

HELP & SHELTER

PROMOTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS OF VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE AND CHILD ABUSE PROJECT (BY AGREEMENT WITH THE EUROPEAN UNION: EUROPEAID/130-666/L/ACT/GY, EUROPEAN INSTRUMENT FOR DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS)

M&E REPORT- AUGUST 2012

OBJECTIVES

The overall objective of the project is to improve the lives of women, children and men who are experiencing domestic and sexual violence and child abuse.

The specific objectives are the provision of free services to victims/survivors of domestic and sexual violence and child abuse survivors to assist them to develop the necessary coping skills and build their confidence and self esteem, to support them through the judicial process, and to advise and assist them in accessing support services, so that they can rebuild their lives free from violence and the threat of violence.

ACTIVITIES

1. PROVISION OF FREE FACE-TO-FACE AND HOTLINE COUNSELLING TO 2,175 VICTIMS/SURVIVORS OF DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE AND CHILD ABUSE

Expected Results/Outcomes

- Victims/survivors able to understand the nature and dynamics of the violence
- Victims/survivors develop necessary coping skills, self confidence/self esteem and access support services
- Family members including children affected will benefit directly and indirectly from counselling as the violence is reduced
- Counselling for family members will help to foster positive changes in their own lives while at the same time encouraging support and assistance to those relatives who have experienced domestic/sexual violence/child abuse

Achieved Results/Outcomes

Face-to-Face Counselling

Quantitative Data

- **New Adult Clients**
 - A total of 45 new adults clients, 33 females and 12 males received face to face counselling
 - Spousal abuse was identified as the type of abuse experienced by 26/79% of female clients, with physical spousal abuse at 19/57% being the most predominant followed by psychological abuse at 5/15%% and non-physical abuse 2/6%.
 - During this month 6/18% of female clients also experienced intra-family violence with physical intra family abuse being the most predominant at 4/12% followed by psychological at 1/3%, non-physical at 1/3%. One client also experienced 'other' type of abuse.

- Spousal abuse was also identified as the type of abuse most experienced by male clients at 7/58% for this month; of which 2/16% experienced non- physical abuse, 2/16% physical abuse and 3/25% psychological abuse.
 - During this month 3/25% of male clients also experienced intra-family violence with physical intra family abuse experienced by 1/8% followed by psychological at 2/16%. Two 2/16% of clients also experienced ‘other’ type of intra-family abuse.
 - For females a total of 6/18% were between the ages of 19-25, 19/57% were between the ages of 26-40 and 7/21% were between the ages of 41-60. One female client did not state her age.
 - For males- 8/66% clients were between the ages of 26-40 and 4/33% were 41-60.
 - A total of 11/33% of all female clients and 8/66% of all male clients described themselves as Black, 8/24% of female clients and 3/25% of males identified themselves as East Indian. A further 12/36% of female clients identified themselves as Mixed and 1/3% of female clients and 1/8% of male clients identified themselves as Amerindian. One female client’s ethnicity was described as ‘other’.
 - In terms of employment status 12/35% of female clients described themselves as full time employed; 1/3%, 3/9% as self employed and 7/21% as unemployed. A further 8/24% of female clients identified themselves as home makers and 3/9% did not disclose their employment status.
 - For male clients 4/33% described themselves as full time employed; 2/16% as part time employed, 5/41% as self employed, 1/8% as a contract worker.
 - A total of 16/48% of female clients and 3/25% of male clients were from the county of Demerara and 15/45% of female clients and 8/66% of male clients were from Georgetown. A further 1/3% of female clients were from the Interior and 1 male client’s residence was given as ‘other’.
 - A total of 13/29% of cases seen this month were alcohol related.
- **Returning Adult Clients**
 - A total of 44 returning clients, 31 females and 13 males received follow up face to face counselling this month.
 - **New Child Clients**
 - There were 7 new child clients, 6 females and 1 male who received face to face counselling this month.
 - Two 2/33% of the female child client were sexually abused, 1/16% was raped and 2/33% were counselled for delinquency. One female child client type of abuse was given as ‘other’.
 - The 1 male child client was physically abused.
 - Five 5/83% of all female child clients were between the ages of 12-18 years and 1 did not state her age. The 1 male child client was between the ages of 12-18 years.
 - A total of 3/50% of female child clients were of East Indian heritage, 1/16% was Amerindian and 2/33% were of Mixed heritage.
 - The 1 male child client was Black.
 - Four 4/66% of female child clients resided in Demerara , 1 resided in the Interior and 1 stated her residence as ‘other’.
 - The 1 male client resided in Demerara.
 - A total of 5/71% of all child clients attended secondary school, 4 female and the 1 male child client. One (1) female child client was unemployed and the employment/education status of 1 female child client was given as ‘other’.
 - **Returning Child Clients**
 - A total of 6 returning child client, 4 males and 2 females received follow up face to face counselling this month.

