



Family Meeting

We all went to the house, and set up a little bit of structure for the conversation to happen, and let both of them talk about what was going on for them and how they were feeling about it. I think _____ got to express that he felt like, basically that he was treated like he was the devil. And, you know, he sounded really sincere when he was talking about that. He had been so demonized by his mom and his sister that he felt so, um, you know, that there wasn't anything he could do, and he felt like was kind of not part of the family. So, and she got to talk about how hurt she felt and how concerned she felt, how much she was worrying about him. And, you know, they..., Everybody had a... I think they got to say things to each other they hadn't got to say, and that everything's always yelling, so they.... You know, most families don't get to do that, anyways.

So, they had that conversation, really heart-to-heart. _____, at the beginning of it was a little bit trying to get out of it, I could tell. His friends were all waiting for him, and he goes.... And we basically weren't going to let him go. Um, and also, had already planned it with him the day—I think a couple of days previous, so.... But, I think in the end he ended up appreciating it and was really happy about it.

I think that conversation that we kind of facilitated, him having a conversation with his mom. It's kind of interesting because this is where I realize that my perception of the impact of it was different than hers. And, while I felt really good about that day and I felt like really important things were said.... and, you know, I guess another part of that conversation they had was his mom saying that she really was concerned about his violence.

But her biggest concern was that he was going to continue that behavior and effect all of his relationships, and not be able to have a relationship that was caring, because he would be doing the same, abusive behavior. I just feel like, you know, that it was said in such a non-blaming way, and so true, that she really, really... I mean, she cares about him so much, and knew that if something wasn't done to change this in his early years that, you know, that he was going to suffer the loss of it also, in his future. I think he got it. I think he got that that concern was coming from, not just like, 'You hurt me, you're bad,' but that, 'You hurt me, and if you're going to continue to hurt people you love, that's going to be a loss for you; you'll drive away everybody else away that you love.' So, this was another important thing that was said there.

I guess, afterwards, I was feeling like.... I mean, because, partly my concern about him is all parts of his life, and I could see that, I don't know how much of his life in general was improving. So, I actually felt like it was a failure. I remember saying that. I remember talking to his mom and saying, "Oh, I don't think it really worked." It was like, oh, it felt good then—you know, it was feel good—but no impact. And she said, "Actually, if you're talking about that conversation that we all had together, I really felt like it was successful because I could see that it made an impression on him; I could see that he changed; I could see that he would stop himself before he got escalated to a certain point. Not that he's an angel now, but he'll stop himself before he goes to physical violence." So, she felt like it was successful, and I didn't feel like it was successful. And that her perspective on it





was gonna.... She was the one that was living with it; her perspective was more important than mine, and more accurate. So, I thought that was... It kind of made me think twice then about what we really had done.

