

JULY 2007

## Provincial Coordinator Update

### Nursing Education

We're underway in developing our SANE training into an *on-line* format. This will enable nurses to complete the didactic components without having to travel to Toronto. An Advisory Committee has been established to oversee the project. As well, a content expert (*nurse*) will be contracted to develop the learning modules, and will work with a web-based technology company to ensure that the training is interactive and interesting. This is an exciting venture for us that we hope will meet the learning needs of nurses across the province.

At the same time, we are also developing the nursing orientation into an *on-line* format. Interactive learning modules of content that are components of every program's nursing orientation will be developed. The *on-line* learning will be supplemented with local *in-person* orientation. Our hope is to make information readily accessible to nurses, both for orientation as well as review, when needed.

### DFSA Study

The DFSA data collection finished as of April 30, 2007. Thanks to the Guelph, Kenora, Renfrew, Ottawa, Hamilton, Scarborough, and Toronto programs for their participation. A data analyst has just been hired who will ensure that the data is complete, and will then analyze the results. Completion for this project is expected in late fall 2007.

### Child Pornography on the Internet

Thanks to diligent policing efforts, an increasing number of children who are being violated in this way are being identified. The OPP have indicated that there's a shortage of trained counselors to provide support to these children and their families. As a result, we (*as a Network*) will be providing financial support for one social worker from each program providing service to the pediatric population, to attend a conference on this issue in September. The conference is being organized by the Toronto Child Abuse Centre with funding from the Ministry of the Attorney General.

### Thank-You...

...to Heather Husson (*Humphries*) for her commitment and dedication throughout the HIV PEP study and subsequent 'Knowledge to Action' project funded by CIHR. Heather was Project Manager on both projects and was instrumental in keeping the projects on track and organized. She did a terrific job in the development of HIV PEP materials that we are all now using. Heather has resigned from the Women's Research Institute, Women's College Hospital, and accepted an exciting job opportunity in Hamilton at McMaster University.

Have a relaxing and enjoyable Summer!

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

JULY 2007

## **SURVEY SUMMARY... Internet Involvement**

At two conferences in May and June 2006, a research survey was completed to gather current information from healthcare clinicians to better understand past involvement with internet facilitated child exploitation cases. Approximately 129 respondents participated in the survey: 55% were nurses and 26% were social workers. The majority (65%) had between 1-10 years of experience in the sexual assault field.

71% noted they had past cases with potential relationship to the internet and other technologies. 61% stated they do not regularly ask questions regarding internet and/or technology when providing sexual assault services. Questions also focused on education, awareness, and prevention activities. Overall, respondents had little (44%) and some (35%) knowledge of the internet in general. Many (89%) were interested in a 1-day education session to address this knowledge gap. Half of respondents have a police contact in their community, and many (57%) would like to participate in the development of a multidisciplinary team. Over 90% felt that practice guidelines in this area would be helpful.

The data has not yet been translated into a formal paper format, however results have identified educational and practice issues for professionals in this field. Questions relating to the internet are being developed for health care clinicians to consider asking victims during sexual assault evaluations.

A multidisciplinary conference *'Responding to Child & Youth Victims of Sexual Exploitation on the Internet'* is being held on September 23-27 in Collingwood. The goal is not only to enhance the knowledge of participants but to develop practice guidelines for professionals working with these victims and their families.

Future activities from this study include the development of surveys for youth involved in internet facilitated sexual abuse, to better understand the issues from *their* perspective. As well, we hope to further develop the role of the health care provider in assisting law enforcement in the age determination of children and youth in sexual exploitation images.

**Tanya Smith**, SCAN Program  
The Hospital for Sick Children

**Dr. Roberta Sinclair**, Manager Research and Development  
The National Child Exploitation Coordination Centre

**Dr. Susan Bennett**, Child and Youth Protection Program  
Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario

## **Empowerment Through Art ... CELEBRATING SELF**

Since March, 2007 our SACC has worked with local Art Therapist, Maria Parella-Ilaria of *OpenART studios*, to provide additional support to our clients. She provided art therapy sessions to a group of young women (*15-18 years old*) at one of our local high schools.

