

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- JULY 2013

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 29 new adults clients, 26 females and 3 males received face to face counselling
 - Spousal abuse was identified as the type of abuse experienced by 18/69% of female clients, with physical spousal abuse at 13/50%; non-physical abuse at 3/11% and psychological at 2/8%.

- Spousal abuse was identified as the type of abuse experienced by all male clients 3/100% with non physical abuse affecting 2/67% and physical abuse at 2/33%
 - During this month 8/31% of female clients also experienced intra-family violence with non-physical at 3/4%; physical at 1/4%; psychological at 2/8% and ‘Other’ at 1/4%. 1 female client was also raped 1/4% through intra family sexual violence
 - During this month there were no reports of intra-family violence among male clients
 - For females a total of 6/23% were between the ages of 19-25; 16/61% were between the ages of 26-40; 2/8% were between the ages of 41-60 and 2/8% were 60+
 - For males- 1/33% were between the ages of 26-40; 2/67% were between the ages of 41-60
 - A total of 5/19% of all female clients and 2/67% of all male clients described themselves as Black, 8/31% of female clients identified themselves as East Indian and 1/33% of male clients also identified themselves as East Indian. A further 1/45 of female clients identified themselves as Amerindian; 1/4% identified themselves as Portuguese and 11/42% as Mixed
 - In terms of employment status 6/23% of female clients described themselves as full time employed; 1/4% as part time employed; 7/27% as self employed; 5/19% as unemployed and 5/19% as homemakers 1/4% as retired and 1/4% as ‘other’
 - For male clients 2/67% described themselves as full time employed; 1/33% as self employed
 - A total of 13/50% of female clients and 1/33% of male clients resided in the county of Demerara; 11/42% of female clients and 2/67% of male clients resided in Georgetown and 2/8% of female clients resided in Essequibo.
 - A total of 1/3% of all cases seen this month were alcohol related.
 - A total of 10/34% of all client were married; 6/21% were in common law unions; 5/17% were single and 4/14% were separated; 1/3% were divorced; 1/3% were widowed; 1/3% were in visiting relationships
- **Returning Adult Clients**
 - A total of 42 clients, 33 females and 9 males returned for follow up counselling this month.
 - **New Child Clients**
 - A total of 4 new child clients were seen for this month
 - Two 2/50% of the female child clients were physically abused and 2/50% identified their abuse as ‘other’
 - All 4/100% of the female child clients were between the ages of 12-18 years
 - One 1/25% of the female clients was Black and 3/75% were Mixed
 - One 1/25% lived in the county of Demerara and 3/75% lived in Georgetown
 - One 1/25% was a homemaker and 3/75% were attending Secondary school
 - **Returning Child Clients**
 - There was (6) female returning child clients seen this month

Qualitative Data

- A young male client was brought in by his mother and a friend who is associated with H & S and referred to Dr. B. Harry, psychiatrist, on his second visit to this office. This young man admitted to the counselor in confidence that he uses marijuana which is unknown to his parents and also consumes alcohol which they are aware of. His parents are concerned with his destructive behavior when under the influence of alcohol at home and his obsession with females who do not want the type of relationship he wants. He would also tell his mother that he will kill himself. On the second visit, client told the counselor that he did not feel like speaking to her and asked that his mother to tell what took place at home recently. Client appeared to be weak as he was not

eating and his mother had to physically support him while he walked. After listening to client's mother counselor concluded that he needed the help of a psychiatrist. Counselor called client's home 2 days after and his mother said that they saw the doctor at his private clinic, he spoke with client and gave him some medication and a follow up date to return.

- A male client came in seeking help concerning domestic problems he was experiencing. The client blamed his wife for everything that went wrong in their relationship including her leaving to attend a relative's wedding in the USA. Counselor advised client to start now with some counseling for himself and on his wife's return, she would also be invited to come in for counseling. Client reluctantly started the counseling and began to enjoy it and has been keeping up with his counseling appointments since. Client's wife also came in and said that it was never her intentions to return back home but her husband persuaded her to return and told her of the counseling he was getting and how it was helping him, she, however, is still cautious as she had given him many chances previously. Client's wife has also started the counseling process. The couple also brought in their 15 year daughter for counseling as she is rebellious towards them and when she was sent out in the company of her brother to an event at the Cultural Centre, she left the venue in company with a young man older than herself and went to his home. The young 15 year old opened up to the counselor and it apparent that her errant behavior has a lot to do with the family dysfunction and family conflict in the home.
- A male came in to H & S and reported that his wife had beaten their daughter and caused the child to run out of the house, he also complained that his wife would sometimes lock him out of the home. He asked counselor if it was okay to have his wife come and called his wife and asked as advised by counselor that she bring in the child too. When client's wife came in she identified that she is a client of H & S and had seen the same counselor. Client's wife told her story and counselor set up an appointment for the following day to start working with the child. The family will be coming in for counseling. It was confirmed that female adult client is a patient of a psychiatrist and admitted to being abusive when she is not taking her medication.
- Client who is still accessing counseling, was very happy with the outcome of a business venture that counselor advised her on giving a try, client was over joyed when her partner eventually supported her by partaking in the event. Client said she was even asked out on a date, later on in the evening. Client is happy with how things are going in her life now, she said it is not perfect, but she started to see changes after receiving counseling and being empowered. She said, after meeting with the Minister of Housing, she is working towards paying the monies required and also being supported by her partner.
- A client and partner were sent to seek counseling at H&S by the court. Client's partner said he was reluctant in coming because he thought counseling would not make a difference, and felt his partner will never change her attitude of 35 years and preferred the relationship to come to an end. However, he reconsidered after thinking about his grand children and decided to make a last try in resolving or dealing with his family issues. Clients were counseled, and the focus was on self development, unity and cooperation, conflict resolution and anger management. Clients are still coming to follow-up counseling and said they are relating to each other in a better manner and working together in order to live a better life.

