Focus Group Protocol for Completers of a Domestic Violence Agency's Batterer Interventions Program

Author(s) of Instrument:
Christine E. Murray

Key References: Publications related to this instrument
N/A: This study was not published publicly, but the results were shared in a report to the agency.

Primary Use/Purpose: This section describes what this instrument was designed to measure.
Batterer Intervention Program (which they call the Domestic Violence Intervention Program or DVIP). The focus groups were just one component of this evaluation, which also included examining court records and data from client records.

Background and Development: How and why this instrument was developed.
The focus group guide was developed in partnership with the staff and leaders of the domestic violence agency. It was designed to be used to individuals who the program staff viewed as having "successfully" completed the DVIP, which was a year-long offender intervention program.

Psychometrics (if applicable): Any testing of this instrument.
N/A.
Link to Instrument: Link to the instrument if available.

See attached.

Submitted by: Christine E. Murray submitted this instrument to the CVR Instruments Collection and certified permission to publicly share this instrument.
Interview Guide: Focus groups with successful completers of the [Name of Domestic Violence Agency]’s Domestic Violence Intervention Program

We will begin by asking everyone to introduce him/herself by name and job title prior to turning on the audio recorder.

Script for welcome and introduction:

Welcome, and thank you for participating in this focus group today. We are here today to learn about the DVIP at [Name of Domestic Violence Agency]. We have been working on an evaluation of the DVIP, in partnership with the agency’s administration. As part of that evaluation, we want to get a better understanding of what the program does, how you think it works, and what your experiences in the group were like. Does anyone have any questions before we begin?

We will go around and ask group members to introduce themselves. Once all introductions have been made, we will be recording the session.

Questions to ask the group:

1. Describe your experience in DVIP.
2. Tell us what you liked the most about DVIP.
3. Please tell us what were the most challenging parts of DVIP for you.
4. What topics discussed in the group were most meaningful to you?
5. Were there any topics discussed that you did not find to be helpful? If so, what were they?
6. What suggestions would you have for changing DVIP to make it more effective?
7. What changes did you make in your lives as a result of participating in DVIP?
8. In what ways did the DVIP facilitators help you?
9. Sometimes, in the process of making changes in people's lives, they reach a "turning point" where there is some significant realization or event that makes them really commit to making change. Did you have a turning point like that? If so, what was it?
10. As you probably saw while in the program, many people who start DVIP do not finish. What advice would you have to help [Name of the Domestic Violence Agency] keep more clients enrolled in the program? What do you think are the reasons people drop out?
11. After you left the program, what was your life like? What was your experience like in trying to maintain the changes you made while in the program?

Thank you very much for your participation today. We really appreciate your input!