

Name of Resource: Collaborative Strategies for Improving Women's Safety and Sobriety

Author: Patricia J. Bland, M.A. CCDC

Access Address:

<http://www.andvsa.org/Collaborative%20Stratagies%20for%20Improving%20Women's%20Safety%20and%20Sobriety.pdf> (12 April 2004)

Crisis Intervention Area: Substance Abuse and Partner Violence

Appropriate Clientele: Anyone working with battered or chemically dependent women

Summary of Resource:

This article discusses the theories and study findings that were used to create a drug help line that screens for and works with domestic violence issues. The author discusses the connections between women's substance abuse and partner violence and the impact that the two can have on all members of a family.

It is the author's assertion that substance abuse and domestic violence should be treated together in order to better the chances of the woman's recovery from both. She discusses the stigma and shame of both issues and urges those who work with such women to openly talk about it in order to reduce the negative feelings and create a trusting relationship.

The need for developing effective coping mechanisms is also emphasized in the article. Women who rely on substances to cope with battering put their safety at even greater risk. The author discusses how to have a conversation about this with those who are in need and addresses the importance of a safety plan and peer support.

Review Submitted by: Becky Zacharias