

Celia Wilson, Certified Prevention Consultant, International Prevention Specialist, Dating Violence Survivor, Adult Child Survivor of Domestic Violence, Speaker, Entrepreneur

No little girl dreams of growing up to be abused and/or murdered by her partner or family member.

Adlai Stevenson said, "It is often easier to fight for one's principles, than to live up to them." Aisha M. Fraser and Tonya Hunter (my mentor) lived by their principles to teach and treat others to improve their lives. You have an opportunity to fight for all those little girls who have or will witness domestic violence and who will grow up to experience domestic violence at the hands of someone they love or once loved.

I read H.B. 3 and noticed there is no prevention provision for offenders. Focusing only on victims in this bill will not ensure the safety of victims and children. Domestic violence offenders who commit verbal, psychological, financial, social, and spiritual abuse require interventions that reduce their risks of escalating to sexual and physical abuse. I have included a chart of a potential first level intervention strategy, which does not include arresting the abuser. If the abuser has not sexually or physically abused the victim attending a batterers support group would not be appropriate because of the level of intervention. The goal is to prevent the abuser from reaching the sexual/physical level of abuse.

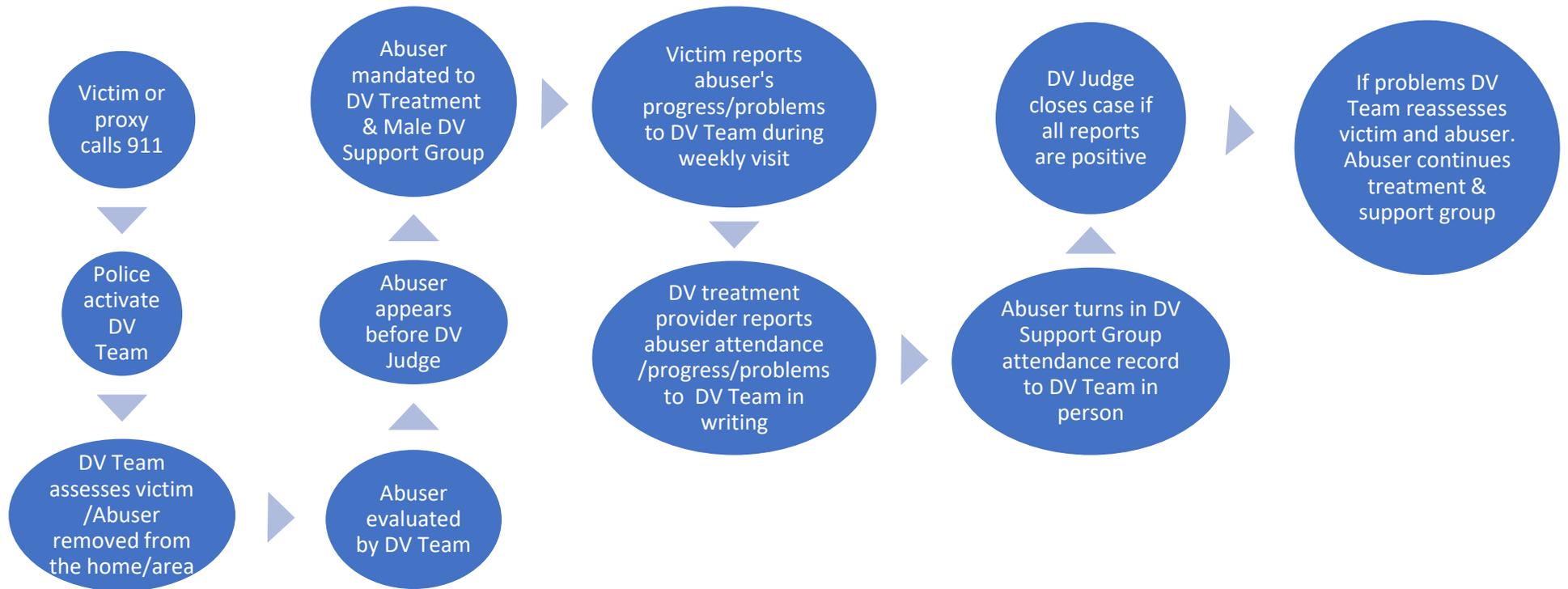
During an initial sexual and/or physical domestic violence offense an offender should also receive a domestic violence evaluation to facilitate this 2nd level of problem identification, which promotes intervention and as warranted, treatment, while enabling accurate matching of problem severity with treatment intensity (Oxborrow, 2015)." Offenders do not serve enough time to receive adequate "treatment" which would facilitate a noticeable long-term change in their abusive thinking and behavior. Sentences of eighty days to less than a year are evidence that sentences need to be longer to facilitate change in offenders. Additional time should be added if offenders threaten to kill victims at the time of sentencing. Offender evaluations should be on-going and consist of victim, family, prison treatment providers and staff statements and reports, not just one self-reported evaluation completed by the offender. The goal is to prevent the murder of the victim.