Hotline Counselling

Quantitative Data

• Adult Clients

- A total of 13 hotline calls from 12 females and 1 male were received this month through H&S 24 hr hot line service.
- A total of 9/75% of all female clients experienced spousal abuse with physical spousal abuse affecting 4/33%; non physical abuse affecting 3/25% and sexual abuse affecting 2/17%.

- One 1/100% of male clients experienced non physical spousal abuse
 - A total of 3/25% of clients experienced intra family abuse with non physical abuse affecting 2/25% and ‘other’ affecting 1/8%.
 - Of the 12 female hotline callers, (1/8%) were between the ages of 19-25; (9/75%) were between 26-40 years old and (2/25%) were 60+
 - Two 5/38% of all hotline callers were from the county of Demerara.; 3/23% were from Georgetown; 2/15% were from Berbice; 1/8% was from Essequibo and 1/8% was from Linden
 - In terms of employment, 1/8% of callers were full time employed; 1/8% was part time employed; 2/ 15% were self employed; 2/15% were unemployed; 3/23% were homemaker; 1/8% was a contract worker and 3/ 23% employment status was given as ‘other’
 - A total of 2/15% of callers received counseling; 7/54% were given advice and 4/31% of callers were given referrals
- **Child Clients**
 - One 1 female child called H&S 24 hr hotline service this month.
 - The 1 female child experienced intra family sexual abuse and was between the ages of 12-18
 - The 1 female child resided in Berbice and her education was described as ‘other’
 - The 1 female child was given advice

Qualitative Data

- An elderly woman needed help for her granddaughter but couldn’t travel to Georgetown to receive such; she was referred (via contact number and address) to an organization in her community. A few days after the elderly woman called back to share she and her granddaughter are schedule to have counseling at the set organization once a week.
- A client continues to call the hotline to report matters that the hotline counselor can’t help with.
- A caller was feeling depressed about the current situation of her marriage she said her husband is putting the best interest of his mother in front of her, and the mother is willfully causing problems in their marriage /relationship. After counseling, the caller reported that she felt happy and was relieved that she was able to speak to someone about her problem

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 7 new female clients were given court support service this month.
- The 7 new female clients were applicants in Court for Assault (3); DVA P.O. (1); Abusive Language (1) Custody (1); Divorce (1).
- One (1) of the female clients was between the ages of 19-25; (4) were between the ages of 26-40.; (1) was between the ages of 41-60 and (1) was 60+
- All 7 of the Court cases were held in Region 4. Three (3) cases were heard at Georgetown Magistrate Court; #1; (1) case was heard at Georgetown Magistrate Court; #5; (1) case was heard in Providence Magistrate Court; (2) cases were heard at the High Court in Georgetown.
- The accused for female clients were husbands (2); common law partners (2); ex-boyfriend (1); child father (2).
- Outcomes – 4 of the cases are continuing
 - 1 DVA PO were granted
 - 1 divorce granted on client terms & client awarded alimony
 - Custody-offender application denied; Court decided that neither parent would be granted full custody

- **New Child Clients**

- No new female child clients were given court support service this month.

- **Returning Adult Clients**

- A total of 4 returning female adult clients were given court support assistance through court attendances and counselling.
- Two (2) clients were 26-40; (2) clients were between the ages of 41-60.
- Clients were pursuing; Assault (1); Division of Property (2); DVA PO & OO (1).
- Three (3) of the cases were heard in Region 4; 1 case was heard in Region 3. One (1) case were heard in Georgetown Magistrate Court; #1; (1); Two (2) cases were heard in High Court, Georgetown; (1) case was heard at Vreed-en-Hoop Magistrate Court
- Perpetrators were ex-husband (1); ex-common law partner (1); (2) common law partners;
- Outcomes -2 of these cases are continuing
 - 1 case DVA PO & OO made final
 - 1 DOP case agreement that client is to receive her half share of property within 6mts

- **Returning Child Clients**

- A total of 4 returning female child clients received court support assistance through court attendances and counselling.
- Clients were survivors of the offences of Carnal Knowledge (1); Rape (1); Buggery (1); and Indecent assault (1)
- Perpetrators were father (1) neighbours (2); stranger (1)
- Clients ranged from 6-16 years in the following age groups 4-6 (1); 12-18 (3)
- All 4 Court cases were held in the Region 4. Court case was held in Region 3 – Cased were heard in Providence Magistrate Court (3) and Vreed-en-Hoop Magistrate Court (1)
- Outcomes – All of the 4 cases are continuing. In 1 case offender was remanded for not attending Court

