

Abstracted Annual Report 1996

1. Hosted a forum in May to discuss the creation of a Community Coalition for Environmental Health Concerns. This allowed for an ongoing interaction between the communities dealing with environmental issues and those working around women's issues and a more coordinated approach to developing an action plan around environmental toxins.

Improvement for the Next Year

to get a grant that will enable us to pilot an action around breast health & toxins

2. We continued to sponsor the development of Core Women Care - a group of women from the downtown east side who have documented the needs of street level women. Positive Women's Network, Sheway, Downtown Eastside and Women's Health Collective workers continue to be involved in this work.

Improvement for the Next Year

to lobby regional health board to implement the recommendations put forth by the women

3. Women's Health Information Network

We have been working with province wide organizations around collaboration on the development of resource database. We continue to work with women's centres to develop a training workshop on basic computer use & access using our database as a tool. We have currently received funding from the Centre of Excellence for Women's Health to develop the last stage of software.

Improvement for the Next Year

to implement our community health advocate program to enable women from across the greater Vancouver area to use the WHIN system in their community
- implementation of WHIN in libraries & community centres

Educational Workshops

4. We continue to refine our workshops around menstrual cycle awareness in cooperation with local highschools & neighborhood houses and have added a workshop series on sexuality for these groups.
5. We will be holding a forum in January around women's health issues and the regionalization process in conjunction with the Everywomen's Health Clinic
6. We will be holding a series of workshops around women and depression in May that will draw together women's organizations dealing in this area.

Research

7. Centre for Excellence around Women's Health

We continue to act as a partner in this group to ensure that comprehensive research projects to examine violence against women in the health care system are carried out and to insure that a truly participatory research model is used when research is done concerning women living in poverty & homeless women following the model set up by Core Women Care.

Improvement for the Next Year

to get more women's grassroots organizations included in the workings of this group to offset the present academic bias.

Removing the barriers & increasing access to our programs & services

1. We have continued to work with individuals from specific communities (homeless women, mental institution survivors & Muslim women & breast cancer survivors) that we have not been accessible to.

Improvement for the Next Year

We will be implementing our community health advocate program that trains women around the basics in reproductive health and how the health care system works, so that they can go back to their communities and help women from that community in their own language or from a specific cultural perspective.

2. We have received funding to run our community health advocate program.

Improvement for the Next Year

to stabilize the funding for this program through the regional health board.

3. In order to combat the societal ills perpetuated upon women we actively engaged in lobbying and advocating on women's behalf around the systemic sexism, heterosexism, ablism & classism in the health care system. We also provide resources & information to enable women to advocate on their own behalf.

Improvement for the Next Year

we will be training women from the Muslim community, the lesbian community and the downtown eastside to be community health advocates

3. Operating on a Participatory Model

All collective members are required to go through an intensive training. After this training the structure of the collective allows that all members; board members, staff and volunteers; have equal power and voice in decision making around organizational change.

1. We have changed our membership responsibilities to enable women to volunteer at the level that is appropriate for them.

Improvement for the Next Year

we are training volunteers to mentor other volunteers in the areas of office management and library resource development.

2. Reassessment of structure that enables issue specific groups to work through the collective.

Improvement for the Next Year

need to develop policy that will insure that the these groups can better fit into collective process.