Additionally, in domestic violence cases when child visitation or exchange is required a plain clothed police officer should be present. The plain clothed police officer will prevent re-traumatizing children. A plain clothed police officer should also be present when victims return home to retrieve clothing and necessities. The plain clothed police officer will not frighten the offender away who can be apprehended if he appears. The goal is to ensure the safety of the victim and children.

So as not to prolong my time I have included information on Offender Treatment and an article about Tonya Hunter's murder.

As a woman living beyond abuse, an adult child who has witnessed domestic violence, and a provider of domestic violence classes to offenders I urge you to pass H.B. 3 with provisions for offender prevention, intervention, and treatment. Thank you for time and attention.

Proposed Prevention Intervention for 1st Level Abuser (Celia Wilson, 2019)



OBJECTIVES OF DV OFFENDER INTERVENTION

The Offender - Accepts responsibility for battering, assaulting, and/or threatening behavior.

- Learns why violence is used to solve problems.
- Understands and applies processes necessary to change behavior.
- Increases constructive expressions of emotions, replacing abusive and coercive strategies.
- Learns and applies safe communication methods, listening skills, and anger control.
- Dynamics of healthy relationships – Self-Referential vs. Comprehensive/Empathetic

OFFENDER EVALUATION?

- Provided by a mental health professional (per Ohio statute)
- Court ordered for adjudicated felony and misdemeanor DV charges
- Comprehensive behavioral health assessment PLUS key offender risk and need information
- Standardized format useful to courts, probation and parole, offender, victim and treatment provider

ELEMENTS OF A DV OFFENDER EVALUATION

- Family violence and child abuse
- Substance abuse/dependence
- Use of weapons, access to firearms
- Criminal activity (non-DV)
- Obsession with the victim/stalking
- Mental health diagnosis, medication, and treatment
- Suicidal and homicidal thoughts & behaviors
- Attitudes that support/condone spousal abuse
- Police report, court order and any associated medical reports
- Prior DV offenses and/or protective orders

- Lethality assessment
- Physical health, family/relationships
- Current contact/separation from victim
- Employment and housing
- Safety concerns, including victim feedback
- Prior DV services, participation and completion information
- Involvement with peers who have pro-criminal influence
- Motivation for and amenability to treatment

WHY IS AN OFFENDER EVALUATION NECESSARY?

Purpose: Offender evaluation determines level of risk and need, promotes coordinated response and improves safety and accountability

Goal: Connects the offender to the appropriate level of intervention and accountability

Not a traditional “mental health assessment”

PROMISING PRACTICES IN OFFENDER INTERVENTIONS

Multi-Couples therapy (Stith, 2003, 2004, 2007)

- Targets interpersonal dynamics
- Addresses social desirability issues
- But...Conjoint treatment is prohibited by statute until after 12 sessions of BIP
- Most treatment providers shy away from couple’s work

Moral Reconciliation Therapy® MRT https://www.ccimrt.com/mrt_programs/domestic-violence/

T4C <https://nicic.gov/thinking-for-a-change> Thinking for a Change 4.0 (T4C) is an integrated cognitive behavioral change program authored by Jack Bush, Ph.D., Barry Glick, Ph.D., and Juliana Taymans, Ph.D., under a cooperative agreement with the National Institute of Corrections (NIC). T4C incorporates research from cognitive restructuring theory, social skills development, and the learning and use of problem-solving skills.

T4C is comprised of 25 lessons that build upon each other and contains appendices that can be used to craft an aftercare program to meet ongoing cognitive behavioral needs of your group. Not all lessons can be completed in one session, so a typical delivery cycle may take 30 sessions. Sessions should last between one and two hours. Ideally, the curriculum is delivered two times per week, with a minimum recommended dosage of once per week and a maximum of three times per week. Participants must be granted time to complete mandatory homework between each lesson.

The program is designed to be provided to justice-involved adults and youth, males and females. It is intended for groups of eight to twelve and should be delivered only by trained facilitators. Due to its integrated structure, T4C is a closed group, meaning members need to start at the beginning of a cycle, and may not join the group mid-stream (lesson five is a logical cut-off point for new group members).

T4C is provided by corrections professionals in prisons, jails, detention centers, community corrections, probation, and parole settings. The National Institute of Corrections has trained more than 10,000 individuals as T4C group facilitators, and more than 500 trainers who can train additional staff to facilitate the program with justice-involved clients.

