

Help & Shelter / EU
Child Protection Project
Project Coordinator's Report - May 2011

Overview:

This report reflects the most project activity in one month within all the communities to date. It includes the Community Launch of the final target community in Sophia and beginning of implementation activities in Hague and Good Hope. Follow up parenting sessions were held in Zeelugt and the first PTA engagement and group session was held in Hague. A group of youths at the Good Hope Research Centre also benefited from a very interactive session.

Subsequent to the launch of all four (4) target communities, the Project Management Board met for its first meeting during this reporting period too. The project has now taken on board a volunteer, Ms Marissa Massiah whose interest in the project is the monitoring of the evolving Parenting model as the overall impact of the Parenting Skills education is rolled out within communities.

We continued to liaise with the Childcare and Protection Agency (CPA) of the Ministry of Labour, Human Services and Social Security to refer children who are in need of foster care and other services from the Government.

1. To raise awareness of Child Protection issues and alternative ways of parenting in a non- violent environment.

- o *Parenting Skills Session held at Zeelugt Health Centre Thursday 19th May 2011*
- o *Zeelugt Baptist Church women's group on Wednesday 11th May 2011 (see **annex 1**) for report.*
- o *Parenting session Held at Zeelugt Masjid Friday 20th May 2011(see **Annex 2**) For report*
- o *Hague women's group - Parenting session held Saturday 28th May 2011 (see **annex 3**) for report.*
- o *Parenting session with PTA at Hague Primary School (see **annex 4**) for report.*

2. Introduction of standard protocols for care givers - Teachers, nurses, day care staff, by enhancing their ability to recognize and give correct responses in cases of child abuse.

- o *The option of having the nurses that serve closer to the target community for extended training in child care and protection protocol being explored by the Project management Board.*
- o *25 Nurses already trained.*

3. Empowering children and Families to report child abuse and offering of counseling and court support services for affected children.

- o *Counseling sites in Both Sophia and Zeelugt operable. (See Annex 5 & 6), for Child Care Counsellor (CCC) Reports.*
- o *Home visits by CCCs enhancing the method of approach.*
- o *Foster care for Four (4) more children.*
- o *Session for Youth at the Research Centre in Good Hope (see annex 7) for report*

4. Creating an effective network of persons and organizations within the target community communities.

- o *A presentation of the Child Protection Project objectives and topics which form the basis of the Public awareness sessions was also presented at the Muslim Youth League - Leadership Seminar.(see annex 8) for report*
- o *Teachers at the Sophia Launch have committed to engage Schools Welfare Department in a response to children attendance and welfare issues identified at the school.*

Community Launch

*The final community launch of the Child Protection Project was held in Sophia May 1st 2011 (**see annex 9**) for report*

Other Persons reached by the Project to Date:

- *Fifty five (55) Teachers.*
- *106 Parents – Parenting sessions and home Visits.*
- *34 youths (unmarried & without children).*
- *5 Parents have benefited from interventions.*
- *7 (seven) Children placed by the Childcare and Protection Agency in foster care.*

Project Stats:

Statistical Table: Showing the number of Children engaged by the Child Protection Project

<i>MONT H -2011</i>	<i>CURREN T CASELO AD</i>	<i>NEW CAS ES</i>	<i>REFERRED FOR INTERVENTI ON</i>	<i>BE- SAFE TRAIN ED</i>	<i>OTHER SESSIO NS</i>	<i>CASES CLOSE D</i>	<i>TOTA L ENGA GED</i>
<i>January</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>
<i>Februar y</i>	<i>57</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>55</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>115</i>
<i>March</i>	<i>77</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>55</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>145</i>
<i>April</i>	<i>53</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>56</i>
<i>May</i>	<i>53</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>66</i>
<i>June</i>							
<i>July</i>							
<i>August</i>							
<i>Septemb er</i>							
<i>October</i>							
<i>Novemb</i>							

er							
Decemb er							

Most recognizable Project Impact:

