

Coordinator's Update

I would like to welcome two new programs to the Network of SATCs. North Bay and Burlington were recently funded to provide service to victims/survivors of sexual assault. Burlington will also provide service to victims/survivors of domestic violence.

HIV Prophylaxis for Sexual Assault Survivors

Our request to provide HIV prophylaxis to our clients at risk for HIV exposure has been funded! This is a joint effort of the Ontario Women's Health Council, and the Ministry of Health. The project will not start immediately as we need to enhance the evaluative component of the project. We anticipate hiring a physician/researcher with expertise in HIV prophylaxis to both manage the project and guide us in many areas such as risk assessment, management of side-effects of the prophylaxis, information to collect for evaluation, etc.

An Advisory Committee representing the Network will work with the physician/researcher throughout this 2-year project. I'll update you as work progresses.

Annual Conference for SATCs: April 11, 12, 13 2002, Toronto Colony Hotel

The Conference is intended to provide you with practical training in the care of children who have been sexually assaulted. Funding to your program will ensure that we are providing the best possible service to our pediatric population. The cost to attend the conference is minimal as we want to train as many staff as possible, so mark your calendars and take advantage of this unique opportunity! We are charging an 'up front' registration fee which will be reimbursed to you after the conference. Hotel and travel expenses will also be covered. Your Coordinator has the details for this conference - the brochure will be available in January, 2002. We have not yet decided how to provide training for those who are *not* able to attend – we may develop a reference manual for each Centre as a guide.

Ontario Network of SATCs Sexual Assault Video and Woman Abuse Video

Have you seen our videos yet? They have been sold to all programs at a minimum cost (*each program received 1 free copy of each video*), to be used when you are training. A manual accompanies the Woman Abuse video that you can copy and give to participants. Thanks to Anne Finigan (*London*), Casey Cruikshank (*Kitchener*), and the team members of the Waterloo Region Sexual Assault Treatment Centre who participated 'on camera' in the production of the video. Special thanks to Cynthia Colby (*Creative Communications*) and Pepperbox Productions for working with us to produce this. Cynthia and Pepperbox Productions (*as well as their numerous friends and family members who appeared in the videos*) donated much time and effort to this project to ensure we would have a quality product at a really low cost!

Best wishes for a merry Holiday Season and a Happy New Year!

**Sheila Macdonald R.N.
Provincial Coordinator**

Revised SANE Medical Directives...CONFERENCE SUCCESS

During November, 'Family Violence & Awareness Month', our Regional SDATC held a successful conference "Partner Assault: Where Do We Go From Here?" It took place in the auditorium of OPP General Headquarters in Orillia and was filled to capacity - with a considerable waiting list.

Keynote speaker, Ontario Chief Coroner Dr. James Young, presented an in-depth review of the May/Illes partner assault-murder inquest. Many speakers from Simcoe County and Muskoka covered topics related to partner abuse such as: the role of women's shelters, elder abuse, dating and youth violence, the effects of children witnessing violence, violence and the disabled, same sex partner abuse, police response, Simcoe County Domestic Violence Court Project, partner assault counseling for men, Victim Witness Assistance Program, Minjikaning Native Healing & Restorative Justice response to violence, screening for abuse in hospital settings.

Deputy Minister of Culture & Citizenship and the Ontario Women's Directorate, Bill Allen, provided a brief address highlighting the adverse effects of partner assault, as did our local M.P. Garfield Dunlop. Many agencies provided displays highlighting their partner assault services, literature, and statistics.

Conference participants were from many agencies and the community: police, women's shelters, nursing and retirement homes, hospitals, CAPC & young moms, high-school students, crown attorneys, victim services, counselors, CAS, and many other agencies who work toward ending violence. Feedback from them was sensational and overwhelmingly positive. Our Regional Sexual and Domestic Assault Program plans to host a partner assault conference on an *annual* basis.

CONTACT US FOR NEWLY REVISED 'SANE' MEDICAL DIRECTIVES

Recently, our program began successfully sharing our newly revised SANE medical directives with *all* treatment Centres in Ontario, and the new Avalon Sexual Assault Treatment Centre in Halifax, Nova Scotia. A great deal of work went into the research of our SANE directives including collaboration with community and health care partners throughout Simcoe County and Muskoka. We are extremely pleased with the overwhelmingly positive response from all Centres. We would like to clarify once again, *all* Treatment Centres are welcome to use our SANE directives in *any* manner that would enhance the practice of SANEs, as well as increase the standard of sexual assault care and treatment provided by SANEs and received by all sexual assault clients. If you have not received a copy of our SANE medical directives, please call Norah Holder, Program Coordinator at Soldier's Memorial Hospital in Orillia 705-325-2201 extension 3166.