T4C 4.0 represents a significant evolution in the curriculum, both in content and use. It is the sincerest hope of NIC and the authors that the changes enable you and your agency to better serve your clients. Correctional agencies can consider Thinking for a Change as one option in a continuum of interventions to address the cognitive, social, and emotional needs of their client populations.

Mind-body Bridging

<https://www.newharbinger.com/blog/introduction-mind-body-bridging-i-system> <https://utahhealingcenter.org/2017/10/09/mind-body-bridging-basics/>

Domestic Violence Inventory

<http://www.domestic-violence-inventory.com/>

Volume discounts for Individuals, agencies, departments, groups, corporations and high- volume providers that purchase 300 or more tests a year are entitled to volume discounts. And, statewide or department testing programs qualify for an additional discount.

Treatment effectiveness (or outcome) tests involve two test administrations of the same test (pretest and posttest). Treatment effectiveness or outcome tests cost \$7.95 per test administration. In other words, the pretest costs \$7.95, and separately posttests cost \$7.95. These reduced prices are a professional courtesy acknowledging the two test administrations and cost.

Email us at info@bdsLtd.com or call us at 1 (800) 231-2401

DIFFERENT TOOLS SERVE DIFFERENT PURPOSES:

Example-- DOCCR Validation of Two Domestic Violence Risk Instruments: Domestic Violence Screening Instrument (DVSI) & Spousal Abuse Risk Assessment (SARA) December 2010

FINDINGS:

The DVSI is recommended for use as a risk screening instrument for risk classification of domestic violence offenders.

The SARA is recommended for case management with those offenders classified as high risk. 2006 Williams, K. R., and Grant, S. R. Empirically Examining the Risk of Intimate Partner Violence: The Revised Domestic Violence Screening Instrument (DVSI-R). Public Health Rep. July-Aug; 121(4), 400-408.

Reference

THE INTERSECTION OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS 2015 UTAH FALL SUBSTANCE ABUSE CONFERENCE -Jenn Oxborrow, LCSW Executive Director of the Utah Domestic Violence Coalition



Husband stabbed Tonya Hunter 17 times, faces the death penalty

Updated Aug 10, 2010; Posted Aug 10, 2010

By [Donna J. Miller, The Plain Dealer](#)

CLEVELAND, Ohio -- Tonya Hunter's husband faces the death penalty and 10 criminal charges.

Maurice Lyons, 38, was indicted Monday on charges of aggravated murder, kidnapping, aggravated robbery, child endangering, tampering with evidence, domestic violence, disrupting a public service, intimidation of a crime victim, telecommunications harassment and misuse of credit cards.

The Cuyahoga County prosecutor's office gives this account of Hunter's last days:

Lyons assaulted Hunter, 42, at their Walden Avenue home July 13 and prevented her from calling police. He took the phone away from her and threatened her, but Hunter did contact police and Lyons was charged with felony domestic violence, his second offense.

Five days later, Lyons assaulted Hunter in her driveway. He then called her repeatedly for two days, making more threats.

On July 25, Lyons confronted Hunter as she was leaving her house with her 4-year-old son. The child got into the back seat of Hunter's car and listened as she and Lyons argued.

(What is missing from this article is on July 25 the Tonya called the police and notified her surrounding neighbors that Maurice was coming to kill her. She had gone home for a few minutes to retrieve clean clothes for her son and herself when she was ambushed in her garage).

Lyons demanded money and started stabbing Hunter. He stabbed the marriage counselor 17 times. He then covered her body with plastic in the garage and left with her credit cards and car.

He abandoned the boy near East 28th Street and Cedar Road and drove to his mother's house, where he changed out of his bloody clothes.

He used Hunter's credit cards at a Walgreen store and a gas station before Cleveland police arrested him July 26 in front of Tower City.

Lyons first assaulted and intimidated his wife March 26. He was sentenced to 80 days in jail, two years of probation and fined \$300. On June 17, he was drug tested and ordered to wear a GPS monitor.

He tested positive for cocaine and failed to get the monitor from the probation department. He then failed to appear in Cleveland Municipal Court June 22 and an arrest warrant was issued with a special alert that police arrest him as soon as possible.

[A court official lost the arrest order](#) and Lyons remained free to attack his wife July 13. An arrest warrant was issued again July 19 and sent to Cleveland police. Hunter was killed six days later.

Lyons' other convictions in Cleveland Municipal Court include disorderly conduct while intoxicated, having an open container, littering and loud noise in 2005, when he lived in the 3200 block of West 31st Street.

Reference

https://www.cleveland.com/metro/2010/08/husband_stabbed_tonya_hunter_1.html