

## 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 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 12 new adults clients, 9 females and 3 males received face to face counselling
  - Physical spousal abuse was identified as the type of abuse experienced by 8/89% of female clients.
  - During this month 1/11% of female clients also experienced physical intra-family violence.

- Spousal abuse was identified as the type of abuse experienced by 3/100% of male clients with physical abuse being the most prominent at 2/67% and non physical at 1/33%.
  - For females a total of 1/11% was between the ages of 19-25; 6/67% were between the ages of 26-40; 1/11% was between the ages of 41-60 and 1/11% was 60+.
  - For males- 3/100% were between the ages of 26-40 and 3/33%.
  - A total of 4/41% of all female clients and 1/33% of all male clients described themselves as Black; 2/22% of female clients identified themselves as East Indian. A further 3/33% of female clients and 2/67% male client identified themselves as Mixed.
  - In terms of employment status 2/22% of female clients described themselves as full time employed; 1/11% as part time employed; 1/11% as self employed; 4/44% as homemakers and 1/11% gave their employment status as 'other'.
  - For male clients 1/33% were full time employed; 2/67% were part time employed.
  - A total of 3/33% of female clients were from the county of Demerara. A further 6/67% of female clients and 3/100% of male clients resided in Georgetown.
  - A total of 4/33% of cases seen this month were alcohol related.
  - A total of 4/33% of all clients were married; 4/33% were in common law unions; 2/16% were single; 1/8% was widowed and 1/8% described their marital status as 'other'.
- **Returning Adult Clients**
    - A total of 24 clients, 20 females and 4 males returned for follow up counselling this month.
  - **New Child Clients**
    - There were no new child clients seen this month
  - **Returning Child Clients**
    - There were a total of 4 returning child clients

### **Qualitative Data**

- A female naturalized Guyanese client is in the process of attending her custody hearing at the Georgetown High Court heard. This client had accessed H & S services previously and been referred to the Georgetown Legal Aid Clinic for legal representation and through them had acquired a Protection/Restraining Order against her husband and visitation visits for the father of her child confined to the presence of a Childcare officer of the Childcare and Protection Agency at that agency.
- A female client who accessed the services of H & S was referred to the Low Vision clinic at the GPHC and also referred the Georgetown Legal Aid Clinic, Client's application for a DVA Protection/Occupancy Order is being processed and she was given a date for her Court hearing court. Client reported that she is pleased with the service she received from H&S.

### **Hotline Counselling**

#### **Quantitative Data**

- **Adult Clients**
  - A total of 6 hotline calls from 5 females and 1 male were received this month through H&S 24 hr hot line service.
  - A total of 5/83% of all clients experienced spousal abuse with physical spousal abuse affecting 3/50%, non physical abuse affecting 1/17% and psychological abuse affecting 1/17%.
  - A total of 1/17% of clients experienced intra family abuse which was classified as 'other'.
  - Of the 6 hotline callers, 1/17% was between the ages of 19-25; 2/33% were between the ages of 26-40; 2/33% were between 41-60 years old and 1/17% did not state their age.

- Three 3/50% of all hotline callers were from the county of Demerara.; 3/17% were from Georgetown.
- In terms of employment, 1/17% of callers were full time employed; 1/17% was self employed 2/33% were unemployed and 2/11% listed their employment as ‘other’.
- A total of 2/33% of callers received counselling and 4/66% were given advice.
- **Child Clients**
  - No new hotline calls were received from child clients.

### **Qualitative Data**

- Counsellor had 2 calls for the month of December. One caller reported feeling much better since she was able to talk to someone. She reported that she really needed to talk to someone since she had not spoken to family and friends about the abuse.
- During this month a hotline caller who was in distress disclosed that she wanted to kill herself by eating rat poison. The caller reported that she has spent hours weighing the pros and cons of wanting to take her own life. At present this is a regular hotline caller who would call to give updates on her life.

## **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 1 new female adult clients and 2 male adult client were given court support service this month.
  - The 1 new female client was an applicant in Court for Maintenance (1)
  - The 2 male clients were applicants in cases of Assault (1); Assault & threatening language (1).
  - The 1 female client was between the ages of 41-60.
  - The age of 1 of the male clients was between 19-25; the age of the 1 other male client was not known.
  - All 3 of the Court cases were held in Region 4. Two (2) cases were heard at Georgetown Magistrate Court; #1 and 1 case were heard at Providence Magistrate Court.
  - The accused for the female client was her husband.
  - The accused for male clients was not stated.