This group represented a cross section of 'at risk' young women, and were not identified as being sexual assault victims. Their school counselor was aware, however, that most had been exposed to sexual violence in their families of origin and/or in their own intimate relationships. This counselor also participated, being someone for students to connect with during and after the sessions.

The theme for these sessions was *'Body Mapping ~ A Topography of Self'*. The goal was to provide these women with a way to connect to, and celebrate, their inner strengths. Over the 3 sessions, they explored their perception of self, created a treasure box to hold the strengths found in their map of self, and, with the use of clay, created a personal totem to

**JULY 2007**

remind them of their newly found or rediscovered aspects of themselves and their essence as women. After each session, participants processed their art, identifying new perspectives about themselves.

The sessions were a huge success, with the women requesting more and longer sessions, as well as opportunities to engage in further self-exploration. Each woman appeared to find personal value in the art processes and spoke of the positive impact these workshops had. We look forward to hosting an additional series of sessions in another high school in the fall of 2007!

**Donna Mansfield, Counselor  
Sault Ste. Marie SACC/PAC**

## **CHEO - Caring for the Young ... CENTRE FOCUS**

CHEO (*Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario*) provides services to children and adolescent victims of sexual abuse, and has done so for many years. Children began to be seen in the late '70s in our ER. To facilitate the work of CAS, an historical sexual abuse clinic was created in the mid '80s. As the need for psycho-social intervention became obvious, funding was secured to provide therapeutic follow-up, now provided through the Mental Health Patient Service Unit. The creation of the Network allowed us to enhance the quality of services we offer to the children and families we work with.

Following the announcement of training this fall on child exploitation, we want to reflect on our own experiences. We've seen an increase in cases where the internet played a role. My first case was 10 years ago: 3 children forced by their father to perform different sexual activities, which he filmed and placed on the Internet. The children presented with many issues and like other children involved in pornography, reacted to having their pictures taken or being filmed. They, however, had no understanding of the implication of the Internet. The children we've recently seen presenting similar history are often very young. In fact, the average age for children involved in internet pornography is 3. However, as these children grow up and understand the implication of the Internet, one has to wonder what impact it will have on their traumatization.

Other scenarios we've also seen more frequently involve older children and teenagers lured to perform sexual activities via webcam, or to meet 'their new friend' often in a hotel room. As the youths were befriended by the offender, trusted them and developed a relationship, they often do not see the exploitive part of the relationship. They react with anger when parents and police intervene. As an example, we're currently involved with a 13-year old girl befriended by a 30-something male. After she went missing, her parents traced communication on the Internet that led to her plans. Police were notified, they intervened, and the man was arrested and charged. However, the young girl is still angry about their interference and refuses to testify against her 'friend'. What will be the impact of this on her?

With the fast development of new technology, many questions are raised and we are faced with another challenge: we must protect our children from these new kinds of exploitation.

**Brigitte Richard & Suzanne Marcotte, RSW, MSW  
Ottawa CHEO Abuse Trauma Team**

JULY 2007

## COMMUNITY CARING... **One-Stop Care for DV**

In Durham Region, a committee comprised of local agencies, is working to develop a program to deal more effectively with domestic violence. In the fall 2005, police officer Tracey Marshal, watched *The Oprah Winfrey Show* with guest Casey Gwinn from San Diego. His initiative is the *Family Justice Centre* (FJC). Using a one-stop shopping model FJC brought community agency representatives together in one building linking them with a centralized, coordinated computer. Women dealing with domestic violence register at the front desk and are then linked with all the services required without having to leave the building. The idea of having a similar program in Durham has been evolving ever since.

