

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- DECEMBER 2011

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 20 new adults clients, 17 females and 3 males received face to face counselling.
 - Spousal abuse was identified as the type of abuse experienced by 13/76% of all female clients, with physical abuse at 8/61% being the most predominant followed by non-physical at 5/38%.
 - Intra-family abuse was also experienced by 4/31% of female clients with physical abuse at 2/15% and psychological at 2/15%.

- Spousal abuse was also identified as the type of abuse experienced by 2/67% male clients evenly divided up between physical abuse at 1/33% and non-physical abuse at 1/33%.
 - Intra-family abuse was also experienced by 1/33% of all male clients with psychological abuse affecting 1/33%.
 - 10 of the female clients were between the ages of 19-25, one (1) was between the ages of 26-40, 5 were between the ages of 41-60 and 1 female was 60+.
 - For males- all 3 of the client were between the ages of 26-40.
 - A total of 4/23% of female clients and 2/67% of male clients identified themselves as Black, and a similar 7/41% of female clients identified themselves as East Indian. A further 6/35% of female clients and 1/33% of male clients identified themselves as Mixed.
 - In terms of employment status 7/41% of female clients described themselves as full time employed and 2/12% as self employed. Unemployment affected 3/17% of female clients and a further 4/23% of female clients identified themselves as home makers.
 - For male clients 2/67% described themselves as full time employed and 1/33% was self employed.
- **Returning Adult Clients**
 - A total of 25 returning adult clients, 23 females and 2 males received follow up face to face counselling.
 - **New Child Clients**
 - Clarification needed if statistics on child clients are in fact court support child clients.
 - **Returning Child Clients**
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Qualitative Data

- A couple who after completing a series of counselling sessions opted to terminate the sessions, were informed that they can continue to access the services whenever the need arises.
- A female client who had been accessing the services of H&S for many years came in and reported that her reputed husband only wanted her son to live with them and not the daughter. The daughter at the time was living with client's sister. The sister, subsequently, indicated that she also did not want her niece to continue living with her due to some problems that had occurred. Client was referred by counsellor to C&PA who is presently looking into this matter.
- A female client who had reportedly been raped was given the cellular and landline numbers of the counsellor so that she can call her whenever she feels the need to do so. This is a particularly challenging case so an exception was made for this client who continues to need emotional and psychological counselling and support.
- Counsellor was able to find and identify a member of a community who agreed to give additional support to a client in the form of administering daily medication prescribed for a 2 week period
- A counsellor, whose client and daughter had been referred to C&PA, was informed that 2 of client's daughters were removed from the client's home and placed in the care of their grandmother, client's mother. Client subsequently came into H&S with her 13 years old daughter, who she had just beaten at the child's school, after receiving reports of the child's truancy. Probing by counsellor revealed that the child wanted to live with her father instead of her mother because she said she was mistreated by her mother and siblings at home. The client also disclosed that her reputed husband had sexually molested an older daughter, who became pregnant. The reputed husband gave client's daughter tablets to terminate the pregnancy which resulted in the daughter becoming sick and having to be hospitalized. It was when the daughter was hospitalized that the mother was made aware of the sexual abuse of her daughter by her reputed husband. It was also found out that the 13 year old daughter who was brought in to H&S by client, was herself sexually molested by her uncle, the biological brother of her father when she was 12 years old. Counselling and assistance is continuing.

- Counsellor referred clients to Legal Aid Clinics at Fort Wellington, Berbice and to the Parika police station.

Hotline Counselling

Quantitative Data

- **Adult Clients**

- A total of 23 hotline calls from 19 female and 4 males were received this month through H&S 24 hr hot line service.
- Of the 23 female hotline callers, 4/21% were between the ages of 19-25, 6/32% were between 26-40 a further 6/32% were between the ages of 41-60, and 1/5% was 60+.
- 3/75% of male callers were between the ages of 41-60, and 1/25% was between the ages of 26-40.
- 11/44% of the hotline callers were from the county of Demerara., 2/8% were from the county of Berbice, 8/32% were from Georgetown, 1/4% of calls were from Linden and 1/4% of calls were from Bartica.
- In terms of employment, 7/28% of callers were full time employed, 3/12% were part time employed, 3/12% was self employed, 1/4% of callers were unemployed and 5/20% were home makers.
- A total of 7/28% of the callers were counselled, 12/48% were given advice and 4 callers representing 16% received referrals.

- **Child Clients**

- No hotline calls were received from children for this month.

Qualitative Data

- No reports for hotline counselling were received for this month.

