

Community Health Advocate Report

Report to the Steering Committee

January 12th, 1999

Submitted by Brenda Kent, CHA Coordinator

This month I be furiously working on a year-end report for the Vancouver/Richmond Health Board due January 31st, 1999. Caryn is helping me with current and future budget issues. I will be finished the final draft for the report early for any feedback before submission. **We will not find out about funding for the next year (April 1999) until the end of March 1999.**

Evaluation

Tamara FP, Anna-Lisa and I sat in on a couple of meetings with the Van/Rich Health Board about the evaluation for the project. Diana Ellis will be doing the evaluation and had developed an evaluation plan and tools with the input from these meetings. I think it will be an excellent process that will help with this project for the future, as well as help the Collective with future evaluation strategies! Thanks to Tamara FP and Anna-Lisa for attending these meetings with me.

CHA Updates

The first CHA meeting (post-training) will be held on Monday, Jan 11th. Collective members are welcome to attend as observers at these monthly meetings. Anna-Lisa and Caryn will be attending Monday's meeting. Contact me if you are interested in attending future meetings.

After the meeting, I will have more information about how everything is going out there in the communities. I will provide an oral report at the Steering Committee Meeting.

Discussion on Future of CHA

There was a focus group discussion on the future of CHA for the Collective on Jan 4th, 1999. It was attended by Anna-Lisa, Caryn, Marion, Lynn, Roberta, and Angela. I will include the handouts that I provided for consideration. The questions were discussed and thought was given to the future of the program.

There was overall support for the project and how it fits with the VWHC. Its seems to be accepted as a great way to de-centralise information and bring it to the communities that need it. It is also a great way for the VWHC to get research about the health care issues of women in



a variety of different communities.

Some thoughts that came out of the meeting :

How Does the CHA project 'fit' with the Collective? How can we make it a more integrated project?

- Somehow look at a marriage of the InfoCentre with the CHA project because there is a direct 'fit'
- Have the information we gather from the CHAs distributed throughout the Collective to all committees so that each committee can be influenced by the needs that are identified.
- Find out ways in which we can open our doors to a more diverse population of women. Perhaps this project will help identify some barriers that we may have - how can we be more inclusive?
- Would like to see the CHAs involved in the Collective as a whole and to be volunteers members - on the volunteers list and involved in special events

What about the future of CHA?

- We could use the info we get from the CHAs for a larger lobbying effort
- Focus should be on training and not anything bigger than that.
- More integration with the InfoCentre
- Next year, focus on one more training session with 10-12 new CHAs, continuing to support the current CHAs
- Ask the Van/Rich HB for funding for one full-time or two part-time staff
- Make this a success and perhaps in future they will come to us to develop the database of health information (HER - Health Information Resource)

What if we don't find out about funding until March 1999? We may have to hire a new coordinator, which is a process that could take 2 months. What do we do in the two months that there may not be a coordinator?

- Perhaps CHAs could support themselves more fully
- Felt it was VERY important that we do not lose contact with the CHAs for two months - they are counting on us for support, and we need to hang on to them as volunteers. We can not let them down
- Angela was interested in volunteering for a short term during that time to keep the contact between the VWHC and the CHAs. Roberta may be able to help out as a volunteer also. Thanks to both of you!

If anyone has any comments or additional thoughts about these questions, contact me! I would



welcome the discussion.

In addition to CHA stuff...

- I facilitated an Education Session on Fertility Awareness on Sat, Jan 9th. 10 women were present and we brought in \$35 in donations
- I will talk to the InfoCentre volunteers at their next meeting about the manual and what the CHAs are doing so that they know how to refer phone calls
- Will be volunteering for the Bingo in Jan
- Got the newsletter out in December after a few fights with the Maximizer database!! Lynn did a great job at layout again and thanks to all for their articles, recipes and editing assistance!

Brenda's hours until March 31st, 1999 :

Monday's and Thursday's (and required evenings) for a total of 16 hours per week

