Workshop D
Where does the DV movement go from here? The future starts today
Workshop Leaders: Nicole Allen and Amy Lehrner, University of Illinois Department of Community Psychology.

Introduction: Share the title of the book you would write from your work in the last three to five years.

This exercise helped both as an icebreaker, a tool to think “big picture” about participants’ experience in and perspective on the DV movement, and an illustration of the tension between service provision and social change surfaced in the morning keynote. The titles reported by participants included:

Rewards and frustrations a domestic assault advocate; Cloudy with a chance of sunshine; How much I learn from survivors; Recovering from child abuse trauma; Controlled multiple personality syndrome: How to clone yourself without wanting to; You gotta be flexible; Chaos; Barriers to new ideas and change; Managing transitions the best way to can; We are watching you: Working with communities on accountability and how to protect providers; Inspired? One step forward, three steps back; Following the dream: Building lives and transforming my own; The importance of public policy: How I got 16 million and you can too; Make it work; Each one, teach one; How best to utilize networks; Yes, there is help out there; Turning pages; The reason you shouldn’t be on the sideline when ; Working with outside agencies; Staying the course; There’s no you in team: Tensions between looking back and moving forward; So much to learn so little time; The struggle continues, don’t give up; In the absence of judgment, embrace choice; Love and justice; Connecting the dots: Toward an ecology of violence prevention; Story-collecting; Everything I learned is from 15 year-olds; and, Growing up in the DV movement.

Frame for Building a Theory of Change: Participants discussed current strengths, challenges and opportunities.

Presenters provided a set of tools for the field to develop a theory of change for proposed work and suggested their own key components for ending violence against women:

• Effective systems response
• Engaged community
• Social and cultural transformation

Presenters also stressed the importance of having an analysis of the problem and operating from that to develop a theory of change, rather than a non-reflective response to domestic violence. They advocated for a reflexive, reflective, and informed intervention based on a commitment to violence against women as a social issue.
Next, presenters and the group considered two main questions:

1. What are your touchstones?
   - Survivor safety
   - Batterer accountability
   - Inclusion/diversity
   - Social and cultural transformation
   - Empowerment
   - Feminism and advancement of women’s rights
   - Orientation toward children

2. What questions do you have?
   - What is the role of intersecting oppressions and anti-oppression training?
   - Are we being accountable to community?
   - Will this matter?
   - Have to know when to compromise and where to be flexible

Nicole and Amy then led the group to develop a larger theory of change approach that will help:

- make vision and goals explicit
- check assumptions
- clarify activities and resources required
- provide longer term vision for what will be achieved.

Specifically, they asked participants to move from 1) activities and actions to 2) short-term goals to 3) longer-term goals.

In developing the responses to the three categories, they asked participants to answer the following questions:

- What is the problem or challenge we are trying to address?
- What is our analysis of the problem definition?
- What is the longer-term vision we hope to achieve?
- What shorter-term goals may lead to the longer-term vision
- What activities or actions must we engage in to achieve these shorter-term goals?
- What resources or capacity building is required to engage in these activities?
- Will ___ really lead to ___?
- Are we focused?
- Are we willing to adjust?
- Can we evaluate our capacity, action and achievement?
Comments and Reflections:
The group was given 20-25 minutes to answer the above questions and develop a theory of change for some vision they were to construct. Many groups attempted to use movement- and field-building as components of their vision, though not all groups had this focus.

Unfortunately, little time was left to have a substantive discussion on what the groups came up with or talked about. Some of the comments and themes that surfaced regarding the theory of change exercise include:

- “I started out very confused, but made the effort and it helped to clarify thinking and approach.”
- “How do you take this to a field level conversation? We need space to talk about this.”
- “The response to DV is and has to be multi-faceted and multi-dimensional.”
- “This exercise stretches us to begin with a vision and lends itself to greater creativity.”
- “It is difficult to complete this exercise since there’s isn’t a clear consensus among participants.”
- “There are lots of ideas and the trick is channeling them productively.”
- “How do we grapple with the multiple levels of conversation that need to happen – local to regional to state?”
- “How far are we from a shared dialogue?”
- “Looking at this in a linear way can be challenging.”