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

<h3><u>Expected Results/Outcomes</u></h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.
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Achieved Results/Outcomes

Court Support Counselling

Quantitative Data

- **New Adult Clients**

- No new clients were seen this month.

- **New Child Clients**

- No new child clients were seen for this month.

- **Returning Adult Clients**

- A total of 8 returning female clients received court support assistance through court attendances and counselling.
- Four (4) clients were between the ages of 26-40 and 4 were between the ages of 41-60.
- Four (4) clients were pursuing DVA P.O.; 1 client was pursuing an assault charge, 1 client was pursuing rape and assault charges, 1 client an attempted murder charge and 1 client was in Court over division of property.
- Seven (7) of the cases were heard in Region 4: Georgetown Magistrates Courts # 6 (3); Providence Magistrate Court (3) Sparendam Magistrate Court (1). One (1) cases were heard in Region 3, Vreed –en –Hoop Magistrate Court.
- In all the cases the perpetrators were husbands (1), ex-boyfriend (1), common law husband (5).
- Outcomes - 5 of these cases are continuing
 - 1 case was dismissed for want of prosecution
 - 1 case interim order granted
 - 1 case DVA/P.O. partially granted defendant & husband to undergo counselling.

- **Returning Child Clients**

- A total 11 returning child clients, 10 female child clients and 1 male client received court support assistance through court attendances and counselling.
- Clients were survivors of the offences of carnal knowledge (2), incest (5), rape (2), indecent assault (1); buggery (1).
- Perpetrators were fathers (2), stepfathers (2), uncle (1), villagers (4), stranger (Pandit) (1), neighbour (1).
- Clients ranged from 4- 18 years with: 1/9% between the ages of 0-6; 3/27% between 6-8 years; 2 between 9-11 years and 5 between 12-18 years.
- Court cases were held in the Region 4 at Sparendam (3), Providence (6) and in Region 3 at Vreed-en-Hoop Magistrate Courts (2).
- All 11 Court support cases are continuing.

Qualitative Data

- Client indicated that she is seeing efforts by her partner to make positive changes in regards to his relationship with their children. More quality time is being spent with the children. This she feels is as a result of the ongoing counselling process.

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 2 new adult female clients were given advisory counselling and referral services for this month.
- One (1) client was between the ages of 19-25, and 1 client was between the ages of 26-40.
- One (1) client was accompanied to the GPHC Psychiatric Ward and 1 client was accompanied to the Chest Clinic.
- One (1) of the clients receiving advisory and referral services was Black and the other was Mixed.
- Both of the 2 clients (3) were in common law relationships.
- Both of the 2 clients had 3 children each.
- Both of the 2 clients resided in Region 4.

- **New Child Clients**

- No new female child client accessed advisory counselling and referral services this month

- **Returning Adult Clients**

- A total of 2 returning female adult clients was given advisory and counselling and referral services for this month.
- One (1) clients was between the ages of 19-25 and 1 was between the ages of 26-40.
- Both of the 2 clients were referred to GLAC for legal services and or advice.
- One (1) client was Black and 1 client was Mixed. One (1) client was separated and 1 client was in a common law relationship.
- Both of the 2 clients were from Region 4.

- **Returning Child Clients**

- No returning child clients were seen for this month.

Qualitative Data

- A mother who was beating her children has found success with alternative forms of discipline and the child reports a consistently more peaceful home.
- The partner of a DV client came in for counselling as requested and since then the client has reported that his behaviour and attitude to her has improved. Ongoing counselling continues for both parties.
- A child who was sexually assaulted has returned to school and is adjusting and performing well in her class.
- The client was living in an unhealthy relationship for about six years. She made several reports to her area Police Station, and in November 2011 her partner was arrested and charged with assault, along with his fourteen year old son, from a previous relationship. The client at the time was a resident of The Ixora shelter. The Ixora counsellor had some concerns about the client's mental health and recommended the need for a psychiatric evaluation. The counsellor advocate accompanied the client to the GPHC psychiatric ward where the doctor concluded that continued counselling would be best for the client and did not recommend/prescribe any medication. The client received a client card, which she will present anytime she visits the ward.
- The client was referred to the counsellor advocate for her to accompany client to the Chest Clinic at GPHC. The client was told to come to H&S on a set date but did not show up. The client came into H&S on another date and counsellor advocate accompanied her to the Chest Clinic where she was given a follow up appointment. The client returned on the day of her appointment but refused to go back to the Chest Clinic. She was extremely upset that H&S could not help her get back her

children that CPA had taken from her. At the request of her counsellor, I contacted her health clinic (she had appointment with the clinic on the same day and refused to go) to inform them what had transpired at H&S and that she may not keep her clinic appointment.

