

GHARP HIGHLIGHTS!

VOLUME 1 ISSUE 5

SEPTEMBER 2007

**SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:
AS OF
AUGUST
2007**

- 28,700 persons reached through A&B Programs
- 45 Service outlets providing the minimum package of PMTCT services
- 10,260 Pregnant women received HIV counseling and testing for PMTCT and received their test result
- 992 Individuals provided with HIV-related palliative care (excluding TB/HIV)

**INSIDE THIS
ISSUE:**

- Positive Living— HBC at work in Linden 1 — 2
- Focus on Help and Shelter 2
- Private Sector Collaboration— GT&T, M&CC and GHARP 3
- GHARP Spotlight—Dr. Navindra Persaud 4

Conference of the Americas

Dmitri Nicholson, Youth Challenge Guyana's HIV Program Manager recently returned from attending the White House Conference of the Americas. Individuals were proposed to attend this event and Dmitri and Dr. Leslie Chin of IPED were both proposed and subsequently selected to represent Guyana.



Dmitri Nicholson, YCG's HIV Program Manager with First Lady Laura Bush at the recently concluded White House Conference of the Americas.

This one day conference began on July 9th with a plenary session hosted by President George Bush. In attendance along with the two Guyanese selected were representatives from Guatemala, Brazil, Belize and the United States.

During the first session, best practices from different countries were explored in the areas of community education, micro financing and health.

During the plenary session Dr. Chin and Dmitri gained some insight on how they could enhance some of the local micro enterprise activities which are community driven. Dr.

Chin cited developing aqua-farming or assisting in acquiring capital. Dmitri stated that Youth Challenge Guyana offers a youth skills program and with the insight gained during this session Dmitri on his return to Guyana has met with YCG's program staff to develop a stronger sustainability component via the Private Sector.

Following the morning sessions a luncheon was hosted by First Lady Laura Bush and during this time there was another opportunity to meet with the other country

representatives working in the area of micro-enterprise, youth literacy (education), and health development

In the afternoon session Dmitri participated in the session dealing with health. They looked at strengthening community health support networks. Some best practices were shared on the way in which research was crucial to establishing small businesses at the same time that they were improvements in community health. In Bolivia's rural communities for example where people cook with open fires and where the people developed pulmonary problems, they were able to introduce wood burning stoves with external exhausts away from living spaces.

Major challenges were explored in terms of networking while dealing with cultural and language barriers and economic differences between Guyana and a number of other countries.

Positive Living—HBC at work in Linden

During a visit to Guyana earlier this year by Melanie Steilen and Eric Mortensen of Cicatelli Associates Ltd., in addition to visiting the NGO's for TA, they had the opportunity to visit a few HBC clients in their homes. Accompanied by Dr Karen Boyle of USAID/GHARP and the HBC volunteer/worker from

Linden Care foundation, they made 6 home visits and 1 hospital visit.

The following is a brief overview of a few client visits and the enormous impact HBC is having on PLWHA's in Guyana.

Our first visit took place at small hospital in Linden. This young woman with AIDS had to be hospitalized due to her deteriorating condition. She was being seen a few times a week in the home, but was unable to stay there due to a flea infesta-



Positive Living—HBC at work in Linden continued.....

tion. The HBC workers managed to find temporary shelter for her children while the home was being fumigated and their mother gained some strength back. The HBC volunteers and Nursing Supervisor make visits to her while in hospital and assist with bedside care. They are presently planning on safe ways to bring her back home with her family.

The second visit in Linden, was to a young woman and her 2 year old son who are both living with HIV. This woman lives with her husband, who has AIDS, a 16 year old daughter who is HIV-, her mother in law and the 2 year old son.

The HBC volunteer has worked closely with her husband for the past 18 months and recently with her and her son. The 2 year old

was just diagnosed with HIV at 18 months.

The volunteers accompany the family to the HIV treatment center and noticed that they were having difficulty administering the son's medication. They now make visits 2 times a day (8AM and 8PM) and administer the medications to the son while teaching the family about the importance of medication adherence.

They are constantly assessing the home situation as to who would be the best adult to assume this responsibility. The husband at times is unreliable due to alcohol consumption. The mother at times feels the child does not really need the medications and the mother in law has a tense relationship with the mother.

The HBC nurse is now working with the 16

year old sister to assess her ability to administer the meds along with the mom and grandmother.

