

# JANUARY 2005 - Network Newsletter

## Provincial Coordinator Update

As you read this, you will be rested and relaxed following a festive holiday season - or at least that is my wish for you. The following is an update of specific activities happening within our SA/DV Network.

### **HIV Project**

We are nearing completion of the HIV PEP project. A final date of January 31, 2005 has been set for the last client enrolment in the project. That means final data will be collected until the end of February 2005, assuming that a client started on HIV PEP on January 31. As of February 1, 2005 your program needs to determine whether to continue with the current protocol, or provide an alternative protocol in regard to HIV PEP. With the project finishing, so does the funding for the PEP medications. We (*the HIV PEP research team*) are trying to secure bridge funding for the medications that would allow the current protocol to continue within the participating sites. Efforts to secure long term funding will be based on the results of the data analysis and subsequent final report, and on recommendations which will be completed by late summer/early Fall 2005.

While the HIV PEP Research team is assisting in the effort for bridge funding, it is not their responsibility so we (*the Network*), are establishing a committee to work on this task if current efforts are unsuccessful. If you are willing to help us, please let me know. Committee work will begin in January.

### **Drug-Facilitated Sexual Assault (DFSA) Study**

This study is underway in 7 of our Centres. Funded by the Ontario Women's Health Council, it is a collaboration between our Centres and the Centre for Research in Women's Health. The project will be developed over the next 6 months with implementation at the beginning of May 2005. The purpose of this study is to better define the issue of DFSA as well as to develop an appropriate response for our clients that we can potentially implement across the province. We recognize that women/men who have experienced DFSA have many 'unknowns' such as: "Did drugging occur?", "Were they assaulted, and how? by whom?" Our intention is to develop a response that can assist our clients in addressing their concerns.

### **Paediatric Initiative**

We will be strengthening our local, regional and provincial networks for the paediatric service in an effort to provide support, information, and expertise to each other in the care of children who have been sexually assaulted. This initiative is in the early stages but the goal is to improve services for children across the province. Six sites have been designated as regional Centres in order to facilitate networking ability. These sites are: Toronto-HSC, London, Hamilton, Sudbury, Thunder Bay and Ottawa. Tanya Smith R.N., MSCN., N.P. from the Hospital for Sick Children will be providing leadership in this initiative.

Our website is finished (*for now - we are taking a break!*). It is [www.satcontario@.com](mailto:www.satcontario@.com). The site has been redesigned for professionals, with referral to other sites for victims/survivors. Please use it, review it, promote it.

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

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### BEING PROACTIVE... Violence Prevention in School

In the spring of 2003, the Sioux Lookout Assault Care and Treatment Program Coordinators collaborated with local children's services providers and schools to identify gaps in services for school-aged children. The results from these collaborative efforts indicated a need for ongoing and consistent primary prevention programming for school-aged children.

In the fall of 2003, the ACT Program secured a social worker to develop and deliver violence prevention programs to school-aged children. To date, the Support and Prevention Services for Youth - a service of the ACT Program - has provided prevention programs on 'bullying' to Junior Kindergarten to Grade 3 students in 3 schools in Sioux Lookout. Targeting bullying through puppets, students learned: the different forms of bullying; how bullying affects others; the role bystanders can play; and how to deal with bullying in school, on the playground, in sports, and in the neighbourhood. Information on bullying was sent home to parents. These bullying workshops were positively received by students and teachers.

During May 2003, workshops on healthy and unhealthy relationships - with a focus on partner violence and sexual assault prevention - took place with grade 8 students at 3 schools in Sioux Lookout. Students learned the different types of abuse through the *Teen Power and Control Wheel*, and about healthy relationships by examining the *Teen Equality Wheel*. Pizza lunches were provided.

To date, the ACT Program's Support and Prevention Services for Children and Youth has formed community partnerships with: local schools, First Step Women's Shelter, Children's Aid and Children's Mental Health Services, Child and Family Health Network, and the Community Policing Committee. As this service is still in its infancy, partnerships with schools and service providers will help to enhance violence prevention programs.