- *In response to the overall Report of project action within the community of Zeelugt, the Zeelugt community decided to form an Action Group to address the needs of children within the community and to proactively deal with other social and environmental issues affecting the community. The group comprise of members from the Mandirs, Masjid, the Christian churches, the PTA, the community policing Group and Youth group. A plan of action has been adopted and a subsequent meeting has been planned.*
- *As a result of the Zeelugt Action Group meeting a letter was structured and copied to all the shop owners that seek their assistance in reducing underage children being sold alcohol and cigarettes. The group is also looking at acquiring sings for the shops to display that serves notice of their intention not to sell children cigarettes or alcohol.*

Challenges:

- *Some adults are reluctant to report cases of child abuse because they feel it affects the relationships of close neighbors.*
- *Persons who have reported cases have complained that they have to do so several times before a response is made by the relevant agencies, so they feel that their efforts to help a child is sometimes not worth it.*
- *In some situations where a child is at risk, poverty seems to be a overriding factor that drive the condition.*
- *There are reports that there are cases where a child has not been attending school and teachers are reluctant to find out the reason (s) and would just blame it on a recalcitrant parent, and wouldn't even report the non attendance to the school authorities.*

Forecast of Project Activities:

- *Counseling*
- *Parenting Sessions*
- *Dissemination of Posters and Fliers*
- *Home Visits*
- *Printing of Parenting Handbooks*

Annex 1 Report

Parenting Session – Zeelugt Baptist Church Women’s Group

Facilitator: Colin Marks

Date: Wednesday 11th May 2011

Objective 1. Raising the awareness of Parents and Guardians on the ways of alternative methods of Parenting and non-violent discipline.

Overview

The follow up session with the women’s group was attended by 20 persons (women). The session was very interactive and started off with participants from the previous session giving reflections on any thing learned or what might have changed since the last meeting. Parenting handbooks were shared and there was a request from one of the women for a training manual as the group intended to continue exploring the various parenting topics which the Project introduced. The community Liaison also stated that she would gladly co facilitate whenever the group plans to have other parenting sessions.

Reflections on the last session

The participants were asked to reflect on aspects of the previous session and these were their comments:

- *I think I can now identify signs of abuse and I understand my responsibility to report.*

- *I'm learning to listen more to my children, I'm beating them less now too.*
- *I feel confident to give some advice to other parents who sometimes beat without thinking.*
- *I read the parenting handbook over and over to get the full understanding*
- *I'm seeing signs of how talking more to the child gets them to do what you want.*
- *I'm trying not to shout at my children as I use to, and I'm holding back on beating.*
- *My focus now is on a better relationship with my five (5) children.*
- *My children notice I'm using a different method in dealing with them, so they are listening more and we're getting a closer relationship.*

The facilitator introduced an eight page leaflet on Simple Parent Methods which highlighted

- *Parenting Models – discussing a few ways parent decide to raise their children*
- *Parenting Goals – how to achieve the best results as children grow into adults*
- *Communication and relationships – building strong links with the child.*
- *Role Models – exhibiting behaviors , and attitudes children can follow*

There was in-depth sharing of experiences and interactions as these topics were explored. The facilitator encouraged the group to look at their individual families and find ways of parenting that impact the child's well being and protection.

The session concluded with the introduction of a parenting quiz that targeted the responses of the participants on their choice of action when a situation arises and the child is acting rebellious and confrontational. The multiple choice answers to the ten (10) questions in the quiz reflected some common reactions that the parents in the group found interesting and at the same time it helped them to assess how to make the best decision when dealing with sensitive child/parent situations especially when the child is in the teen years.

Comments at the end of the session:

- This session was much more interactive than the one before*
- Ways of parenting was made more clear*
- The types of parenting models was new to me*
- It's true that both parents need to decide how they will parent their children.*
- I would like see more young parents getting this information*
- I've learned so much, now I need to put it into action*

Submitted by Colin Marks – Project Coordinator.

Annex 2 Report

Parenting Skills Session – Zeelugt Masjid

Friday 20thth May 2011

Facilitator: Colin Marks

Objective 1. Raising the awareness of Parents and Guardians on the ways of alternative methods of Parenting and non-violent discipline.

