

HELP & SHELTER

COUNSELLING, COUNSELLING TRAINING & ORGANISATIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING PROJECT

(Funded by CIDA's Gender Equality Program)

Narrative Report 7

Report by: Margaret Kertzious, Project Coordinator

Reporting period: 1st to 28th February 2010

Submission date: 13th March 2010

Project activities comprise:

1. The expansion of our counseling services to Moruca, Region 1 (completed on 15th January 2010) and Leguan, Region 3 (now referred to New Amsterdam, Berbice Region 6) **to continue until 15th March 2010**
2. Building the organizational capacity of 2 Berbice-based NGOs, namely FACT and Comforting Hearts **(completed)**
3. Providing counseling training to the Essequibo Coast-based NGO, Hope for All at Suddie. **(completed)**

Activities Report

Counselling in New Amsterdam, Berbice, Region 6

During the month of February 2010 the counselors had intervention with 4 new adult female and 2 new adult male clients. 1 female adult client accessed the service as a repeat client during the period. There were 3 cases (2 female and 1 male) related to DV. There were 2 (1 female and 1 male) cases not related to DV, which were (1) an assault by an acquaintance and (2) alcohol related problems. One case was related to family relationships where the client experienced problems with the family she was staying with and is now a resident at the shelter. One case of suicide was reported: the client consumed several doses of tablets due to constant physical and psychological abuse. Four clients, 3 females and 1 male, were referred to legal aid; the police and Transitional House respectively.

The sessions with students and teachers

During the month 3 groups of students from Vryman's Erven Secondary School participated in one-on-one and group sessions on 1st, 11th and 15th February. On Monday 1st February 14 students attended the session at Transitional House; on Thursday 11th February 8 students were in attendance at the group session and on Monday 15th February 2010, 10 students were present for the group activity. DVDs on topics such as Self, Anger Management and Motivation were shown and discussed. The students understood the importance of their involvement and were very responsive. Eight to ten students are now working on a skit that portrays gambling in school and the practice sessions are done at Transitional House as a group session. The facilitators were the mobiliser, Eskar Adams, Denzil Crawford from Comforting Hearts, and counselors Karen Gomes and Julian Haynes.

The group sessions with 17 teachers at each session were conducted on 1st, 8th and 15th February 2010. The topics discussed were the services of H & S, Communication and Basic Human Rights. A folder with

all of Help & Shelter's brochures, a handout on communication and a booklet on the UN Declaration of Human Rights (request was made by the teachers for this booklet) were given to the teachers. The issue of violence in the schools (related to articles in the daily news papers) was discussed and teachers aired their views on the matter and on the many incidents that they are witnessing in their school.

There was a lull in activities with the students and teachers due to heavy rainfall on the days of visit during the 3rd week of the reporting period. During the 4th week of the same period 2 incidents of physical assault on students involving a student who had a cutlass in the class were reported to the mobiliser, who did an intervention and the police were called in to deal with the matter, which has been brought to the attention of the Education Department and the School's Welfare Officer. It must be noted that 8 students would normally visit the Transitional House after school in the afternoons and at weekends to be assisted with their assignments and homework.

Monitoring & Evaluation

The relevant forms were available for this activity and analysis of completed forms has been done by the M&E officers.

Project Management

The project coordinator visited the location on several occasions to continue to monitor and to make observations on the service and to advertise the service through the continued networking with the police, Comforting Hearts, and the Probation and Education Departments. Another interview was conducted with a reporter from Little Rock TV station. Financial reports and counselors relevant reporting forms were completed in a timely manner.