

of the barriers, and two recounted domestic violence situations they had personally experienced in the past, while others described situations in which they had tried to help someone who was trying to leave an abusive relationship. Several of these women continued their discussion of people who were in or had been in domestic violence situations during their break. At another site, a participant approached the instructor following presentation of material on domestic violence to ask how she could find out when her former partner, to whom she was still legally married, would be released from prison, as she feared that upon release he would find her and attack her again. The instructor was not able to answer this question, but other participants who were listening mentioned the name of a program in Oklahoma City that provided some services related to domestic violence. The instructor said she thought it would be helpful to have a representative of a domestic violence program come to the session. (The WMR Instructor Manual recommends having a representative of a local domestic violence program come to the session, but this did not occur in the sessions I observed.)

Units Three and Four focus on awareness of how relationships begin and progress so that participants can assess the potential for developing a healthy relationship with a specific partner and can better weigh the possible consequences of relationship decisions (such as becoming sexually involved, living together, etc.). At one site, Monique, a woman who had recently ended her relationship with her baby's father, made statements indicating that she agreed with the principles listed on the transparency (displayed by overhead projector) titled "Seven Principles of Smart Love." (Two of the principles are: "Choose a real partner, not a 'makeover' project" and "Have a bottom line.") Continuing with this topic, the instructor stated that it's good to get as much knowledge as possible