

Catholic Social Services of Washtenaw County  
**A**lternatives to **D**omestic **A**ggression  
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## **How can your program better respond to ISSUES OF domestic violence AND DRUG AND ALCOHOL PROBLEMS?**

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### **COORDINATED COMMUNITY RESPONSE**

1. Develop a relationship with your local battered women's service agency.(25-75% of your clientele are perpetrating, or are victims of, domestic violence.)
2. Develop policies which identify and address what you will do with clients who are using your program to undermine the coordinated community response to domestic violence.
3. Have a staff member of your program sit on the local Domestic Violence Coordinating Board.

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### **ADMINISTRATIVE**

1. Make literature available, including Power and Control Wheels, referral information, posters, etc. to clients where they can read/take it (it is particularly good to put it in women's restrooms where they are safer to read or take it).
2. Join your state Coalition Against Domestic Violence (MCADV in Michigan), and/or the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCADV-P.O. Box 34103 Washington DC 20043-4103 ph. 202-638-6388).

3. Develop policies in your program/agency which address what to-do with domestic violence perpetrators.

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## **PROGRAMMATIC**

1. Consider conducting groups (segregated sexually) where the myths, dynamics and statistics of domestic violence can be discussed.
2. Indicate to your clients that "domestic violence may be spoken about here".
3. Consider what development you need on your policies which takes domestic violence into account regarding:
  - a. assessment.
  - b. couples/marital/family treatment.
  - c. referral for services.
  - d. what aspects of programming you will/won't involve battered women/batterers in.
4. Provide safety planning to battered women (have you been trained by your local battered women's services staff?)
5. Make sure your assessment, diagnosis, intervention and referral staff are educated and competent about the dynamics of domestic violence.

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## **STAFF DEVELOPMENT**

1. Have someone from your local battered women's services agency speak to your staff/clients.
2. Build and/or add to your library materials for staff to improve their knowledge base and continue their development about domestic violence.
3. Given that 25-75% of your program's clientele are perpetrators/victims of domestic violence, consider devoting an equitable percentage of your staff education resources to this subject.

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## **PROBLEMS**

1. From your perspective, what are the two most significant ways your program/agency needs to change to better accommodate the needs of battered women and children?

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b. \_\_\_\_\_  
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***SAFETY OF (POTENTIAL) VICTIMS MUST GUIDE  
YOUR ACTIONS!!!!***

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