Qualitative Data

- A client who had accessed H&S for counselling services reported that her 12 year old son was often told that he was stupid by his father and school teacher and did not get high enough grades

at Grade 6 Assessment examinations for entry into secondary school, instead he was placed at a senior primary school. Counselor advised client to bring her son in to H & S for counseling which she did. Counselor counseled the young client on self esteem and in the presence of his mother explored barriers to learning and discovered that the child received some trauma to his head by falling and hitting his head and objects that hit him during play; counselor also enquired about the effects he was getting within his head and he said that when he is lying down when he gets up he would get dizziness and not seeing well and he would have to lie down back. Counselor then suggested that his mother take him as soon as possible to see a doctor and to have his eyes tested. On their return to H & S almost 2 weeks after the child was wearing spectacles and his mother said that after he started to look around and in books he said "Mommy I am seeing everything new" she also said that he is more assertive at home after the one session in counseling that his sister made comments on the change.

- Counselor has terminated sessions with a perpetrator client who has accepted responsibility for his actions and maintains a very good relationship with his wife and children. He said that he enjoyed the sessions and was glad that he was referred here. This is a success story
- A previous client of H&S brought her daughter in for counseling because she was disobedient and had threatened to commit suicide.
- Two couples continue to access follow up counseling sessions at H&S Crisis Centre.
- Counsellor empowered two parents with information that they can use to adapt a new approach in dealing with their teenage son who steals monies from them. As such they have agreed to not give up on their efforts to help him to change this behavior

Hotline Counselling

Quantitative Data

- **Adult Clients**

- A total of 27 hotline calls from 25 females and 2 males were received this month through H&S 24 hr hot line service
- Of the 25 female hotline callers, 5/20% were between the ages of 19-25; 12/48% were between the ages of 26-40; 6/24% were 41-60 years old. A further 2/8% did not state their age.
- Of the 2 male callers, 1/50% was between the ages of 26-40 and 1/50% was between the ages of 41-60.
- Eighteen 18/66% of all hotline callers were from the county of Demerara.: 1/3% were from the county of Berbice: 6/22% were from Georgetown: and 2/7% were from Linden.
- In terms of employment, 5/18% of callers were full time employed, 2/7% was part time employed, 1/3% was self employed 4/14% were unemployed, 3/11% were home makers and 12/44% employment status was listed as 'other'.
- A total of 9/33% of callers were counselled, 13/48% were given advice and 5/18% of callers received referrals.

- **Child Clients**

- One female child client between the ages of 12- 18 years attending secondary school and resident in the county of Demerara accessed advice from H&S 24 hr hotline service this month.

Qualitative Data

- Hotline counsellor has left the country and H&S is in the process of arranging reporting on qualitative data on calls received.

2. DELIVERY OF FREE COURT SUPPORT SERVICES (COUNSELLING, PREPARING CLIENT FOR COURT PROCEDURES, ATTENDING COURT SESSIONS) TO 150 SURVIVORS/VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE AND CHILD ABUSE

Expected Results/Outcomes

- Reduction in psychological trauma associated with domestic and sexual violence and child abuse suffered by victims/survivors and their families during the judicial process as a result of counselling
- In court support and information provided about relevant legislation and services available for prevention of domestic and sexual violence and child abuse and protection of and legal redress for victims/survivors.