Overview

This is the third session held at the Zeelugt Masjid. The session was attended by a group of twenty three (23) persons, which consisted of nine (9) males and fourteen (14) females. The topic of focus in this session was self esteem. The participants were attentive as the facilitator explored the process of building self from the early childhood stages to adulthood. The parents in the session after much interaction agreed that a person's self esteem is mostly impacted by the experiences they have been expose to whether they were positive or negative ones. In their final reflections some participants commented that children do need to have good childhood experiences to start the process of building good self esteem.

Building a Child's self esteem

The facilitator gave some examples of how parents and adults who are raising children can help to contribute to a child's sense of value. Positive praising for actions, undivided attention and kind words even when there is a problem, were some of the examples given that helps to build a child's esteem. Some of the comments by participants were:

- Parents who get frustrated can do damage to a child's esteem*
- Sometimes the situation just gets out of hand, but is the child that feels it.*
- Parenting is a real big job*
- Keeping up with all what a child needs is tough sometimes*
- Mothers need the support of the fathers in raising children.*

The discussion of how to keep building self esteem as a child grows was lively introduced as the parents within the group continued to remark on how sometimes they themselves did not quite understand how to deal with a situation, and may have shouted or called a child a bad name. One participant even mentioned how as a child she was treated, and how it influenced how she treated her child.

Participants were then invited to list examples of high self esteem and low self esteem. This exercise then led into the discussion on how to build good self esteem and how it can be recognized and on the other hand the Facilitator gave tips on how to boost one's self esteem. Parents were asked what they think they can do to help a child's self esteem, and these were the responses:

- Children need all the encouragement they can get*
- If a child is low in some areas people shouldn't criticise them*
- Shouting is a way some parents get children to pay attention*
- When the child do something good you got to let them know you're pleased*
- Parents need to spend more time with the children*

Participants were then reminded that child who feels bad about self is most times vulnerable to abuse, because they don't know their self worth.

The responsibility of reporting any instances of abuse of any child was again stated to the group and the CPA hotline number was shared.

Feedback Comments made by Participants

- People in the community now getting to understand what the project is about*
- We want the project to do some children programmes at the Masjid*
- I notice some children get put back in school*

- *I hope we can get sessions like this every month*
- *We still got some youths who have problems, but we have to find a way to reach them.*
- *I learn that we have to treat our children right from the early ages.*
- *We got to teach our children to be proud of themselves.*

Submitted by: Colin Marks

Annex 3 Report

Parenting Skills Session

Women's Group at Hague Back Community

Sat. 28th May 2011

Facilitator: Colin Marks

Objective 1. Raising the awareness of Parents and Guardians on the ways of alternative methods of Parenting and non-violent discipline.

Overview

This is the first Parenting session by the project within the Hague community. It was attended by ten (10) women. The space was provided by one of the community activist who is deeply involved in community social work that affects children and family welfare. The atmosphere was very informal and the sharing and conversation open and fluid.

Interaction

The topics and talking points were Self, Johari Window and Parenting methods. As the persons shared on why they love themselves, it reflected the individual level of self esteem. Sharing and communicating in groups is mentioned as a reason for self love. Another participant revealed that the love of self comes from her independence and ability to face new challenges. Participants also stated that their self love was derived from their ability to cook, sing, do artwork, having a profession and the freedom to make decisions.

The facilitator posited that exploring self was a very important building block as persons begin to fulfill the roll of parents because self worth is built through experiences gained from youth to adulthood. Discussions about the johari window opened up more interactive exchanges, with members of the group sharing personal experiences and lessons learned.

Parenting methods

Explaining the five dimensions of early childhood development S.P.I.C.E, the facilitator implored that parents need to be aware of the stages of child development as they will be better positioned to respond to the child's needs while bonding and communication is strengthened. Another area of parenting discussed is the importance of both parents to agree on the methods they will use when raising the child.

One member of the group stated that parenting duties are not taught but can be learned once the parent understands that a child needs to be cared for, given attention, nurtured and protected as they go through the various stages of development. Other comments that were stated during the conversation on parenting were:

- Parenting is all about spending time with the children*
- Communication with children begin very early*
- Children can't speak properly but they still understand what's going on around them*
- Parents have to be models of the behavior children have to follow*
- Understand parenting is not only for those who have children but also those who have young siblings or live in the same dwelling, because all adults help to socialize the child.*

Session evaluation comments

- I thought I knew all about parenting, but I got more information today*
- This is session that young parents need*
- I didn't know any thing about S.P.I.C.E*
- I learned children need attention, I thought they would learn anyhow.*
- We need more of these sessions around the community*
- I now understand the Johari Window*

Participants were told of their responsibility to report the occurrence of child abuse or any situation that puts a child at risk. The hotline number of the Childcare & Protection Agency (CPA) was shared to all.