As our local schools do not have consistent programs for children concerning sexual abuse primary prevention, a future goal is to see this happen for *all* primary grade students in Sioux Lookout Schools. It is hoped that, through consultation with school/parents councils, school Principals, and the Child and Family Health Network, this program will come together.

A grant application was also submitted for our community to receive '*SafeTeen Powerful Alternatives to Violence Prevention*', for grades 7 to 12. The *SafeTeen Program* is based out of Vancouver. It provides 'gender separate' training on: sexual harassment/sexual assault, building and respecting boundaries, bullying and self-concept, and drugs and alcohol. Partner Violence is the focus, and the assertiveness training model provides a violence prevention language that can be integrated into community, school and family culture. There is also a section which addresses gender stereotype and how 'power and gender', 'gender and violence' impact each other.

**Lisa Bailey, Social Worker**  
**Sioux Lookout ACTP**

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### **Dryden Highlights - ...FIRST STEPS**

This past year was exciting! Beginning with the approval and initial set up of our program, it continued with being involved with the Ontario Network of SA/DV programs, experiencing first hand the excellent work being done throughout our province.

On August 1st, 2004, our program began delivering services to individuals 12 years of age and older. While client numbers are low, we've been busy with various staff education sessions and program promotion in our community.

Recently, we had the Centre for Forensic Sciences down to provide us with education on the *Ontario Sexual Assault Evidence Kits* and toxicology. These sessions were well received by the nurses from Dryden, Sioux Lookout and Kenora. Diedre Bainbridge also provided excellent training sessions through the North Network. Video conferencing proved to be both cost and time effective allowing *all* of our nurses an opportunity to participate. *Thank you Diedre!* For 2005, further development of our program, staff, and community education will remain priorities.

I would like to thank Coordinators across the province - and Janelle! - for the support and information you provided. You are a phenomenal group of women! I can't say enough about how helpful you've been, or how much I appreciate the support from this Network.

**Tania Galeotafiore, Coordinator**  
**Dryden SA/DV TCP**

### **Add 1 Social Worker - Mix Well - ..INCREASING CARE**

Upon reflection over the past year - how our program and service has grown - it becomes clear how fortunate our Team is. Especially at this time of year, when we've been surrounded by the happiness of family and the joys of friendship. It causes us to be ever more vigilant in our attempt to provide care, comfort and compassion for the people our programs look after...people who don't always have these basic fundamentals in their day-to-day lives - basic rights that we take for granted.

Our program and the people we serve have indeed been fortunate to have the addition of a social worker on a part-time basis within the facility. Heather Robinson joined our program last February to provide direct counselling services, and to set up the Social Work Agenda of the Sexual Assault /Domestic Violence Treatment Program

Previously all counselling (*other than immediate acute*) for people we treated was done off-site - at either the local Shelter (*for adults*), or the Dufferin Children's Aid. Both of these local agencies continue to be a vital part of our program, especially for long-term and on-going individual and group counselling programs. Having a social worker directly associated with our program and within the hospital, however, has allowed us to provide real time counselling assessment needs, follow-up, and necessary referrals for ongoing needs. Heather attends our community agency committee meetings with the Coordinator, helping to strengthen and re-enforce the bridges with the various community agencies within smaller rural centres, that are so vital in our circle of care .

Referrals by the obstetrical unit to the Domestic Violence Program social worker have increased, and screening by the in-patient staff provides for better 'patient centred' care. Nurses on our Team appreciate

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the skill, support and clinical intervention a social worker brings, and what a good unification it has been with our follow-up HIV PEP program. The addition of a social worker to the program has also helped to provide a continuum of safety planning, supportive counselling to patients and staff, and assistance with linkages to community services. The patients/clients have reported that this comprehensive assistance has been vital in their recovery process. We are thankful to be able to offer this comprehensive service to the patients/clients and staff.

