

Co-occurring violence and problematic use of alcohol and other drugs: Principles for practice¹

Any service or practice approach should be clear and explicit in how it addresses the following:

- I. The purpose of intervention (with violent men) is to increase the safety of victims and to hold offenders accountable for their behavior; substance abuse makes victims less safe and offenders less accountable.
- II. The perpetrator is responsible for both his violence and his substance use; partner violence, substance use, and co-occurring substance abuse and partner abuse are always a choice; a man is not provoked, triggered, or stressed into being violent.
- III. Violence is a vehicle chosen to establish control over a person, persons, or a situation, and substance use is often selected as one path to such control.
- IV. Society and culture covertly support substance abuse, woman abuse, and intoxicated woman abuse; neither substance abuse nor woman abuse may be viewed entirely at the personal level.

¹ Taken from Larry Bennett & Oliver Williams, "Substance Abuse and Men Who Batter : Issues in Theory and Practice," *Violence Against Women* 2003 9: 558 2003.