

Community Health Advocate Update January 1999

GENERAL INFO

- I will be calling each of you every two weeks to maintain contact, see how you are doing, and answer any questions/needs.
- Feel free to contact us, *or each other*, for support and information
- Roberta will make a list of advocacy organizations so that you can refer clients, or call for information/support

VANCOUVER WOMEN'S HEALTH COLLECTIVE CONTACTS

- Brenda will be the main contact at the Collective regarding the project from now until the end of March. She is in the office Monday and Thursday, working 16 hours per week. Roberta will be here until the end of January, and calls can be directed to her until that time.
- Please use the Administration phone number to contact us : 736-4234
- If you have a health information question that another staff person or a volunteer could answer, or help you work through, call 736-5262 for health information. If you need assistance as soon as possible, *call either line and leave a message*. A staff or volunteer will get back to you as soon as possible.
- Also remember that you can rely on each other for support!

EVALUATION

- ∞ The Vancouver/Richmond Health Board will be conducting an evaluation of the project thus far. All CHAs will be included in a 'Focus Group' sometime in March. You will be asked a series of questions about the project and your role.
- ∞ This evaluation is being done to gain insight into how community-based projects like this can answer bigger questions about women's treatment in the health care system. The evaluation is also to look at how to make this project and training better.
- ∞ A selection of 4 of you will be asked to participate in an **interview** with the evaluator. The interview will be about an hour long and will take place at the end of February or early March.



FUNDING STATUS

- ∞ We will know by March 31st, 1999 if we get further funding for another year of this project.
- ∞ Brenda is writing a report due at the end of January to submit to the Health Board. The Health Board will base its funding decision on this report. We all know this is a really important project - we just have to convince the health board that this project is important for them.
- ∞ Since future funding is not guaranteed, and we want to continue to support you and train new advocates, **we are requesting a one-page letter from each of you** outlining your **plans**, your **partners**, **type of advocacy**, **how many women** you feel you will be helping each month/week, and **why you feel this project is essential** to women in BC. Brenda would like this letter in by next Monday (January 18th, 1999) to include in the report. **Thank you!** CALL BRENDA FOR CLARIFICATION OR ASSISTANCE.
- ∞ I would love it if any of you were interested in reviewing the draft report when it is ready to offer feedback and suggestions. ANY VOLUNTEERS?

LIST OF NEEDS / RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- From all of the contacts and discussions you will have with women in your communities, and your partners, you will probably start seeing some pretty clear patterns in the needs that are not being met in the health care system.
- We will be asking from you a "LIST OF NEEDS" or your own list of "RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES" that reflects the needs identified from women in your community.
- We are looking for this list by the **end of March, 1999**. This list that you will be producing in March will likely change as time goes on, so we will be asking you to review your list periodically. This list can be used for your own purposes to raise awareness if the issues you discover, and can be used to inform the Health authorities about the needs that are not being met. We can discuss each list in the CHA Meeting in March!



PROMOTION

- ∞ **Brochures** are ready. There is a space on the back for the specific contact information for each CHA.
- ∞ We can print up stickers for you with your specific information for the back of the brochures. Please tell Brenda or Roberta what you want on the sticker - When are you available for advocacy? What phone number? Location? What population of women are you advocating for?
- ∞ If you are doing a translation, send the translated paper copy of the brochure to us for photocopying. We can add the graphics/logos here.
- ∞ Please review the rough copy of your advocacy plan (from your meeting with Roberta in December). Please correct any errors and make changes to your plan, and send back to us ASAP. We need to provide our InfoCentre volunteers with your advocacy info so they know where they should send people to who need advocacy.
- ∞ Posters are in the works - they will be done next week and mailed out to you. HOW MANY should we get done?

NEXT MEETING

Possible dates :

Monday, Feb 1st, 6:00 - 8:00pm

Monday, Feb 15th 6:00 - 8:00pm

Wednesday, Feb 17th, 6:00 - 8:00pm

