violence (www.nrcdv.org) provides a wide range of free, comprehensive, and individualized technical assistance, training, and specialized resource materials. Access our publications online at VAWnet.org.

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