

HISTORY and RECOGNITION

Domestic Abuse Intervention Programs was incorporated as a nonprofit agency in 1980 under the name Minnesota Program Development, Inc. The Domestic Abuse Intervention Project (DAIP), its first project of the agency, which began in a small, upstairs kitchen of the Duluth Community Health Center in Duluth. Three people were employed to coordinate the project, provide services to victims and offenders, and negotiate policies and procedures with community agencies. The project was the first of its kind. Nine city, county, and private agencies came together to adopt policies and procedures that coordinated their intervention in domestic assault cases. These policies focus on protecting victims from continued acts of violence by combining support services for victims and legal sanctions and rehabilitation programs for offenders. Currently, the work of DAIP is found in every state and we have projects and collaborations in many places around the world.

Below is an abbreviated history of the major accomplishments of the DAIP.

1980 The Domestic Abuse Intervention Project organizes under the nonprofit corporation Minnesota Program Development, Inc. At the request of the Duluth shelter (Women's Coalition), Duluth is selected as the site for a pilot criminal justice reform project.

1981 Duluth police issue the experimental "mandatory arrest policy."

Eight agencies dealing with prosecution, probation, civil protection orders, mental health services, shelter services and incarceration form a network and agree on experimental guidelines to handle cases brought into the system by the mandatory arrest policy and the increased use of civil protection orders.

Neighborhood-based women's groups are organized for women using the court system but not staying at the shelter. These groups are later documented in facilitator's manual, *In Our Best Interest*. (1987) (Update 1994)

Groups for men who batter are started by three mental health centers. These groups are later combined with the educational model described in the facilitator's manual *Power and Control: Tactics of Men Who Batter*. (1986) (Update 1993)

1982 Based on the results of an initial evaluation, nine agencies agree to permanently institute previously experimental policies. Each intervening agency's policies are documented in the manual *Coordinated Community Response to Domestic Assault Cases: A Guide for Policy Development*. (updated 1985, 1989, 1996)
Duluth KDLH TV station produces a documentary on the project, *The Rites of Violence*.

The court changes the number of mandated sessions for abuser rehabilitation from eight to twelve weeks.

1982 DAIP consults with Range Women Advocates to adapt the Duluth Model in four rural mining communities in northern Minnesota.

1983 Women in the neighborhood groups develop the Power and Control Wheel.

Duluth is selected for the "President's Award" from the Minnesota Corrections Association for its work in the domestic violence field.

1984 An educational and social change group for Native American women the Circle of Life is organized.

Women from the neighborhood-based educational groups form the Women's Action Group to work on issues of violence and poverty in women's lives.

DAIP conducts its second program evaluation based on an anonymous survey of victims' satisfaction with the system's response.

1985 The court changes the number of mandated sessions for abusers from twelve to twenty-six weeks.

The "no drop" policy of the prosecutor's office is eliminated and conviction rates gradually fall from 80% to below 47%.

1986 A group is organized for Native American men who batter.

A documentary on eight Indian women's struggles to end violence in their lives and community, The Journey, Parts I and II is produced.

1987 The City of Duluth receives the John F. Kennedy School of Government Award from the Ford Foundation for "Innovations in State and Local Government" for its changes in public policy regarding domestic assault.

The prosecutor's office returns to the practice of subpoenaing victims.

1989 The police department adopts a new policy which eliminates arrests in self-defense cases and develops a new training curriculum, Law Enforcement Response to Domestic Assaults for ongoing training of law enforcement officers.

1989 Duluth hosts its first week-long on-site institute for practitioners in eleven states.

The National Training Project is organized by DAIP to teach the Duluth Model and to build an ongoing funding source for the Visitation Center, DAIP, and the Women's Action Group.

An interagency committee is formed to develop a plan to help children caught in the wake of violence between their parents. The first steps toward eventual organizing of the Visitation Center are made.