**Ronnie Inglis, Coordinator**  
**Orangeville SA/DVP**

## CENTRE FOCUS... Positive Changes

Our program has undergone many changes in the past year. After the resignation in June '04 of Maureen Sullivan-Bentz, it was management's decision to implement a new co-leader model. To that end, acting program manager Jo Anne Gerrard R.N. was appointed clinical leader of nursing and in September '04 Belinda Holmes MSW, RSW was hired as clinical leader of social work. Our program has wanted to expand to include a social worker, so Belinda is a welcome addition to R.V.H.

Our paediatric program continues to grow. With our additional funding, we expanded our contract with the Phoenix Centre for Children & Families to ensure a timely response to child victims of sexual assault and domestic violence. All of our paediatric trauma referrals are now contacted within 24 – 72 hours and depending on the acuity, trauma counselling begins immediately.

Also new this year - jointly funded by the Assault Response Team and Family & Children Services - is a part-time social worker in our Emergency Dept. Neisha Stoparczyk MSW has 12 years experience with F& CS in our area and is available to the ER staff for all paediatric emergencies. In addition, a screening tool for all ER patients 16 and under has been developed to increase staff awareness of potential abuse/neglect cases. Due to Neisha's role, a number of child abuse and/or neglect cases that may have been missed, have been identified and dealt with.

We, the members of the Assault Response Team, are proud of our efforts and hope to continue our work in the future.

**Belinda Holmes, Clinical Leader - Social Work**  
**Renfrew ART**

*"Never believe that a few caring people can't change the world. For, indeed, that's all who ever have.*  
**Margaret Mead**

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## Collective Care ...GAINS & LOSSES

One of the great things about the Peterborough Sexual Assault/Domestic Violence program is that it's part of the Women's Health Care Centre. The Centre has a holistic 'client centred' approach to women's health. All programs work together and share resources and services. This is what makes us so unique, and allows our programs to provide integrated services – 'one stop shopping' so to speak. By sharing costs for support staff, nurse practitioners, space etc. we are able offer flexible and timely health care to women.

The Peterborough program has never been a 'stand alone' program within the hospital. With the recent addition of the Domestic Violence Response and Paediatric Sexual Assault Program, the amount of individuals we are seeing has increased dramatically. Before the new programs were in place (2002-03) we saw about 42 women a year. This year at the 8 month mark we have seen 79 clients. Projecting this figure we will probably see 115 –120 people this year alone. This is an increase of approximately 173% from 2 years ago. All this was possible because of the support of the Women's Health Care Centre. The fact that we can quickly access nurse practitioners, easily partner with other programs within the Centre, and have full-time support staff, all played a role in the development and success of our program.

So there is the success story, but now comes the sad part. In order for our hospital to balance it's budget they have proposed that the majority of the Women's Health Care Centre's services be cut from the hospital and shifted to other community agencies. Essentially, just a few of the Women's Health Care Centre's programs and well-skilled staff will be left. If the MOH agrees to these cuts, the SA/DV program will remain but the Women's Health Care Centre will be a shadow of it's former self. Our community is very concerned about these proposed changes and is starting to take action. We are keeping our fingers crossed that the MOH will see how invaluable our Centre is to this community and the many women we help everyday.

**Bobbi Martin-Haw, Coordinator**  
**Peterborough, SA/DVP**

## FOR YOUR INFORMATION...

### Upcoming Events

- ◆ The Women's 'Health Matters' Forum and Expo

January 14 & 15, 2005

*Metro Convention Centre, Toronto*

More details at [womenshealthmatters.ca](http://womenshealthmatters.ca)

- ◆ Paediatric Training

January 19, 20, & 21, 2005

*Holiday Inn on King, Toronto (Mirvish Theatre District)*

- ◆ Annual Conference for SA/DV Treatment Centres:

*'Working on the Edge'*

April 14 & 15, 2005

*Delta Chelsea Hotel, Toronto*

Speakers include:

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Author Babette Rothchild (*The Body Remembers: The Psychophysiology of Trauma and Trauma Treatment*  
&  
*The Body Remembers Casebook: Unifying Methods and Models in the Treatment of Trauma and PTSD*)  
Author Rebecca Campbell (*Evaluating Services for Survivors of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault*)  
Email: [atemp@nas.net](mailto:atemp@nas.net)