**Norah Holder, Program Coordinator,
Cathie Beacock, Domestic Assault Outreach
Simcoe County & Muskoka SDACC**

Internet Searches.....TECHNOLOGY TIPS

I am enrolled in an Internet Literacy course and would like to share some of the tools used for successful Internet searches. To narrow or broaden a search different techniques are applied. It is important to note that the Boolean words AND, OR, NOT must sometimes be capitalized

- " " groups words together
- () groups words together
- + includes a word for the search
- AND** includes a word for the search
- OR** includes a word for the search
- excludes a word for the search
- NOT** excludes a word for the search
- * includes all forms of a word (truncation)

Boolean connectors are the words **AND**, **OR**, **NOT**. Using **AND** with 2 words or phrases gives you results with both words. e.g. The phrase: *assault AND teenagers*, will result in documents that contain both words. Some search engines use the plus sign: *+assault +teenagers*. There is no space between the plus sign and the word.

The word **NOT** *also* narrows your search giving you records that *exclude* a specific word or phrase. For example: *assault NOT teenagers*, will result in documents that contain the word 'assault' but *not* those with the word 'teenager'. Some search engines use the minus sign: *assault -teenagers*.

The word **OR** expands the results by searching all records that use *either* word, doubling your responses. Remember **OR** means 'more' - your search will result in more hits.

Use quotation marks or parentheses to search for phrases. e.g. "*date rape drugs*" will result in documents with that phrase. Parentheses can also be used: (*date rape drugs*). Combinations focus your search even more: (*sexual assault*) **AND** (*teenagers or adolescents*).

Truncation is another search tool. By typing in *teen** the database will search for other forms of the word 'teen' such as teens and teenagers.

To read more about this go to:

www.lib.berkeley.edu/TeachingLib/Guides/Internet/SearchEngines.html#Boolean

Don't get stuck in a rut using the same old search engine. It's important to try different search engines using the same key words. Not all search engines give the same results. For more information on search engines go to: www.searchenginewatch.com

Another helpful tip is to remember to add sites that you want to re-visit to your "Favourites" file folder in your Toolbar at the top of your window. Remember to add our Network's URL: www.satcontario.com/ ! Happy Surfing!

Marg Stevenson
Kenora SATC

The Sex Trade.....FOCUS ON CLIENT CARE

At a recent team meeting we invited a sex trade worker for insight on how to best provide health care to women who live her lifestyle. This woman showed tremendous courage by coming to speak to us.

We heard how addictions can be overwhelming, becoming a woman's only focus - that STDs and unplanned pregnancies were not always as important as scoring that next 'high'. We learned that violence was a major issue of concern. Most important, she explained how kindness and compassion could make an enormous difference in the lives of the women we work with.

Our guest explained she had learned at an early age that violence and intimidation sent powerful messages. She said learning other strategies to deal with conflict was hard, since violence played such a big part in her early years.

She challenged us to remember the reason we do this work: we are health care professionals who provide care and support for individuals who experience violence in their lives. We can do the most for our patients not by judging their life choices, but by supporting and listening to them. We have to realize that sometimes coming to a hospital can be very frightening, especially to people who think they won't be believed, because of who they are and what they do. Because of the nature of their lifestyle they are also at risk for repeated episodes of violence. We may see them on more than one occasion. They need to know they will always be treated with the utmost respect...and that they will be believed.

Following our guest's presentation, Mary Ferber described an experience she had caring for someone who had worked in the sex trade. Mary has been a nurse on our team for 1-1/2 years.

"A crack cocaine addict who had been sexually assaulted the previous night was coming in from another ER in the city. I arrived in our ER to find a sobbing woman, Sue* who was totally disheveled, clean, attractive, well spoken - completely devastated by what happened.

Her story began not unlike others I had heard before. She had been sexually abused as a child by her step-father, then ran away from home at fifteen. She began using street drugs and had gone through several relationships. Her four children were taken away and sent to foster homes despite several attempts to 'kick the habit' at various rehab facilities. Sue had been holding down a full-time job and had been clean for many months. She had met someone 'nice' and they were trying to make a new start, when the urge to use crack came over her. She somehow arrived here in Hamilton from another town and searched out a bar, where she knew crack would be available. She willingly got into a truck with this huge, dirty guy and went to an abandoned warehouse. After smoking crack, she tried to leave. The man grabbed her, chained her arms up, and forced her to perform oral sex before he let her go.

Sue tried to call police (*the non-emergency number*) to no avail. After walking the streets all night, she ended up in the emergency room of another hospital here in Hamilton. Now she was here with me. We sent off swabs and blood, and packaged her clothing before giving her prophylactic antibiotics. At this point in time Sue did not want police involvement and was still shaking and terrified.

When all was said and done, I put her into a taxi, to be sent back home. She hugged me with a 'don't let go!' kind of hug. I think the hopelessness and devastation in her eyes will stay with me for a long time. It reminded me that sometimes circumstances in a person's life may lead them into cycles of self-destruction that they don't have the strength or support to change."

