

HELP & SHELTER

COUNSELLING, COUNSELLING TRAINING & ORGANISATIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING PROJECT

(Funded by CIDA's Gender Equality Program)

Narrative Report 2

Report by: Margaret Kertzious, Project Coordinator

Reporting period: 1st to 30th September 2009

Submission date: 6th October 2009

Project activities comprise:

1. The expansion of our counseling services to Moruca, Region 1 and Leguan, Region 3
2. Building the organisational capacity of 2 Berbice-based NGOs, namely FACT and Comforting Hearts
3. Providing counseling training to the Essequibo Coast-based NGO, Hope for All at Suddie.

Activities Report

Counselling in Moruca

The scheduled counseling activity was conducted by the counselor who did one-on-one interaction with 5 new clients for the month including 4 female adults and 1 male adult.

Counselling in Leguan

The counselors reported that residents are not accessing the service and for this reason a 2 days workshop was conducted at the Leguan Secondary School on the 26th and 27th September with 22 participants in attendance including 6 male adults. This activity was funded by UNIFEM TF for the purpose of sensitizing participants of the counseling services on the island. What came out of the 1st day is that there is a male who lives on the island who is trained as a mediator and who wears several caps such as a marriage counselor, a counselor, a religious leader etc. on introducing himself at the workshop he explained that residents would usually go to him for intervention on domestic violence and other issues. This should be noted as a concern as the residents are not accessing the extended services of Help & Shelter.

Counseling Supervision

For the reporting period the supervisor met with the counselors who expressed their thoughts and ideas especially with regard to the situation at Leguan. An assessment is to done and to be submitted in this regard.

Counselling Training with Hope for All

Objectives:

- To increase participants' knowledge and appreciation of the circumstances surrounding violence against the person
- To strengthen participants' sense of self
- To discuss the issues of human growth and development and their relationship to people's behaviour
- To enable participants to understand the gendered nature of domestic violence
- To equip participants with skills in counseling victims of domestic violence
- To equip participants with frontline intervention skills in working with male perpetrators of domestic violence
- To equip participants with frontline intervention skills in working with children who have been abused

- To equip participants with information and knowledge about working with associated issues such as suicide prevention, sexuality, substance abuse.

Methodology:

Instruction, interactive sessions and the use of different aids, including power-point presentations.

Assessment

Will be done during the course of and at the end of the training

The training with the 18 participants including 2 male adults will continue with weekly session on Fridays and Saturdays to facilitate the graduation process during November 2009. So far, the trainers have completed 12 sessions on the following topic areas:

1. Examination of self
2. Human growth & development, heredity & environment impact on personality
3. Stages of development, socialization, body image
4. Background to violence - definition, historical antecedents, nature of domestic violence the web of abuse/cycle of violence, understanding the gendered aspects of domestic violence vs. 'poor conflict resolution skills', the cost of domestic violence, effects of domestic violence on the individuals
5. Entrapment and the Help Seeking process, effects on children
6. The role of the counsellor and counselling skills
7. Profiling the client - Counselling ethics and skills - Listening, Questioning, Clarifying, Interviewing, Face to Face, Telephone practice
8. Counselling - and peer assessment, feedback
9. Social history writing; case study writing; ethical issues when counselling
10. Practice of counselling skills - using GATHER checklist, assessment,
11. Sexual & Reproductive health, HIV/AIDS and domestic violence
12. Suicide prevention and practice, domestic violence and depression
13. Legal issues - the DV Act and the Maintenance Act
14. Conflict resolution/mediation in non-abusive relationships
15. Practice of conflict resolution skills
16. Child abuse and working with children
17. Preventing child abuse

Some of the topics were merged for better presentation by the trainers. A written assessment was conducted with participants during this reporting period and the results are to be included in the next report. Handouts and other relevant material information on topic areas are photocopied and given to the participants on a weekly basis.

Organisational Capacity Building

The first 3 day capacity building workshop will be conducted with Comforting Heart in New Amsterdam from the 26th to 28th October 2009 and with FACT in Corriverton from the 4th to the 6th November 2009.

Monitoring & Evaluation

Relevant evaluation forms have been developed for each project activity. Analysis of completed forms is done by the M&E officers.

Project Management

Project personnel comprises three counsellors; an accounts officer; joint M&E officers; a counselling supervisor and the project coordinator. Facilitators and trainers are selected based on the required project activity against a time line as specified on the work-plan.