- Outcomes – All charges against offender and client dismissed
  - 2 cases are continuing (assault); ( maintenance)
- **New Child Clients**
  - No new female child clients were given court support service this month.
- **Returning Adult Clients**
  - A total of 13 returning female adult clients received court support assistance through court attendances and counselling.
  - Two (2) clients were between the ages of 19-25; 7 clients were 26-40; 4 clients were between the ages of 41-60.
  - Clients were pursuing Division of Property (1); Maintenance (2); Assault (7); DVA P. O. (3).
  - All 13 of the cases were heard in Region 4. Four (4) were heard in Georgetown Magistrate Court; #1; 3 was heard in Georgetown Magistrate Court; #6; 2 were heard in Providence Magistrate Court; 2 were heard in Sparendam Magistrate Court; I was heard in The High Court and I was heard at Vigilance Magistrate Court.
  - Perpetrators were husbands (6); child fathers (2); common law husband/ partners (1); wife (1); ex partner (1)
  - Outcomes -4 of these cases are continuing
    - In 2 case clients completed counselling and no evidence in court was presented so case as dismissed
    - 1 case was dismissed for want of prosecution
    - 1 case as dismissed as complainant offered no evidence against defendant
    - I case complainant as instructed to take out a warrant for arrears
    - DVA PO granted
    - 3 case maintenance was awarded for children- \$2,000 per wk per child
    - I cases parties came to an agreement and charges were dropped
    - I case defendant was placed on a bond to keep the peace for 3 years
    - I case magistrate ordered further counselling for both parties
- **Returning Child Clients**
  - A total of 8 returning child clients, received court support assistance through court attendances and counselling.
  - Clients were survivors of the offences of Rape (1); Incest (5); Carnal knowledge (1); Indecent Assault (1).
  - Perpetrators were father (2); villagers (3).
  - Clients ranged from 6-18 years in the following age groups; 6-8 years (2); 9-11 (3) 12-18 years (3)
  - Seven (7) of the Court cases were held in the Region 4 - Providence Magistrate Court (6); Georgetown Magistrate Court (1). One (1) of the Court cases were held in the Region 3- Vreed en Hoop Magistrate Court (1).
  - Outcomes – All 8 cases are continuing.

### **Qualitative Data**

- A couple was referred to H&S for counseling by the court in a matter in which the male was charged for using abusive language towards his female partner. The court support counsellor was able to have this matter dismissed when she informed the Court that there seemed to be an error in the police report and in fact it was the female partner who made a report to the Police about another female abusing her and never made a report against her male partner. Prior to the Court hearing, the court support counsellor had referred the parties to the Police to clarify the matter after discovering the mistake. However, the Police did not rectify the matter and it was

not until the court support counsellor attended court on behalf of her clients and had a look at the case jacket that the parties became aware of this error by the Police.

- A client was experiencing threats from her husband and she was referred to the Guyana Legal Aid Clinic in April 2012 for a Protection Order. She was finally granted a Protection Order after eight months of the case being before the court.

### **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 4 new female adult clients were given advisory counselling and referral services for this month
- All 4 of the female clients were between the ages of 26-40
- Three (3) of the female clients were referred and or accompanied to the GLAC for legal services and 1 was referred for health services.
- Two (2) of the female clients receiving advisory and referral services were Black; 1 was of East Indian ethnicity; 1 was of Mixed ethnicity
- One (1) of the female clients were legally married, 1 was in common law relationships; 1 was separated and the union status of 1 female client was not known
- All 4 of the female clients had between 1-9 children.
- Three (3) of the female adult clients resided in Region 4 and 1 resided in Region 3.

##### **• New Child Clients**

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

##### **• Returning Adult Clients**

- There were no returning adult clients seen this month.

##### **• Returning Child Clients**

- There were no returning child clients this month.

##### **Qualitative Data**

- Client was experiencing physical and verbal abuse from her partner. She was referred to GLAC for a DVA PO. When counsellor advocate followed up with the client, she found out that client has not

visited GLAC to apply for her DVA PO. Client is currently making arrangements to move out of the abusive home and said that when she moves into her new place, she would apply for the PO. Counsellor advocate advised the client to not wait until she moves out, and commence the application since the application process usually takes some time.

#### **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**

Next meeting date for convening the NDVOC was fixed for January, 2013 at the November 2012 meeting.

#### **5. COUNSELLING SUPERVISION**

- During the month of December 2012, counsellors continued to receive guidance and support from the counseling supervisor. During this period, counselors reported a comfortable case load.
- A total of thirteen case files for were examined for the crisis centre and six for the Ixora for the month of December 2012. Appropriate entries were made and relevant discussions were held with counselors on specific cases. Counselors continued their efforts at timely recording.
- Counselors continued to make referrals to relevant agencies on clients' behalf.

##### **Counsellors' Intervention**

- No report on counsellor intervention for this month

##### **Training/Learning Needs**

- No report on training needs for this month

**Staff Concerns**

- Counsellors expressed concern at the apparent delay in the recruitment of a part-time counsellor. It is felt that although there were not many walk-in clients during the holiday period, it is felt that since the holidays are over, it is likely that this category of clients will increase.

**6. COUNSELLORS' PROFESSIONAL/PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT**

- At the last counselors meeting after sharing a case with the group, assistance was given to one of the counsellors in ways to best deal with a case.
- After making a follow-up call to a client, the children's mother provided additional information that gave the counselor additional reasons why this case should be referred to Childcare & Protection Agency.

**7. CHALLENGES**

- One counsellor reported having difficulties in maintaining up to date records this month due to the increase of case load.

**8. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- With the increase of court referrals in regards to domestic violence cases it would seem that an Anger Management Program for males and females to attend separately might become a necessity.