Submitted by Colin Marks

Annex 4

Report

Parenting session – Hague Back Primary School PTA

Monday 30th May 2011

Facilitator: Colin Marks

Objective 1. Raising the awareness of Parents and Guardians on the ways of alternative methods of Parenting and non-violent discipline.

A Parenting Skills Education session was held at The Hague primary school for the PTA members. The session was attended by nineteen (19) parents (all women) and two teachers.

The session lasted for approximately 1 ¾ hours. The topics explored for the purpose of interaction and responses were:

Early childhood experiences

S.P.I.C.E

Punishment vs. Discipline

Simple Parenting Methods

Child Protection

Some parents were very reserved on sharing on their early childhood, however some shared on both good and bad experiences they had. They were all very adamant that most of their early childhood experiences were still very vivid in their memories. As the facilitator shared the various aspects of S.P.I.C.E some parents remarked that it helped them to make the connection between the experiences they had as a child growing up and relating to how they are able to recognize and communicate with their children as they now go through their growth process. Parenting was introduced as the avenue to provide for the child, all the ingredients for a good childhood by making the participants aware of what are the

fundamental needs of a child and the rights which need to be guaranteed by the parents or guardians who care, nurture, shelter and protect the child. On the topic of parenting a few parents mentioned that sometimes it was difficult to expose children to one particular style of parenting, when the child is dwelling sometimes with the mother, then another time with the father. Another parent remarked that when she first heard of child rights she thought it meant that parents had to submit to a child but she further stated that she now understands that the need of the child to be protected, fed, sheltered, given attention and health care are provisions that are supposed to be given by parents and guardians even though they are termed as rights. This point was stated when the discussion centered on discipline vs. punishment.

PTA members were then given the child abuse posters which depicted the types of abuse and further emphasized the importance of child protection.

Reporting child abuse in any form was discussed and the participants were told of the responsibility of any responsible adult to report cases of abuse through the Childcare & Protection Agency hotline number. Some parents saw reporting as a very sensitive matter , but they were told that the law was clear on the confidentiality and protection of those who understood the duty to report can help to save a child from trauma, disease or sometimes death.

Verbal Evaluation of Session

- *I learned a whole lot of things, still got to digest it*
- *These are new things now that parents need to know*
- *Never knew that self was so important to parenting*
- *It was good to hear everybody giving their experiences*
- *Teenagers need sessions like this*
- *I never saw licks(corporal punishment) from that point of view*
- *Parents sharing experiences was good*
- *Need to have more sessions like this*

- *I'm going to change a few things, like how I deal with my child*

Submitted by Colin Marks.

Annex 5

Child Protection Project

Report for the month of May , 2011

Counseling:

Number on Case load nineteen (19), One (1) case referred to School Welfare, Number of new cases (0)

Parenting Session

A parenting session was held at Zeelugt Health Centre on May 19th, 2011. A total of sixteen (16) persons attended, fourteen (14) females, one (2) male and the nurse in charge.

The session was approximately 2 ½ hours. We spent time sharing on Positive Parenting, a quiz was given, S.P.I.C.E was re-introduced and a little information on Child Care and Protection Agencies.

A parent shared how she looks forward to try the new things taught. It was shared how difficult at times it may seem when you are changing your behaviour. If as parents all they know is to shout and smack, it would take time and hard work to turn things around. Different approaches will work for different children in families, and the rules change as the children grow. A parent Shared how she have to keep up with technology since her daughter seem to be growing fast and is learning fast too. Another parent was enjoying the session so much she send her partner away with their twin boys so she can be educated on the parenting session. The session further

discussed how teenagers test parents limits set and many times try to cross boundaries many asked what should be done then. The group was encouraged that this is an inevitable part of growing up, teenagers are learning and becoming independent persons, this is not being naughty or disobedient, but it is the only way they can learn and parents need to see through the eyes of the child.

