Balancing Act

The mandatory training, “Balancing Domestic Abuse Issues and W-2 Participation” is titled that way for a reason. The goal of this training is to develop an understanding of domestic abuse and develop strategies for working with victims/survivors of domestic abuse. W-2 participants are seeking to become self-sufficient, and that truly means balancing our knowledge, care, and concern about the very prevalent issue of domestic violence, while working within W-2 parameters. It is a complex task and we hope you feel more confident after attending our two-day training.

Balancing means being aware of your own perceptions and biases when working with suspected or identified victims or survivors of abuse. Every participant, every victim/survivor’s situation and relationship is also unique. Each participant affected by a past or current abusive relationship deserves our balancing act, regardless of his or her gender, race, culture, sexual orientation, or personality.

Balancing means also looking at the risks and benefits participants are weighing as they decide whether or not to divulge their abuse issues to us. After they do, we are responsible for making sure that we do not take any actions that may cause danger to our clients.

As workers, we are the experts about W-2. We are not the experts about other people’s lives and choices. Our task is complex, but it boils down to walking alongside victims/survivors of domestic abuse as they become self-sufficient. We do this with them, and not for them, despite the possible barriers, difficulties, and possibility of escalated abuse and/or stalking behavior by their ex-partner.

This truly IS a balancing act.