The Visitation Center opens, offering a safe place to exchange children, on-site visitations, and safe place for separated parents with a history of battering to discuss visitation and emergency problems

A five-year recidivism study is completed on arrests made in 1985. (This is the first five year study in U.S.)

- 1990** The Minnesota Lawyer's Trust Fund awards a grant to DAIP to develop Prosecutors' Guidelines and organize a statewide conference on increasing convictions and protection of domestic assault victims.

The Inter-tribal Council to End Violence in Indian Families organizes the pilot project "Mending the Sacred Hoop" under the auspice of the National Training Project.

- 1991** Groups for Parents begin through the Visitation Center and the curriculum is documented in the manual What About the Kids?

Groups for adolescents using violence (Too Cool to Rule) are organized; the curriculum is documented in the manual What About the Kids?

- 1992** The National Training Project contracts with the US Marine Corps to develop a Marine Corps Intervention Model in spouse assault cases.

MPDI is funded to coordinate work of interagency council on children and battered women on issues of custody and visitation. (Custody/Visitation Special Project)

- 1993** Custody/Visitation Special Project completes draft assessment form and training design for practitioners.

Custody/Visitation Special Project documents concerns in the manual The Duluth Custody and Visitation Project.

Manual for US Marine Corps Intervention Model is completed.

Chief Judge of District Court appoints an Interagency Council on Domestic Violence to look at how to enhance the work of the DAIP and improve court disposition of cases.

Education Groups for Men Who Batter: The Duluth Model book is published by Springer Publishing Company.

Department of Health and Human Services funds MPDI to form in collaboration with three domestic violence programs, the Battered Women's Justice Project which provides a toll free telephone and clearinghouse on criminal and civil court reform work and development of programs for batterers.

- 1994** The Minnesota Medical Association selects the Duluth Domestic Abuse Intervention Project as one of three recipients for its first annual "Stop the Violence" award.

- 1996** Dr. Lonnie Bristol, president of the American Medical Association presented the Presidents Award of Excellence to the Duluth Domestic Abuse Intervention Project for its model of coordinated community response to domestic assault.

1996 U.S. Marine Corps contracts with MPDI to provide trainings and technical assistance to develop coordinated community response project on several Marine installations in the U.S. and Japan.

Mending the Sacred Hoop produces manual and videos for Native American communities working to end violence in families.

1996 The U.S. Department of Justice, Violence Against Indian Women Office, awards Mending the Sacred Hoop Technical Assistance Project funding to provide training and technical assistance to designated Native American tribal grantees.

1997 The Domestic Abuse Intervention Project and the Law Enforcement Resource Center of Minneapolis jointly produce a new law enforcement training curriculum Domestic Violence: The Law Enforcement Response which includes trainer guide, student guide, PowerPoint presentation, and four videos. (Update 2000)

1997 After many years of searching, a building is located in downtown Duluth to be named the Center for Nonviolence to house our programs and a state-of-the-art training center to provide training and technical assistance to other communities wishing to develop similar projects.

1998 Move to new building and training center in downtown Duluth.

MPDI organizes and conducts a national conference in Duluth for more than 500 attendees: *Public Response to Private Violence: Lessons from Duluth.*

Mending the Sacred Hoop Technical Assistance organizes and conducts a national conference for tribal grantees in Rapid City, SD, *Women are Sacred: Key Issues and Practices in Indian Country.*

1999 Sage Publications publishes *Coordinating Community Responses to Domestic Violence: Lessons from Duluth and Beyond.*

The National Institute of Justice awards MPDI a grant to study the impact of court intervention on Native American women.

NTP and BWJP receive contracts to provide trainings on developing community response to domestic violence in eastern Europe and the several countries of the former Soviet Union.

2003 Update facilitator manual and change name of the Duluth curriculum for facilitating classes for men who batter. Formerly titled *Power and Control: Tactics of Men Who Batter*, the new curriculum title is *Creating a Process of Change for Men Who Batter.*

2003 The National Training Project name is changed to Domestic Abuse Intervention Project Training and Resource

2006 A Christian supplement to the curriculum *Creating a Process of Change for Men Who Batter* is created. *Changing Men, Changing Lives* includes a manual and two DVDs.