This NGO works fantastically as a team with 2 nurses available for clinical oversight and support. The new RN Supervisor has taught the volunteers to use a nursing care plan model to assist with client care. Components of the plan are: Assessment, Intervention, Outcome and Evaluation. They meet regularly with the entire team and are trying to forge better relationships with the local hospital staff.

*Submitted by Melanie Steilen, RN,BSN, ACRN
Director Nursing Education, Cicatelli Associates Inc
Erik Mortensen, NP, MSN, ACRN
Consultant, Cicatelli Associates Inc.*

FOCUS ON—Help and Shelter

Help & Shelter was formed to provide social services complementary to the legal services provided by the Georgetown Legal Aid Clinic which opened in March 1994, and in particular, to assist victims of domestic violence.

The Crisis Service Centre became operational in January 1996 at the Legal Aid Clinic following the completion of a three month training course for volunteer counselors. The centre was relocated on March 1, 1997 to a flat in a building in the then Ministry of Labour on Homestretch Avenue, Georgetown.

Organizational Structure

Help & Shelter is a Company Limited by guarantee with charitable status.

A Board of Directors elected annually by the members manages the affairs of Help & Shelter. There are three committees, each headed by a Director, namely the fundraising, public education and training committees.

Related areas of action

Public education, advocacy and networking with like-minded individuals and groups, including men, youth and children / children's advocates organizing against violence; Provision of counselling services, including a 24-hour crisis hotline; The

maintenance of the Shelter; Lobbying for the strengthening of relevant laws and implementation mechanisms where necessary; and The Crisis Service Center.

Our core activities are:

The provision of counseling; The provision of in-court support; The referral of clients to the Georgetown Legal Aid Clinic or other Attorneys-at-law for legal assistance as may be required; The referrals of clients to other agencies for appropriate assistance when required; Public awareness and consciousness awakening in communities, and target groups such as schools, religious organizations, social and other organizations on request; The dissemination of information about domestic violence, HIV/AIDS and Trafficking in Persons, to the general public; Training and re-training volunteers and counselors; and Strengthening existing networking and developing new linkages.

Help & Shelter has been recognized as the premier organization that offers this kind of service, free of cost, to the general public. With the help of an annual government subvention that is not a standardized amount the organization depends on additional financing, including from the private sector, to assist in defraying recurrent financial expenditures. Given the challenges and difficulties currently experienced by the local business

community, the reality and prospect of declining financial support constantly faces Help & Shelter in its quest for necessary assistance from the Guyanese private sector.

Partnership / Networking

Help & Shelter has been working in close collaboration with a range of institutions in Guyana as a both as a means of referrals for our clients and human resources to assist in our public education outreach programmes.



**Margaret Kertzious
Project
Coordinator
and Navita
Shibjatan
Finance
Manager for
Help and
Shelter.**

These include — the Ministry of Labour, Human Services and Social Security, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Finance, the Georgetown Legal Aid Clinic, the Guyana Responsible Parenthood Association, Lifeline Counselling, the Salvation Army, the Amerindian Peoples Association and other NGO's e.g. Red Thread.

Guyana Business Coalition—Pioneers in the HIV Arena

The Guyana Business Coalition (GBC) on HIV/AIDS will soon replace the USAID/GHARP Private Sector Advisory Board which was founded in May 2006. It is comprised of CEOs and Human Resource Managers of partner organizations. The GBC is largest of its kind in the region and has been invited to represent the interests of the Global Business Coalition in the Caribbean.

Since its establishment, the Board has evolved into a robust group of public/private sector organizations that are actively engaged in helping to prevent and reduce HIV/AIDS in Guyana.

A Secretariat was to be established in keeping with this years work plan so initially a Technical Committee was formed out of the Advisory Board to oversee the establishment of the Secretariat. Some of the tasks this committee had to accomplish was the appointment of a Membership Services Officer, preparation of a business plan and the locating of office space to house the evolving Secretariat—Guyana

Business Coalition.

The position of Membership Services Officer was advertised a few months ago and 6 persons were short listed. The interviewing panel was made up of members of the Technical Committee along with Mr. Derrick Cummings, USAID/GHARP's Private Sector Partnership Manager.

At the end of the process Ms. Mona Bynoe was selected to hold the position which was effective from September 12th 2007. Ms. Bynoe comes to the position with over 20 years experience working in the private sector. Her last position was as Executive Director of First Products Association of Guyana. Mona is currently undergoing orientation and assisting with the setting-up of the Secretariat.