Achieved Results/Outcomes

Court Support Counselling

Quantitative Data

• New Adult Clients

- A total of 3 new female adult clients were given court support service this month.
- The 3 new female clients were applicants in Court for DVA/Assault (1); Maintenance (2).
- Two (2) of the female clients were between the ages of 26-40 and 1 client was between the ages of 41-59.
- Two (2) Court cases were held in Region 4 and 1 case was heard in Region 3. One (1) case was heard at Vreed- en- Hoop Magistrate Court; #1, and 2 cases were heard in Georgetown Magistrate Court #6.
- The accused for female clients were husbands (2); and son (1)
- Outcomes –Maintenance order granted \$2,500 for each child and \$2,500 for client
 - Final order for maintenance granted
 - Arrest warrant issued for defendant for Assault charge; DVA PO case continues

• New Child Clients

- 1 new female child client was given court support service this month.
- Child client was pursuing a carnal knowledge case and she was between the ages of 12-18 years.
- Client resided in region 4 and her case was being heard in Providence Magistrate Court.
- The accused for the female client was an acquaintance.
- The case is continuing.

• Returning Adult Clients

- A total of 14 returning female received court support assistance through court attendances and counselling.
- One (1) client was between the ages of 19-25; 5 clients were between the ages of 26-40 and 8 were between the ages of 41-60.
- Clients were pursuing DVA P.O. (6); Assault charges (3); Divorce & Division of Property matters (1); Divorce (1); Maintenance (2); Custody (1).
- Thirteen (13) of the cases were heard in Region 4 and 1 was heard in Region 3: Georgetown Magistrates Courts # 6 (4); Georgetown Magistrates Courts #1 (1); Providence Magistrate Court (4); High Court (2); and Sparendam Magistrate Court (1) and Vigilance Magistrate Court (1). Wales Magistrate Court (1).

- In all the cases the perpetrators were husbands (8), common law husband/ partners (4); ex-partner (2);
- Outcomes -6 of these cases are continuing
 - In 1 case DVA P.O. was granted
 - In 2 cases maintenance orders were granted
 - In 1 cases interim order for custody granted
 - In 1 case if client fails to appear DVA PO will be dismissed as requested by defence lawyer.
 - In 1 assault case client, case was dismissed for want of prosecution.
 - In 1 case defendant did not attend Court- arrest warrant was issued by Magistrate for Assault charge. DVA PO case continues.
 - In 1 cases DVA PO case was dismissed.
- **Returning Child Clients**
 - A total of 4 returning clients, 3 female child client s and 1 male client received court support assistance through court attendances and counselling.
 - Clients were survivors of the offences of Rape (2); Carnal Knowledge (1); Buggery (1).
 - Perpetrators were neighbours (1); strangers (1); family Pandit (1); villagers (1).
 - Clients ranged from 7-18 years in the following age groups; 6-8 years (1); 12-18 years (3)
 - Three (3) Court cases were held in the Region 4 and 1 was held in Region 3- Providence Magistrate Court (2); Vreed-en-Hoop Magistrate Court (1); High Court (1).
 - Outcomes – All 4 cases are continuing.

Qualitative Data

- A perpetrator was referred to H&S by the magistrate for counseling due to threatening to burn down his child's mother home. The perpetrator admitted that he has difficulties controlling his alcohol intake and managing his anger. He was referred to the alcohol Anonymous for intervention for alcohol abuse, and he and his partner are presently attending counseling sessions at H&S. The perpetrator reported that AA is helping him and he has not drunk alcohol since he began attending the sessions. His partner has supported his report and said that she has observed changes in his behavior.
- Court referred clients (spouses) received counseling. As a result a former abusive husband voiced the new perspective that he got out of the counseling session, and said he was prepared to put in effect immediately, efforts to change his abusive behavior so as to foster a more harmonious relationship and safe environment for his family, (wife and kids). An update from his wife indicated that did put his words into action.