**name has been changed to protect identity*

It brings to mind the famous phrase, '*There but for the grace of God, go I*', meaning any one of us could easily be in similar circumstances depending on what life throws our way. It is all well and good to say we provide non-judgmental care, but to practice it we must challenge the myths about sexual assault, and who is at risk of sexual assault. We must believe that we are here to help, in whatever small way we can - that we *can* make a difference.

**Nancy DiPietro, Nurse Facilitator
Hamilton SA/ DVCC**

On Reporting to Police.....RESEARCH PROJECT

I am currently working on obtaining my Master of Social Work degree on a part-time basis at McMaster University in Hamilton. As part of my studies, I am conducting a research project that will examine the experiences of young women, aged 12-15 years old, who have been sexually assaulted, and made a report to the police.

Within my clinical practice, I have observed that the clients within this age group often report a recent sexual assault to police. During counseling however, these same young women have often described how re-traumatizing this experience is/was to them.

I will be conducting several focus groups to hear about the experiences of these young women, and I will be collecting quantitative data in the form of a questionnaire. I am hoping to gather valuable information about this age group, and how we can best serve the unique needs of this population. I also want to share my results with our local police departments, and provide feedback about how these young women view their experience of reporting a sexual assault.

This research project has been a constant learning experience. If anyone has any suggestions of literature I should examine, feedback, or suggestions about this study, please send me an email at vvopni@thc.on.ca. I am hoping to complete this project by the end of August 2002. I would be happy to share my findings with the Network, and send a copy of my report to anyone who is interested.

**Vicki Vopni, Social Worker
Mississauga SACCS**

Positive Changes.....CENTRE UPDATE

We are proud to announce the new title of our program: "Grey Bruce Health Services - Sexual Assault Care Centre". The former title of our host site went by the wayside following the amalgamation of 10 area hospitals. Grey & Bruce Counties now have 3 separate corporations, responsible for 12 individual health care sites.

In February 2001, Mary Webb resigned from GBHS-SACC to assume other work opportunities in Barrie. Mary devoted 9 years to the program - from being the key player of the original proposal...to what are now the existing services of SACC. Good-bye wishes came from many who worked directly and indirectly with her over the years. There is no doubt that it was GBHS-SACC's loss, and Victoria's Hospital's gain!

By the end of April, Mary's position was filled by Ruth Rigbey MSW RSW. Ruth has had a long & varied career both in the GBHS & in the community - from counselor to conference organizer. She has brought speakers to our area such as Dr. Robert Solomon and Dr. Donald Meichenbaum. Her ongoing enthusiasm is sure to be an asset to SACC!

In September 2001 Caroline Tykoliz, program manager of 3 programs at GBHS including SACC, assumed the role of Director of Mental Health Services for GBHS. Caroline has tremendous leadership qualities well suited to this new position. Since our funding comes from Mental Health, we look forward to continuing to work with her in her new role. In the meantime, the current staff will keep on course with the program, reporting to interim manager, Karen Croker, until the new manager is selected.

To inform you on our services:

SACC is an out-patient community service that provides individual counseling in any of the area's 10 hospitals. Counseling is available to survivors (*12 & older*) of a recent sexual assault. Individual counseling is available to adult survivors of sexual abuse. SACC's ability to offer service to males remains unique in this geographical area. We offer short-term counseling based on best practice empowerment models.

Our counseling services include support, education, information...as well as preparation in areas such as court, Criminal Injuries Compensation, and victim impact statements. It will also include support people in the process, as requested by our clients. We provide consultative services to other health care providers/agency staff/networks, either individually or via committees, alongside other services such as School staff, Police, VAP/VWAP, Women's Services that are funded by the Ministry of the Solicitor General, Public Health. SACC has funded the SANE training for a number of emergency nurses in Grey & Bruce Counties. and we hope to see the development of a strategic plan to better meet the needs of victims, as well as the needs of SANE trained nurses.

At present, SACC is awaiting the arrival of the DVP & looks forward to learning from other SACC/SATCs with DVP. Please contact either Ruth or Marcia for any other information we can provide to you about our program!

Marcia Halliday
Grey Bruce Health Services SACC

For Your Information:

Upcoming Events

Women's Health Forum and Expo

WHEN: January 18 & 19, 2002

WHERE: Metro *Toronto* Convention Centre

Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner Training

WHEN: February 18-22, 2002

WHERE: *Toronto*

Annual Conference for Sexual Assault Care and Treatment Centres

WHEN: April 11, 12 & 13, 2002

WHERE: Toronto Colony Hotel, *Toronto*

2002 National Conference on Health Care and Violence

WHEN: September 26-28, 2002

WHERE: *Atlanta, Georgia, USA*

International Association of Forensic Nurses Scientific Assembly

WHEN: October 9-13, 2002

WHERE: *Minneapolis, USA*