Qualitative Data

- Court support counsellor was successful, after making persistent enquires of three pending sexual offences court cases, to get a court date assigned to them. These cases are scheduled to be heard by a new magistrate after the previous magistrate came off the bench during the trial of same. However no court date was assigned to these cases since its last hearing. This situation was realized after the court of clerk could not give any upcoming dates for these cases. It is my belief that if H & S was not attending court for these case its likely it would have fallen through the cracks (i.e. never to be called in court again).
- A child client and her parents were referred to H&S by the magistrate for counseling. The child's father was charged for beating her. The father said that he do not usually beats his children, however he felt frustrated after talking over and over with his daughter about her behavior(argumentative and outburst of anger, promiscuity, friends' character) especially since her older sister was raped. The child and her parents are presently attending counseling sessions and the parents were encouraged to adopt alternative disciple method. After attending a few sessions the parents reported that the child's outburst of anger at her parents has decreased and they are having fewer arguments, and enjoying a better relationship.

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 15 new female adult clients were given advisory counselling and referral services for this month
- Five (5) of the female clients was between the ages of 19-25; (8) were between the ages of 26-40
- Eight (8) female clients were referred and or accompanied to the GLAC for legal services; Probation & Welfare Services (1); CPA (1); Employment services (4); Health services (1) 'Other' (5) ie Ministry of Housing (3); Habitat for Humanity (1); Ruimveldt Children Centre (1)
- Three (3) of the female clients receiving advisory and referral services were Black; 5 were of East Indian ethnicity; 5 were of Mixed ethnicity; 1 was Amerindian and 1 was Portuguese
- A total of 4 of the clients were legally married; 2 were single; 4 were in common law relationships; 4 were separated; 'other'(1)

- Twelve (12) of the female clients had between 1-9 children and 3 clients had no children
- Twelve (13) of the female adult clients resided in Region 4; (2) resided in Region 3.
- **New Child Clients**
 - No new child clients were given advisory counselling and referral services for this month
- **Returning Adult Clients**
 - Five (5) returning clients, 4 females and 1 male were given advisory and counselling and referral services for this month.
 - Two (2) returning female clients were of Black ethnicity; (2) were of East Indian ethnicity and the (1) male client was of Mixed ethnicity
 - One (1) female client was married; 1 was in common law union; 1 was separated; 1 was single. The 1 male client was single
 - All four (4) female clients were between the ages of 26-40; the 1 male client was between the ages of 19-25
 - All 4 of the female clients resided in Region 4; the 1 male client resided in Region 3
- **Returning Child Clients**
 - There were no returning child clients this month.

Qualitative Data

- Client partner is being unfaithful and neglecting her physically and financially. Client wants to have partner counselled in order to resolve issues. Since client's partner refused to come in for counseling, client is now seeking legal advice on the way forward.
- Client was physically abused by partner and matter was reported to the police. Client was counsel on DVA, and client was encouraged to seek employment.
- Client partner threaten her with a knife. Client was referred to Guyana Legal Aid Clinic for legal advice and a DVA protection order.
- Client was raped by her older cousin when she was eight years old, client said for her years growing up ,it was not easy for her but she keep it to herself and didn't say anything. Client says that this is now affecting her because she finds it very difficult to stay in a relationship and is sleeping around. The client was referred to CR&MA and did the interview and is waiting for placement. Client continues to access counseling.

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 statutory meeting of the NDVOC was convened this month.

5. COUNSELLING SUPERVISION

- Counselors, during the month of July continued to work as a team, even in the absence of PB and KS who proceeded on vacation. Part Time Counselor SH who undertook some of the tasks of Counselor Advocate, has been coping well.
- Counselors continue to share information and knowledge among them, but admit they could use some training periodically, in different aspects of their work, including counseling of Trafficking in Persons clients.
- Counselor CIB shared on techniques in counseling with colleagues

Intervention

- In the process of intervention, counselors made use of available H&S brochures and their skills in anger management, conflict resolution and self motivation. Clients were referred clients to Legal Aid Clinic, Child Care and Protection Agency and the Central Recruitment and Placement Agency and for housing and health services.
- Clients at the Ixora were also referred for employment within the community.
- There has been some improvement in the networking process among H&S, CPA and the Counter Trafficking in Persons Unit in terms of documentation for referred clients.

Training/Learning Needs

- Counsellors are advocating for counseling training in TIP

6. COUNSELLORS' PROFESSIONAL/PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

- By liaising with counselors and gaining information, knowledge and strategies that are necessary to be effective.
- Counselor continues to access information through reading books and newsletters from the internet and also shares information with colleagues
- Self enhancement through reading and consulting with her colleagues has helped counselor in her professional and personal development
- Keeping up to date with news around the world as it relates to domestic violence and persons reactions to such
- Counsellor has developed professionally via the means of continued practice of her skills in counseling and has used research for her personal development.

7. CHALLENGES

- Hotline counselor reported that there were few calls this month

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

- No recommendations received this month