3. PROVISION OF FREE ADVOCACY AND ADVISORY COUNSELLING AND REFERRAL SERVICES TO 450 VICTIMS/SURVIVORS OF DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE AND CHILD ABUSE

Expected Results/Outcomes

Victims/survivors of domestic and sexual violence and child abuse

- informed of the legal, health, educational, housing, employment, financial and other services available to them, and
- supported in making informed choices through accessing a multi-agency network of services

Achieved Results/Outcomes

Advocacy & Advisory Counselling & Referral Services

Quantitative Data

• **New Adult Clients**

- A total of 20 new adult clients, 17 female clients and 3 male client were given advisory counselling and referral services for this month
- Two (2) of the female clients were between the ages of 19-25; 9 were between the ages of 26-40 and 6 were aged 41-60.
- One (1) male client was between the ages of 26-40 and 2 were between the ages of 41-60.
- Thirteen (13) of the female clients and 1 male client were referred and or accompanied to the GLAC for legal services. Other referrals were for police assistance (2), housing and shelter services (4), and 'Other' services (FBO) (1)
- Male clients were referred and or accompanied to the GLAC for legal services (1); mediation services (1); 'Other' services (AA) (1).
- Six (6) of the female clients receiving advisory and referral services were Black; 2 were of East Indian; 8 were of Mixed ethnicity; 1 female client did not disclose her ethnicity
- Two (2) male clients were Black and 1 was Amerindian.
- Eight (8) of the female clients were legally married, 6 were in common law relationships and 3 were separated.
- One (1) male client was legally married, 1 was separated and 1 male client's union status was stated as 'Other'
- One (1) client did not have children and the 19 other clients had between 1-9 children.
- Clients resided in Region 4 (15 females) (3 males); Region 5 (1 female); Region 6 (1 female)

• **New Child Clients**

- No new child clients were given advisory counselling and referral services for this month.

• **Returning Adult Clients**

- Two (2) returning female client was given advisory and counselling and referral services for this month.
- One (1) was between the ages of 19-25 and 1 was between the ages of 41-60.
- Two (2) s was referred to Legal Aid and calls were made for police assistance additionally for 1 client.
- The returning female clients were of East Indian ethnicity (1) and of Mixed ethnicity (1).
- The returning female clients were in common law union (1) and single (1).
- The 2 female clients resided in Region 4- 1 had no children and 1 had children.

• **Returning Child Clients**

- There were no returning child clients this month.

Qualitative Data

- A client was being continuously harassed, tormented and threatened by her partner. She had gone to the shelter after he broke into her family home with a gun and threatened to kill her. The client was in the process of obtaining a protection order. For her safety it was felt that it would be best for her to stay at the shelter, while the PO application is going forward. To assist the client in getting her final order, I made several visits to the Turkeyen Police Station to ensure that the perpetrator was served with court documents. The client was eventually granted a final protection order that would be in effect for her lifetime. Furthermore, the client was raped by the perpetrator, which she had reported to the police. The police seemed to be dragging the feet on the matter and he was not arrested, even though the DPP had recommended charges be laid. After several calls to the Brickdam Police Station and the Commander's office, the perpetrator was finally arrested for the rape, charged and remanded. After this development, the client felt safe enough to leave the shelter.

- Client's husband of 10 years has been abusive towards her. On occasion she has had to run out of the home. The client reported the matter of abuse to the police. The client left her home about one month ago and has been staying by her daughter, then her son. However, problems have developed and she is not comfortable there any longer. Client was referred to the Ixora shelter. Client disclosed that being at the shelter made her feel comfortable, and the desire to move forward with her life. Client discussed her decision to attend her church meetings which are very important to her. She was however, educated about the transportation difficulties when arriving at the bus park after certain hours. She reported that she will find somewhere to sleep if she encountered that problem. A few days after leaving the Ixora to attend a Church meeting client returned and informed staff that she had secured accommodation and as a result was leaving the shelter.
- The client is harassed by her ex-partner and he is not maintaining the children. The client said that she would proceed with applying for a PO but counsellor advocate was not able to maintain contact with the client in order to assist her with applying for a protection order at GLAC.
- This returning client was accompanied by the counselor advocate to GLAC to meet with her lawyer. The lawyer took the client's response to the affidavit filed by the respondent, to create an affidavit of reply after this was completed counsellor advocate again accompanied the client to have the affidavit of reply sworn to in the presence of a JP and filed at the magistrate's court. The client's case was subsequently adjourned again and a request was made by GLAC to have a H&S counsellor testify in court that client has been a long-term domestic violence client who has accessed the counselling services of H&S over a period of time. However, the court counsellor could not make it to Court on this date and the matter was further adjourned.
- The client's ex-wife goes to his home and calls him, harasses him and any woman that he lives with. Client indicated that he wanted to apply for a DVA PO. The client was given a referral to the GLAC to apply for a protection order to get his wife (separated) to stop harassing him. A referral was given to the mediation centre as another option.
- The client is a victim of abuse and her girls are at risk of sexual abuse. The client was referred to the Ixora but has since subsequently left.
- Client, who was referred to the Ixora in January of 2012, had lived in a children's home for a number of years, after leaving the home she went and lived with her maternal uncle and his family. According to client she was abused by her uncle's wife who gave her all the household chores, and would beat her with a drop cord, pot spoon, and other weapons she went on further to say that her uncle sexually abused her and his wife encouraged him. Client went to the night shelter 20/01/2012 there she experienced sexual harassment since most of the inmates are males and HIV+. The Social Worker advised that she seek accommodation at Help & Shelter. Over the 8 months that client stayed at the Ixora she was counselled and exposed to a number of different types of therapeutic interventions. A family was found for the client to live with. Client was encouraged to obey the rules of the family that she will be residing with and to make contact with counselors at Help & Shelter if she needed someone to talk to.

