

HELP & SHELTER

COUNSELLING, COUNSELLING TRAINING & ORGANISATIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING PROJECT

(Funded by CIDA's Gender Equality Program)

Narrative Report - 15th July 2009 to 31st August 2009

The goals of the project are to:

1. Educate and empower people to adopt peaceful and non-violent means for resolving conflicts in their lives and to pursue healthy relationships based on mutual respect and appreciation of human rights, and
2. Make a significant contribution in rural areas of Guyana to a reduction in the incidence of domestic and gender-based violence and to extending the availability of assistance to victims.

Project activities comprise:

1. The expansion of our counselling services to Moruca and Leguan
2. Building the organisational capacity of 2 Berbice-based NGOs, namely FACT and Comforting Hearts
3. Providing counselling training to the Essequibo coast-based NGO, Hope for All

Activities Report

Counselling in Moruca

This activity commenced with the project coordinator visiting the Region to organize the counselling services of Help & Shelter. After meeting with the relevant authorities and delivery of letters requesting a venue for the conduct of the activity, we were given room 1 of the multi-purpose building in Region 2. A mobilizer was also contracted, whose duty was to synthesize members of the community to visit the location where the counsellor would conduct the session. A total of 7 persons were counselled during the 3 days sessions that were conducted during the month of August 2009.

Counselling in Leguan

Even though officers from Help & Shelter disseminated brochures, posters and fliers about the extended counselling service on 3 occasions to people on the island, the number of persons accessing the service so far is low. A banner advertising the service is on a fence of a popular business place that is situated at the water-front on the Island. So far only 2 persons who were referred by the police accessed the service.

Counselling Training with Hope for All

Objectives:

- To increase participants' knowledge and appreciation of the circumstances surrounding violence against the person
- To strengthen participants' sense of self
- To discuss the issues of human growth and development and their relationship to people's behaviour
- To enable participants to understand the gendered nature of domestic violence
- To equip participants with skills in counselling victims of domestic violence
- To equip participants with frontline intervention skills in working with male perpetrators of domestic violence

- To equip participants with frontline intervention skills in working with children who have been abused
- To equip participants with information and knowledge about working with associated issues such as suicide prevention, sexuality, substance abuse.

Methodology:

Instruction, interactive sessions and the use of different aids, including power-point presentations.

Assessment

Will be done during the course of and at the end of the training

During the planning phase of this activity the project coordinator had met with the executive director of Hope for All; registration forms were delivered for participants to do the formal entry to the program and 12 of these forms were received by the project coordinator. To increase on the number of participants the police were asked to register 2 persons and IDCE Tutor in Essequibo was also asked to identify persons to be a part of the program. This was done and a total of 24 persons had registered for the training that commenced on Friday 14th August 2009 with 12 persons in attendance from 24 applicants including 2 staff members from Suddie Hospital. The training is conducted in the board room of the hospital on Fridays from 9 am to 3:30 pm. Two facilitators/trainers have conducted sessions on four topic areas as per the order of the program guideline the trainers are using. Three sessions were conducted during the month of August 2009. A register is being kept for the purpose of monitoring the attendance record of participants and verbal evaluation is done at the end of each sessions. Participants expressed the enthusiasm and interest in the program and expressed their thoughts of the importance of being a part of this program. The training will end on the 15 January 2010.

Organisational Capacity Building

Planning is in progress and sessions will most likely start during September 2009.

Evaluation

Relevant evaluation forms have been/are being developed for each project activity. Analysis of completed forms will be done by the M&E officers.

Project Management

Project personnel comprises: three counsellors; an accounts officer; 2 M&E officers; a counselling supervisor and the project coordinator. Facilitators and trainers are selected based on the required project activity against a time line as specified on the work-plan.

Margaret Kertzious

Project Coordinator

2nd September 2009