The time was well spent, person shared with Mr. Marks via recordings of their thoughts on the session.

Home Visits

For the month of May a total of eight (8) homes were visited, two (2) homes in the Sophia area and (6) homes in the Zeelugt community. The Child care counselor has been monitoring two boys who were placed in foster care to ensure that they were visiting school.

Impact

The residence of the Zeelugt area are now more aware of the work we are doing in the community and are coming forward asking for help and are also seeking help for their fellow community members.

Community members ask for her son to be enrolled into the school system. The boy has never attended school, since the mother had no birth certificate for him, the CCC intervene and took the family to the relevant agencies so the child is now attending Zeelugt Primary School.

Submitted by

Chabela Lord

Annex 6

Child Protection Project

Child Care Counselor's Report for May, 2011

Counseling:

- *Total Caseload thirty-four (34); eighteen (18) cases are counseling, three (3) cases are monitoring and thirteen (13) cases referred to the Childcare & Protection agency for their intervention.*
- *Thirteen (13) children received counseling.*
- *New case (1)*
- *Two (2) children were referred to the Ministry of Human Services for Public Assistance.*

Home Visits:

The homes of fourteen (14) children were visited.

Parenting Session:

One to one sessions held with five (5) parents addressing issues such as alternative parenting methods, parent/child conflicts and family relations.

Challenges

- *Counselor has to visit the children's homes every week on the day of counseling to remind parents to send their children to the counseling sessions since the parents do not have access to a telephone.*

Case Study

Sally age 13years was referred by her mother Ms Rita for counseling. Ms Rita reported that Sally leaves her home without her permission, refuses to attend school and do chores in the home, she walks the road all day long and stays out late at nights.

Sally lives with her mother, stepfather and four siblings in a small one room apartment which is inadequate for this family. Sally's mother is unemployed and her stepfather is the sole breadwinner and gains employment as a carpenter or seaman depending on which job is available. Sally's father does not support her and she rarely sees him even though he lives a few villages away.

In the initial counseling stage, Sally said that she did not wish to attend the Muslim school because the school teaches mostly about religion and not academics and she preferred to attend a government school. Sally's parents are not Muslims; one of the Community Mobilizers who previously taught at the school, placed Sally there since at that time she was not enrolled in a school.

Sally revealed that she is frequently subjected to verbal abuse from her mother and she feels uncomfortable with her stepfather; sometime last year she woke up during the night and found him holding her hands.

Planned Intervention

- *Exploring of safety methods to empower Sally from sexually abuse.*
- *Counseling Sessions addressing the importance of school attendance, self esteem, problem solving and positive decision making.*
- *Address issues and concerns raised by Sally with Ms. Rita.*

Ms. Rita said that Sally told her about the incident relating to her stepfather and she had spoken to him. She had since taken steps to prevent any such situation occurring again.

Sally was subsequently enrolled at a nearby community school.

Further into the counseling process, Sally revealed that her mother gives her siblings lunch to take to school and she do not give lunch or money. She has to do domestic work at the homes of persons in the community to get money to buy her own clothes and necessities.

Sally's home was visited and her mother said that if Sally does not help with the chores, she will not give her any food. A session was held with Sally and her mother on a Child's Rights and Responsibilities, and alternative parenting methods.

At first both Ms. Rita and Sally were resistant to the behavioural change process; Ms. Sita continued to verbally abuse Sally and Sally refused to do chores. It was therefore recommended at the Counselor's meeting that the case be referred to the Child Protection Agency for intervention. However this decision was delayed as a result of a visit to the home and Ms. Rita reported that Sally is helping her to do the chores and is now staying in the

home. However, Ms Sita is struggling to adapt the alternative parenting methods.

Monitoring and counseling continues with Sally and her mother. Efforts are also being made to have Sally's father support her.

Prepared and submitted:

Karen Shaw

Child Care Counselor

Annex 7

Report

Youth Interactive Session

Research Centre - Good Hope

Tuesday 24th May 2011

Facilitator: Colin Marks

Objective 3: Empowering children and families and offering support services

Overview:

This session at the Research Centre in Lusignan/Good Hope community was mobilized by Ms. Susan Chung and the Centre Director - Ms Sandra Shivdat.