- A returning client had an appointment with GLAC in November to get a letter for a late registration for her baby, which she did not keep. However, she was able to register the baby without the lawyer's letter. The counsellor advocate then got her another appointment for a DVA, P.O. Again, she did not keep her appointment. The client informed me that she would go ahead with the protection order application when she gets the money to do so.
- A returning client is awaiting assistance from Food for the Poor to build her a new home. She is supposed to go into the organisation in January 2012 with her documents and commence the process. However currently the counsellor advocate does not have an update on the client since numerous attempts to contact her has been unsuccessful. Client also has an outstanding appointment with the GLAC and counsellor advocate has been trying to contact the client repeatedly but unsuccessfully.

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

- No meetings of the Domestic Violence Oversight Committee were held in the month of December.
- No word or notice was received from the Minister of Human Services or Director of Social Services concerning the convening of the DVOC.

5. COUNSELLING SUPERVISION

- The supervisor met with all counsellors during the month of December, although not on a supervisory level.
- Through face to face, hotline and court support counselling, a total of 79 clients were seen, including males, females and children.

- Counsellors seem to be consistently updating their records including the completion of care plans.

Counsellors' Intervention

- The counsellor/advocate has been quite effective in brokering assistance for clients who were referred by counselors.
- Counsellors have referred clients to other agencies for further assistance in accordance with their expressed needs.
- One counselor encountered a client who held traditional beliefs about precautions to be taken when attending the Magistrates' Courts'. The Counsellor stated that this was a test in upholding the client's right to self determination, exercising non judgmental attitudes and refraining from imposing personal values and beliefs on clients.
- A distraught client who reported that she was violated by a senior Government functionary, sought guidance and support for the prosecution of her perpetrator. The case is being investigated.
- Counsellors were able to manage their case load during December, since there was a lull in client visits.

Training/Learning Needs

- During the month of January 2012, counseling supervisor and coordinator of H&S will conduct substance abuse training sessions for counselors, using the manuals ' Guiding the Recovery of Women.' This follows their previous training in "Relapse Prevention Treatment for women" and "Continuing Care Needs of Women in Recovery sponsored by Catholic Relief Services in collaboration with the U.S. Department of State.

6. COUNSELLORS' PROFESSIONAL/PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

- One counsellor, who was having some difficulty in understanding how to work with a very young child, learned to stop questioning him, allowed him be his age and engaged in play with him. This resulted in the child beginning to open up. Counsellor said she learnt not to be driven by her very grown up set plan!
- December was the first time one of the counsellor dealt with a referral to the Psychiatric Ward of the Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation (GPHC). She is now familiar with the procedure that needs to be followed for this type of referral.
- Counsellor shared The Gestalt Method of the 'Empty Chair' for dealing with emotional and mental health and in particular Anger. An Anger Chart was set out under identifying the ways of expressing anger and possible consequences.

7. CHALLENGES

- A concern was expressed about the possibility of some clients not benefitting from court support when there clashes of dates and scheduling of matters at different courts on the same day. Court support counsellors will need to give some attention to this challenge.
- Counsellors were having some difficulty in terms of case load work as there are some days when there is only one counsellor available.
- One challenge faced by a counsellor was maintaining contact with clients. A particular client did not have a land line and only a cell number. Counsellor was not able to follow up with the client because she could not get her on the number provided. Some clients find it difficult to call or maintain contact with H&S because they do not have land lines and cell calls to H&S are too costly for them.
- Concerns were raised about the effectiveness and service rendered by welfare departments of disciplined services.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

- The shelter counsellor has asked that clients be properly assessed for eligibility before being referred to the shelter.
- A counsellor expressed the desire to pursue higher education at the masters level and would like assistance from Help & Shelter.
- The counselling supervisor to look into the matter of only 1 counsellor being available on some days and rearrange schedules so that 2 counsellors are always available to see clients on a daily basis.
- Counsellors to be provided with a list of mental health professionals who will accept referrals of clients with mental health issues.
- Court support counsellors share court appearances so as to maximize their time.
- The counsellor/advocate is interested in receiving some training in face-to-face counselling to better serve the clients referred to her.
- A suggestion was made that Help & Shelter community workers refer persons to the office as the media ads are not adequate to cover a wide cross section of the general public.