

HELP & SHELTER
COUNSELLING, COUNSELLING TRAINING & ORGANISATIONAL CAPACITY
BUILDING PROJECT
(Funded by CIDA's Gender Equality Program)

New Amsterdam Counseling M&E Report - 21st January, 2010 - 15th March, 2010.

Adult Cases

Number of adult clients seen: 15

Number of females: 12

Number of males: 3

Repeat Cases

Number of repeat adult clients seen: 5

Number of females: 4

Number of males: 1

Domestic Violence Cases

Number of domestic violence cases seen: 8

Number of females: 6

Number of males: 2

Types of Domestic Violence Cases

Physical: 4

Psychological: 4

Relationship of Perpetrator(s) to Client(s)

The majority of male partners/husband and one female partner/wife were the perpetrators

Rape Cases not related to Domestic Violence

Number of rape cases not related to domestic violence: 1

Number of females: 1

Number of males: 0

Type of Rape Case related with Domestic Violence

- Client was gang-raped by men including stepfather. Also in need of financial assistance, food and clothing.

Cases not related to Domestic Violence

Number of cases not related to domestic violence seen: 3

Number of females: 2

Number of males: 1

Types of Cases not related to Domestic Violence

- Client seeking financial assistance and food stuffs because she is not working.
- Client assaulted by male acquaintance.
- Client an alcoholic with attendant problems

Family Relationship Cases

Number of family relationship cases seen: 2

Number of females: 2

Number of males: 0

Types of Family Relationship Cases

- Mother in need of housing for herself and family
- Client is having problems with family and is staying at the shelter

Attempted Suicide Cases

Number of attempted suicide cases seen: 1

Number of females: 1

Number of males: 0

Type of Suicide Cases

- Client attempted suicide by taking tablets due to constant physical abuse and the withholding of money.

Referral Cases

Number of cases referred: 10

Number of females: 8

Number of males: 2

Referrals made to:

- Child Protection Service
- Police Station
- Food for the Poor
- Help and Shelter
- Social Assistance (Min. of Human Services)
- Legal Aid
- Transitional House

Comments

The pregnant client who was a resident at the shelter went into hospital to give birth (a boy) and then returned to the shelter. The counselor was happy that H&S was instrumental in helping the woman who was in dire need.

A client of H&S visited Transitional House for assistance.

Clients were referred to other organisations for assistance.

Three children were removed from violent homes after the intervention of the counselor at The Transitional House and the Child Care and Protection Agency.

Child Cases

Number of children seen: 37

Number of females: 9

Number of male: 28

Repeat Cases

Number of repeat cases seen: 10

Number of females: 3

Number of males: 7

Child Abuse Cases

Number of child abuse cases seen: 9

Number of females: 1

Number of males: 8

Types of Child Abuse Cases

Physical: 8

Psychological: 1

Cases not related to Child Abuse

Number of cases not related to child abuse: 21

Number of females: 7

Number of males: 14

Type of Cases not related to Child Abuse

- The children seen portrayed aggressive behavior at home and in school

Relationship of Perpetrator(s) to Client(s)

The majority of perpetrators were identified as male and female parents and one female relative

Delinquency Cases

Number of delinquency cases seen: 7

Number of females: 1

Number of males: 6

Type of Delinquency Cases

- Children were very aggressive (fighting and using abusive language)

Relationship of Perpetrator(s) to Client(s)

The perpetrators were male and female parents and also teachers

Referrals

Number of cases referred: 1

Number of females: 1

Number of males: 0

Referrals made to:

- Child Care and Protection Agency

Comments

One counselor indicated that the violent and aggressive behavior of some of the children seen was due to a lack of parenting, most of them being single parents with absent fathers, and also teachers who did not take appropriate action with regard to the children's behavior.

Another counselor had to call in the Child Care and Protection Agency to intervene in the case of a female student who was not attending school and was experiencing physical abuse in the home after her grandmother had kept her at home to take care of a cousin. The child was removed to a safe environment and was able to return to school.

Children's Group Sessions

School: Vryman's Erven Secondary School

Target Audience: In-school youths

Age Group: 13-17 years

Children's Group

Number of children in group session: 27

Number of females: 6

Number of males: 21

Topics Discussed:

- Self Esteem (a film on Self Esteem Building was shown)
- Positive Attitude
- Anger Management
- Changing Violent Behavior
- Communication

Comments

The sessions were successful with the students participating and asking questions such as: "if your teacher is violent to you what should you do?" The children complained that the teacher called them names and told them they would turn out to be nothing in life.

The counselor discussed the importance of having a positive attitude and told them about how it can help with their situations.

The children did two role plays of events that happen in school and how they should deal with them, along with new information and skills on how to deal with other situations. They also took part in a skit displaying effective communication.

Teachers Group Sessions

School: Vryman's Erven Secondary School

Target Audience: Teachers

Age Group: 22-36 years

Teachers Group

Number of teachers seen in group sessions: 17

Number of female: 10

Number of male: 7

Topics Discussed

- The services of Help & Shelter
- Communication Skills
- Basic Human Rights

Evaluation of the sessions

Questions and discussions took place with regard to the most troubled children.

Several teachers in discussion with the counselor expressed mixed feelings about an incident of violence involving students. The head teacher mentioned that most of the time

is spent disciplining the students, and this was observed by the counselor during the time she spent at the school.

The counselor reported that the teachers expressed the view that the rod should be used in schools and that most parents agreed that teachers should beat students in school whenever the need arises. The teachers felt that most of the students who behave in a delinquent manner live below the poverty line.

The teachers were very interactive and asked questions on the topics discussed. Handouts and a booklet on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights were given to each teacher and discussed. All the teachers said that it was the first time that they had received such material and expressed appreciation for it.

Observations

The counselor observed that teachers spent most of their time in the staff room during school hours setting work for the students, who were then left in the classroom to do their work.

On one visit, the teachers were seen in the staff room during class period.

All the teachers attended at least one session, including the deputy head, who attended the last session.