



## Notes for Discussion Group for the Community Health Advocate Project

### Herstory of Project

This project was developed to do the following :

- **Expand our reach** - *to communities that we have not been able to reach very effectively using current means*
- **Wider-spread advocacy** - *to 'get the word out' about women's health care, empower women to access better health care, and be better able to lobby for the changes that are needed at the grass-roots level. We needed a better understanding of what the issues are to advocate and lobby effectively*
- **Provide a new direction** - *for the VWHC as a whole. Our current means of advocacy are only reaching a small population. In order to defend our existence, we needed to move to an additional way of reaching women about health issue. .*

In the past, it was discussed that the VWHC would embrace this project as a new way of operating - forging into the future with extensive health advocacy. The overall vision of this project would be supported by all the committees working in synch towards a common goal. (For example, the Education Committee would take on the some of the tasks of training and manual development, and would respond to the needs identified by the CHAs for future initiatives.)

### STAFF

This project was going to be staffed by :

- a full-time coordinator
- a contractor to develop the manual
- two trainers to develop the training sessions and facilitate the training



## ∞ Current - where we are now with the project?

### STAFF

The project was in reality staffed by :

- One part-time coordinator/trainer (20 hours per week July 98 - March 99)
- One contract trainer (15 hours per week for 3 months)

### Flow-Chart of the duties of project staff: (July 98 - January 99)

- Review history
- Formulate plan
- Interim report for V/R HB
- Outreach to community groups for input and to gain their support
- Research for manual
- Promotional materials for CHA recruitment developed and distributed
- Recruited 12 advocates
- Develop manual
- Coordinator hired, orientated, and supervised second trainer
- Developed training plan
- Trained 12 advocates
- Follow-up with development of advocacy plan for each CHA

### COMMITTEES

The Info Centre Committee has been involved a bit over the past few months. (Coordinator attended meetings, gave presentations, and received help in manual research and promotion of VWHC through information cards.

There is no active CHA or WHIN committee to support project.

### V/R HEALTH BOARD

Final project report due at end of January 1999. VERY extensive report that must include our plans for the future of the project.

### CHAS

There are 12 CHAs getting started in their communities. All will be active by the end of the month, and most are active already. They will volunteer for this project approx 5 hours per week

### FOCUS FOR NEXT THREE MONTHS

- Getting CHAs comfortable with role
- Responding to their needs
- Manual enhancements
- Monthly meetings with CHAs
- Continued community outreach and partnership development
- Planning for next phase of project
- Securing further funding with V/R HB



## Future of Project

### FUNDING

Vancouver Richmond Health Board will evaluate the project and inform us by March 31<sup>st</sup>, 1999 if we will be receiving further funding. (Extensive report must be in by January 31<sup>st</sup>, 1999)

***In their report outline there is a focus on attaining additional funding for the project to supplement the V/R HB money. How should we handle this?***

### OVERALL VISION

Given our mission, our commitment to this project, the scope of the project, and the realities of the volunteers at the Collective,

***What role should this project fill at the VWHC? What are we willing to commit to?***

### STAFFING

***What should we request in terms of funding and what staffing would be needed?***

***If we request a full-time staff, what will be the duties and responsibilities? How would this person help integrate the CHA project with the other committees of the VWHC?***

***What are we going to do to ensure that the project momentum does not get lost in turn-over of staff? (ie after March 31<sup>st</sup>)***



## VOLUNTEERS

***Do we need a CHA Committee for volunteer support?***

## VWHC COMMITTEES INTEGRATION

***Do we want integration of the various committees to support the CHA project?***

***If so, HOW?***

## FURTHER RECRUITMENT, TRAINING, AND SUPPORT

***What should we be committing to in the future? (ie. just training and materials? training, materials and support? extensive outreach? extensive lobbying effort?)***

***What support are we able to provide if we have no staff?***

***What kind of support are we able to provide if we have part-time staff?***

***What kind of support and follow-up can we provide with full-time staff?***