Our new committee went to visit Kitchener/Waterloo's similar program and came away excited at the prospect of bringing this to the Durham Region. Since then, the committee has developed a mission statement, terms of reference, and a project charter. They've lobbied for financial support from all levels of government and recently received funds from the Attorney General. The committee hosts monthly information sharing meetings in order to facilitate agencies to work closely together.

On June 12<sup>th</sup> of this year they held a community forum which was attended by over 250 people. Dr. Dianne Benoit of the Hospital for Sick Kids presented on the effects of witnessing domestic violence, as well as the effects of neglect and emotional and verbal abuse on children. It was a very informative and enlightening morning which left people wanting more.

**Shirley Burnett, Program Manager  
Whitby/Durham DV/SACC**

## In The News

**FIRST WEEK OF JUNE DECLARED  
'SEXUAL HARASSMENT AWARENESS WEEK'  
McGuinty Government Acting To Prevent Violence Against Women - June 2007**

QUEEN'S PARK – The McGuinty government has declared the first week of June as *Sexual Harassment Awareness Week* to increase awareness of sexual harassment and to honour memories of all women who have been victimized.

“*Sexual harassment in our society must not be tolerated,*” said Minister Responsible for Women’s Issues, Sandra Pupatello. “*With the declaration of this week, let’s all dedicate ourselves to preventing sexual harassment in all areas of Ontarians’ lives.*”

The government is spending over \$190 million annually on preventing violence against women and providing supports when violence does occur. This includes more than \$82 million in new funding committed under the four-year Domestic Violence Action Plan, which is providing better community-based supports, implementing public education and training strategies, strengthening Ontario’s criminal and family justice systems response, and providing better access to French-language services.

“*By working together, we can create a better and safer future for women across the province,*” said Pupatello. “*Women have the right to live free from the fear of violence.*”

**Ontario Women's Directorate News Release**

JULY 2007

# Awareness Is Important

How aware is *your* community: of the services *you* offer, to *whom* you offer them, what actually *constitutes* sexual assault or domestic violence, *how* you can be accessed?

It's important to have *year-round* community awareness to be as effective as we can be - as we *need* to be. The first thing that comes to mind, of course, is how to afford it. Well, there are some things that don't cost anything but time, and are necessary for a successful Awareness Plan:

- **Press Releases:** 3-4 times a year - note your last year's statistics, show latest trends in your area, laud community partners for their help, etc.
- **Letters to the Editor:** comment on timely news articles, commend the justice system for good decisions, suggest solutions for problems - in doing this, try to highlight positives before noting negatives
- **Articles in Community Magazines:** there are free magazines for seniors, teens, parents, traveling, etc. all which lend themselves to awareness articles
- **Speaking Engagements:** at schools, churches, service groups, community centres, etc.

To refresh these tactics, choose a new annual focus each year - seniors, teens, internet safety, etc. - and write/speak around that, so your media isn't receiving information in the same way every year. Budget for 2-4 custom radio PSAs per year as well, and your community is continually reminded you are there - through eye *and* ear - *affordably!*

For more information or for assistance on increasing local awareness, feel free to contact me: (519) 744-1355 or [cynthiapcolby@sympatico.ca](mailto:cynthiapcolby@sympatico.ca).

**Cynthia Colby**  
(Creative Communications)

## FOR YOUR INFORMATION...

### Educational Opportunities

◆ **Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner Training**

*September 17-21, 2007*

Arranged through your Program Coordinator

◆ **Responding to Child and Youth Victims of Sexual Exploitation on the Internet**

*September 24-27, 2007*

Blue Mountain Resort, Collingwood, ON

[www.tcac.on.ca](http://www.tcac.on.ca)

◆ **International Association of Forensic Nurses Scientific Assembly**

*October 17-20, 2007*

Salt Lake City, Utah USA

[www.iafn.org](http://www.iafn.org)

◆ **Annual Conference for SA/DVTC's in Ontario**

*March 27 & 28 2008*

Sudbury, ON

Information Forthcoming