2010 Created the Domestic Violence Response Team (DVRT). A partnership between the Duluth Police Department, St. Louis County Sheriff's Office, Arrowhead Regional Corrections, Domestic Abuse Intervention Programs and Safe Haven Shelter for Battered Women. The focus of the team is direct advocacy, dedicated domestic violence investigators, dedicated probation agents, risk and danger analysis and distribution to the court, prosecutors and pre-trial release agents. What makes this collaborative unique is the team is housed in the Duluth Police department by multiple agencies

2014 The Duluth Model's Coordinated Community Response to domestic violence, a partnership between Domestic Abuse Intervention Programs and criminal justice agencies in the City of Duluth and St. Louis County was named World's Best Policy to address violence against women and girls by United Nations Women, the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the World Future Council. The Duluth Model method of organizing won the Gold Award for prioritizing the safety and autonomy of victims while holding offenders accountable through a unique partnership between non-profits and government agencies.

2017 Completed the Blueprint for Safety Demonstration Project funded by the Office on Violence Against Women. The project was a five year organizing effort that incorporated the Blueprint for Safety created by Praxis International in partnership with the St. Paul Intervention Project into Duluth's Coordinated Community Response. The project updated existing domestic violence policy and protocols, added a method of analyzing and distributing risk information and improved the way in which policies across the criminal system worked together to provide improved safety for victims and accountability for offenders.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

MPDI is governed by a statewide board of directors. The staff is organized under an Executive Director and two Program Directors in three programs: 1) the Duluth Core Programs (DCP), which includes Domestic Abuse Intervention Project, Duluth Family Visitation Center, Training and Resources, and Administration, 2) the Battered Women's Justice Project (BWJP), and 3) Mending the Sacred Hoop (MSH). (It is anticipated that the MSH will separate formally from MPDI in 2007.)

- **Domestic Abuse Intervention Project (DAIP)** is an institutional advocacy responses to battering which seeks to insure that community agencies such as law enforcement, criminal and civil courts, and human service agencies coordinate their intervention in cases involving violence against native and non-native women in a way that centralizes attention to the safety of women, their integrity and their autonomy. The project seeks to maximize the ability and the likelihood that the community will hold offenders accountable to the use of violence against women and children.
- **Duluth Family Visitation Center** serves families in which the partners have separated and in which there has been battering. It provides children with a safe and nurturing environment for visiting with a non-custodial parent. Typically that is a parent that has a history of violence. It provides parents who have been abused with a safe way to work out arrangements for visitation and to exchange their children with the other parent.
- **DAIP Training and Resources** offers training, consultations, materials and educational mentoring to communities and individuals who wish to adapt aspects of the Duluth programs and the work of MPDI to their local communities.
- **Administration** provides administrative support for all of the programs of the agency and the Board. At the direction of the Executive Director and/or the Administrative Manager, administrative staff carries out or coordinates all personnel, accounting, and planning functions for the agency, including management and upkeep of the building. Administrative staff works with the Program Directors on budgeting, fundraising, and planning.
- **Battered Women's Justice Program (BWJP)** provides training and technical assistance to advocates, attorneys, and criminal justice practitioners around the country on all issues related to the civil and criminal justice response to domestic violence in partnership with the National Clearinghouse for the Defense of Battered Women. BWJP offices provide consultations, conduct on-site visits, and develop policy analysis papers. Each office specializes in certain areas of law and maintains an updated resource library.
- **Mending the Sacred Hoop (MSH)** assists Native Sovereign Nations to improve their response to Native American women. The purpose of the project is to ensure the safety of victims and their families and to create accountability within systems by assisting tribes funded by the US Department of Justice, Violence Against Women Grants Office with training, consultation, production of materials, etc. The program is composed of Native American faculty, trainers, and staff who work within Native communities to end domestic violence and sexual assault .