



Report for the Steering Committee
February 9th, 1999
From Brenda Kent, Community Health Advocate Coordinator

Sorry I have to miss the meeting. I am in Ottawa with my sweetie, but I am unfortunately not going to be skating on the canal as initially planned. Darn knee. Ah well...it gives me a very new perspective!!

☞ University of Victoria Student

Please welcome **Sarah Harrison** to the fold. She will be here until the end of March, helping out with CHA and the InfoCentre. WELCOME SARAH!!

☞ Project Funding (FOR YOUR INFORMATION)

We found out some great news last week :

We got our funding extended until the end of Sept 1999!! Now, this is not a renewal of funding, but we are able to sustain it with staff and other necessities over the summer. We should know by then what our future holds....will we be able to do this all over again? Oooo I hope so!

☞ International Women's Day Booth (ACTION REQUESTED)

Could someone please tell me when and where the booth is happening so that I can inform the CHAs? So far, all I have found out is a bit vague, and I really need to be clear what I am asking them to do, if I am asking them to sit at the booth. THANKS!

☞ CHA members of Collective (ACTION REQUESTED)

I would like to sign up the CHAs to be collective volunteer members, but I would like to pay for their membership fees out of the CHA budget. What does the steering committee feel is a reasonable contribution to the membership budget for 10 Community Health Advocates within the scale of \$0 - \$25? (Please take into consideration we bought \$300 worth of books from the InfoCentre and the project budget contributed almost \$9000 to the fixed costs of the VWHC last year.) *Yes...I am short on money in my weenie budget.*



☞ CHA Reduction.... (DISCUSSION PLEASE - SARAH)

We have lost 2 CHAs to jobs and traveling. **Sheila Gamblen**, the advocate for mental health consumers, has gotten a full-time job and doesn't have it in her schedule to fulfill the commitment to CHA. **Mercy Kimari**, advocate for African women, is going to Africa for three months, and is unsure of what will happen when she gets back.

So, we are down to 10 CHAs. Not bad, none-the-less it is a loss.

What does the Steering Committee feel about the following : Mercy suggested that she pass on her advocacy learnings to another woman in her community to take over the advocacy role. This came up at the CHA meeting last Monday also. What do you all feel about that? I have mixed feelings - apprehensive because she did not get the initial 16 hours of training. But if there are more situations like this, and we may lose more CHAs, perhaps we can do a mini-training session for these CHAs and use the other CHAs as mentors. Some guidance would be appreciated.

☞ POSTERS (FYI and ACTION)

Please take some posters and brochures for your communities, doctors offices (maybe), schools, office, etc. We need to distribute these posters widely and wisely. Also, if anyone passes by any community centres or neighbourhood houses, could you drop some off? (If you do that, please just let me know where you have taken them so we don't send them out. THANKS!

☞ CALLING ALL ARTISTIC PEOPLE!!!! (ACTION REQUESTED)

There is a showcase event for the CHA project (see attached) and I we need to do a poster outlining the project. I would love some assistance on a sunny Sunday afternoon (or a weekday) in putting this together. Please leave me a message if interested! Thanks.

☞ Other things that have been keeping me busy

- Meeting with the Evaluation Committee of the VRHB
- Meeting at the Centre of Excellence : Women's Health Information Advisory Grp
- Budget committee meeting at VWHC
- Staff relations committee meeting
- CHA monthly meetings (Jan 11th and Feb 1st)
- Promotional brochure design and production
- Getting Sarah up-to-speed (not to difficult!)