Thirteen (13) youths attended and their ages ranged from 11 to 17 years. These young people were currently out of school but were engaged on a daily basis in remedial, computer and other classes provided at the Centre. The group was very interactive and anxious to learn new things to build their capacity.

What is Self Esteem

The topic of self esteem was introduced to the youths after each one of them was asked to give their names and to state some reason why they think they were important. In some cases when a participant was shy to answer, another person was asked to tell the whole group why they think that person was special. Some statements were:

- I am beautiful and interactive*
- I have good behavior and attitude*
- I'm a good reader*
- I like to smile*
- I'm a sports person*
- I like to do art work*
- I'm a good cricketer*
- I have a wonderful family and I like to study*
- I like to sing*
- I'm alive and happy*
- I like to quite and humble*

The facilitator then asked what they thought was self esteem and after some opinions they all agreed that self esteem was really self value and everyone should value themselves.

Building Self Esteem

The discussion was then centered on how self esteem is built. The facilitator then gave examples of the process of building self esteem from early childhood. Experiences, achievements and praise added to encouragement from parents, teachers and others who are around as a child grows. The youths were asked to identify signs of high self esteem and also the signs of low self esteem.

Actions that build self esteem were also discussed. The youths were then introduced to a demonstration of how to protect one from negative words and actions that attack one's self esteem. The demonstration is called Kids Power Trash Can.

One of the youths helped with the demonstration. She stood up, putting the left hand on the left hip a circle was formed at the side and they were told that circle area was the Trash bin. They were then told that whenever a negative word was spoken to them they would make the action like catching the word then act out the part of throwing it in the bin which is the circle formed by the hand on the hip.

This was a fun activity, and the youths (who admitted that persons do speak bad words or called them names) were told that everyday they can go home and throw all the negative words or names into the "trash bin"

The facilitator then read a statistical report on the status of children in the world, which focused on Child Health, Child population, diseases that affect children worldwide and child education.

Alcohol use/abuse

There was in-dept conversation on the use and abuse of alcohol, the facilitator explained that the danger in alcohol use was the high level of carbon going into the body which affects the functions of the brain. The role of alcohol in influencing bad judgments which causes accidents and also abusive situations in families was discussed. The group briefly discussed the various types of abuse and posters were distributed to all the participants and staff of the Centre.

An ice breaker activity that entailed the group forming a line without using words or any talking to communicate. Once they were asked to form a line with the first person being the youngest and the last person being the oldest. Next they had to form a line based on the month and date of their birthdays starting from January.

Comments at conclusion

- ***We learned a new way to protect our self from negative words and actions***
- ***This was a good session we need you to come back***
- ***We learned about child abuse***
- ***I like the part about cigarette & alcohol***
- ***I like doing something without talking***
- ***I learn about the billions of children in the world***
- ***I enjoy the whole session, its good to talk about things***

Other comments were recorded by audio device.

Submitted by Colin Marks – Project Coordinator

Annex 8

Report

*Project Coordinators Presentation
Muslim Youth League – Leadership Seminar
May 5th 2011
Good Hope Masjid*

Ms Zeena Zaman was one of the coordinators at the Leadership Seminar Good Hope. Ms Zaman is one of the Community stakeholders who attended the Good Hope Community Launch and had committed to being part of the community awareness sessions that the Project proposed.

The seminar was attended by approximately 110 persons and the other presenters were Mr. Shameer Hussein, who made a presentation on leadership and Former Minister of Human Services, Indra Chandrapaul whose presentation was based on the role of women in leadership and capacity building.