4. ADVOCACY FOR ADVANCES IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE POLICY

Expected Results/Outcomes

Through its representation on the Domestic Violence Oversight Committee, H&S will advocate, support and participate in overseeing and implementation of all aspects of the National Domestic Violence Policy. including:

- Assessment of the Domestic Violence Act with a view to necessary amendments
- Development of inter-agency domestic violence protocols for frontline workers
- Training for health workers including the development of a standard curriculum on domestic violence intervention

- Collaboration with key decision makers in building the capacity of rural and hinterland communities to respond to domestic violence
- Encouragement and monitoring of a public awareness campaign targeting students and other members of the public on domestic violence prevention and gender and gender discrimination

Achieved Results/Outcomes

- There was no meeting of the NDOC in the month of August.

5. COUNSELLING SUPERVISION

- The counselling supervisor met with all face-to-face, hotline counsellors and the counsellor advocate during the month of August.
- The heavy case load at the crisis centre this month did not permit counsellors to maintain updated records, but there is a commitment to effect same as soon as convenient
- Counsellors experienced an overload during the month of August, with CIB often being the only counselor available. KS also proved her capability, jostling court support and office interviews. Counselling supervisor offered counseling services in support of counsellors.

Counsellors' Intervention

- Counsellors continued to make referrals to relevant agencies on clients' behalf. These include, Georgetown Legal Aid Clinic, New Amsterdam Legal Aid Clinic, Police and Ministry of Human Services and Social Security, AA and Seven Days Adventist Church.
- There exists a comfortable collaborative relationship between counselors and counselor advocate, to the benefit of clients.

Training/Learning Needs

- Counselors are open to gaining new knowledge in order to keep updated in their field. They were also given insights of progress report on EU 2 project by the M&E Officer.

Staff Concerns

- No staff concerns were identified for this month

6. COUNSELLORS' PROFESSIONAL/PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

- One counsellor was able to cope somewhat with the high influx of clients for the month of August and felt that the challenge was a good test of her endurance.
- Self enhancement is continuing through counsellor's reading and consulting with her colleagues.
- Professional development of counsellor is continuous by way of constant use of counselling skills and research.

7. CHALLENGES

- One counsellor adopted an attitude of peace and calmness dealing with the fact that 2 other counselors were on leave at the same time.
- Difficulties in maintaining up to date records due to the increase of case load as a result of a temporary shortage of staff.
- Counsellor reported that it is sometimes difficult dealing with some police officers, who seem to deliberately try to frustrate the clients. In one case case, the DPP had sent back the client's file recommending that the man be charged for raped. However, no attempt by the police was made to contact the family about the development. When I asked the officer why an arrest was not yet made, even though the station had the file for almost a month, I was told that the perpetrator could not be located. It should be noted that the perpetrator is a known offender to the police and

he was not in hiding at any point in time. Additionally, from my experience, not all police stations are following DV procedures. Particularly, I have witnessed that officers do not use domestic violence rooms when taking DV reports.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

- One counsellor is aware that the organization is going through a financial and human resource crisis and prays that the situation would get better.