The committee was also charged with the responsibility of locating accommodations for the proposed Guyana Business Coalition and after considering several locations a decision was taken to approach the Mayor and

City Council, also one of GHARP's Public/Private Sector partners, regarding the availability of space for rent.

The end result of a series of meetings with the M&CC was that space was located in a building which formerly housed the Ministry of Health's Chest Clinic on Orange Walk, Bourda and on August 28th the Council agreed to make the premises available and rent free for the duration of one year.

A team comprising GT&T and the is providing technical support along with the help of the City engineer in completing infrastructural works which are necessary for the building to be put to use.

The committee is also currently considering the possibility of establishing a VCT site at this location.

The Guyana Business Coalition will continue to aid in the strengthening of Public/Private Sector Partnerships and their response to the HIV/AIDS crisis in Guyana.



Private Sector Committee Members at Meeting August 2nd 2006

GHARP SPOTLIGHT— Dr. Navindra Persaud

Dr. Navindra Persaud is the Director of USAID/GHARP's recently constituted Strategic Information and Prevention (SIP) Unit. This unit is divided into two components — Monitoring and Evaluation and Prevention.

Dr. Persaud spent his formative years in the County of Berbice where he attended the #36 Primary School, the New Amsterdam Multilateral High School and the Central Corentyne Secondary before relocating to St. Rose's High School in Georgetown. Once he had graduated from High School he gained entry to the University of Guyana where he studied Medicine.

After graduating from the University of Guyana he joined the world of work. During the next few years Dr. Persaud worked at the Genito-Urinary Medicine (GUM) Clinic as their Medical Officer and as Acting Director. He also held the position of Program Manager for the AIDS Program and District Medical Officer and finally as the National Epidemiologist/Director of Disease Control prior to joining the growing staff of USAID/GHARP.

After graduating from the University of Guyana and working for sometime he went on to complete his MPH and PhD at the University of Miami and was awarded Academic Merit for both of these degrees.

Dr. Persaud's work with Family Health International began from the inception of the HIV project here in Guyana as Dr. Persaud provided technical oversight to

lead the team in the execution of the Behavioral Surveillance Survey, the SPA Survey and the AIDS Indicator Survey. This was a very important step for Guyana



as there was an absence of information to guide the HIV response. Dr. Persaud was also on the team which developed the Global Fund Proposal which was successful in garnering funds to be used in Guyana.

Dr. Persaud began his tenure at GHARP as the Director of M & E and recently after reorganization of the technical unit now Director of SIP.

He is the sole GHARP staff member to be selected for the Regional Resource Network and has provided Technical Assistance to FHI offices in Malawi and Haiti.

Dr. Persaud finds the work of building the

capacity of the NGOs on the GHARP Project a challenge but on the other hand through this project we will have an opportunity to define the true magnitude and extent of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Guyana. There is also pride in watching the NGOs develop their M&E and Reporting Systems which then enable them to provide valid data.

Dr. Persaud also takes pride in the camaraderie of the GHARP staff and watching them grow, develop and rise up to take on new challenges. The Commercial Sex Worker (CSW) Project now has grown and expanded and Dr. Persaud has had an opportunity of

working with a group that no-one wanted to work with and he has also had the opportunity of seeing this group develop and grow as well.

His own personal growth in working on a project and working with all stakeholders has been gratifying and soon he and his unit will embark on the second round of the BSS. This is slated to begin this year and completed in 2008.

Dr. Persaud is happily married and the father of two beautiful daughters aged 12 and 14. The older of the two girls was the top student for Guyana in 2004 and both girls attend Queens College (High School).

USAID/GUYANA HIV/AIDS REDUCTION AND PREVENTION PROJECT

44 High Street
3rd Floor
Kingston, Georgetown
Guyana

Phone: 592-231-6311

Fax: 592-231-6349

E-mail: armcadam@fhiguyana.org

The GHARP Project is a four-year collaboration between the governments of Guyana and the United States to broaden the country's response to the HIV epidemic.

Its mission is to support Guyana's HIV/AIDS prevention, care and treatment programs by improving health infrastructure and systems and enhancing the skills of health workers. This project is implemented by Family Health International and its partners—Cicatelli Associated Inc. (CAI), Howard Delafield International (HDI), Management Sciences for Health (MSH) and The Caribbean Conference of Churches (CCC).