The Child Protection Project Coordinator's presentation lasted approximately 50 mins. An outline of the Project's pillar objectives were stated and some of the topics briefly covered were child Protection, Reporting child abuse, early childhood development (S.P.I.C.E)¹ and discipline vs. punishment. The Coordinators challenged the community to look at the problems faced by children in the community square in the face and to understand that any course of action to repair the breaches must have the children's protection as a dominant factor. He posited that because child protection is everybody's business parents must lift the state of their awareness with regards to how they parent, and also understanding the needs of the child from a rights

¹**S**ocial **P**hysical **I**ntelligence **C**reative **E**motional (S.P.I.C.E) is a methodology used in the parenting module

based perspective. With this in mind non-violent socialization is a worthy alternative that teaches respect and strengthens communication, care and nurturing of children. Pain breeds fear and fear breeds rebellion, on the other hand discipline teaches and opens up opportunities for long term impact on child /parent relationships. The coordinator concluded by stating that he noted the list of challenges the families faced but for the children to benefit from a safe and caring home environment then there needs to be community action and it should start with awareness, and the interaction will help to strengthen everyone's resolve to be part of the solutions.

Submitted by Colin Marks

Annex 9

Sophia Community Launch

The Sophia Community was held on Sunday 1st may 2011, at The Auditorium of the Pattensen Multipurpose Community Centre

Overview

This was the final Community launch of the Child Protection Project The main stakeholders from the community and residents were invited and the Project Officer and Project Coordinator made presentation on various aspects of the Project . Ms Pamela Heywood from the Child Protection Agency also made a special presentation on the functions and services offered by the CPA. This community the larges of the four target communities, already had two counseling sites and the larges number of children exposed to the Be-Safe training. Sophia also benefited from the Pickney Project.

Present were:

Names

*Colette Marks
Tamika Lewis
Sandy Messinger
Maylene Jordan
Louis Jordan*

Contact / Organization

*Youth Club Member
Teacher
Teacher
Parent
Committee Member PCDC*

Narine Khublall
Shuniza Samuels
Pamela Barratt
Malini DeNobrega
Shafena Inshan

Carmen Patterson
Nieshelle Patterson
Wanda Hytmiah
Adacia Hytmiah
Kristen Macklingam
Winifred Toney
Carol Forsythe
Pamela Heywood
Barbara Henry
Sasha Pollard

Pastor / chairman CPG
Parent
Parent / women's group member
Community Representative
Community Representative
(Zeelugt)
Assistant Secretary PCDC
Centre Committee Member
Parent
Youth Club member
Press – kaiteur News
Teacher
Day Care Administrator
Child Protection Officer
Community Representative
Social Worker

1. To raise awareness of Child Protection issues and alternative ways of parenting in a non- violent environment

Project Implementation:

- Parenting sessions with PTAs
- Youth Group sessions
- Parenting sessions for Women's group
- Dissemination of literary and non-literary materials

2. Introduction of standard protocols for Health Care givers and other professionals to recognize child abuse, enhancing their ability to response to incidences of child abuse.

Project Implementation:

- Community Health Providers engagement

3. Empowering children and Families to report child abuse and offering of counseling and court support services for affected children.

Project implementation:

- *Providing Counseling services*
- *Court support for children*
- *Introduction to Be- Safe kit*
- *Parents counseling and support*

4 .Creating an effective network of persons and organizations within the target community communities.

Project implementation:

- *Working with community groups that existed during the Pickney Project and other new groups along with external agencies to find common grounds for collaboration that support Child protection and welfare.*
- *Inter - community focus groups that examines lessons learned and strategies and models that work to benefit child welfare.*

Community Expectations & Feedback

The areas of concern voiced by the persons at the Launch were listed:

- *Slow response of the CPA to reports*
- *Parent in the community manipulate children into relationships for personal gains*

- *Children exposed to abstract poverty and no support seems to be available*
- *Children forced to take care of younger siblings, while mother out.*
- *Truancy very evident and linked to underage sexual activity*
- *Teachers at the schools seem not to recognize signs of abuse*
- *Drugs and children in a common environment*
- *Increase campaign of awareness and focus on the most devious parents*
- *Teachers can help to target parents with the children who they know exist in high risk home environment.*
- *School Welfare needs to play a major role at the Primary school in the Community.*
- *Some Teachers are indifferent to the problems the children face.*

Recorded Reflection

Other comments were recorded by audio device.

Mobilizing

Teachers and a social worker at the Launch have committed to find a common response that will help the most vulnerable youths, but they need support.

Colin Marks – Project Coordinator