



Sexual Assault/Rape Crisis Centre of Peel

Executive Director's Report

Vision: A community without sexual abuse or assault.

Mission: To be the Centre of Excellence for clinical intervention and the prevention of sexual abuse and assault. Helping survivors move from cope to hope.

Core Value: Acting with excellence in the best interests of our clients on behalf of the community.

March 18, 2013

Strategic Priorities

Enhancing Access to Services

The Crisis Line local phone number is being merged into the toll free phone number. This change will be effective April 2, 2013. This will ensure that our telephone clients can access our services for free from any location within the Region of Peel.

A communication plan is in development to advertise our toll free number and encourage all persons 12 years of age and older who have experienced sexual violence to call our crisis line or access our in-person counselling. Part of the communication plan will include a public open house for the third week in April, with invitations being sent to regional politicians, funders, donors, volunteers, partner agencies, and the media. The invitation will be sent out by March 20, 2013.

Due to geographical boundaries, Bell Canada informed the Agency that our relocation to Mississauga will require our business phone numbers to be changed. This information, along with our address change will be communicated to our partners and funders as soon as it is available.

Implementing Evidence-based Care to Drive Results

Dr. Pilowsky will be conducting an Agency-wide training on April 5, 2013. This training will involve how to create clinical files, how to write a clinical note, as well as training on the assessments to be used for crisis line clients and in-person clients.

All new staff will participate in this training.

Strengthening Partnerships & Enhancing Prevention and Outreach Activities

It is with great pleasure that the Agency welcomes Orville Edwards to the position of Youth Outreach Worker. Orville joins us from the Dixie Bloor Neighbourhood Centre, and has over nine years of experience in youth outreach. His immediate focus will be moving forward with a modified Take Back the Night March. However, Orville has been brought into the Agency to re-conceptualize the Our Youth, Our Future Program, and this will occur over the next several months. Ontario Trillium Foundation is aware of the Agency's new vision and mission and is highly supportive of modifying the Our Youth, Our Future Program. Orville and I will be meeting with the Superintendent of the Peel District School Board later this week to solidify our relationship and explore moving our modified Program into more schools come September 2013. We will be engaging the Separate School Board as well as various private schools over the coming months in order to ascertain how we can offer the Program to their students.

Trillium Health Partners assisted in the interviews for the Overnight Therapist positions. Their involvement is a good example of ongoing efforts to improve relations between our two agencies. The Agency remains in discussions with Trillium Health Partners as to the transfer of their community clients to our Agency.

Organizational Update

Recruitment

I am very excited to inform the Board that recruitment is complete for all clinical positions, and successful candidates have been identified. References are being checked for the identified candidates, and candidates have been asked to proceed with police reference checks (for all clinical staff) and vulnerable sector screening checks (for daytime staff only). All of our daytime Therapist positions are graduate trained, as are several of our Overnight Therapist and Weekend/Relief Therapist positions. This will ensure that our clients receive the best possible care.

Recruitment for the Community Outreach Liaison is ongoing.

Relocation

Negotiations with Magil-Laurentian are complete. The Agency will provide rent for April 2013, which will fulfill our financial obligations.

The landlord at 2250 Bovaird Drive East, Brampton has committed to providing the Agency with full access to the unit one week prior to our official lease date free of charge. The landlord has also committed to painting the unit in the colours chosen by the Agency.

Furniture orders have been placed for the new office location. Flooring will be purchased and installed in the four rooms that currently have linoleum flooring. This will occur during March 25-28, 2013.

The answering service used for the Crisis Line will cease as of 8 a.m. April 2, 2013, at which point the Crisis Line will be staffed by Agency therapists on a 24/7 basis from our new office location.

The cleaning of our current office space is well under way. Furniture not being moved to the new location has been placed for sale. Most documents have already been filed and boxed. We are on target to be vacated from the office as of March 31, 2013.

The Agency will be open to clients at our new location on April 2, 2013.

Finances

The Acting Treasurer of the Board and I will meet with the Agency accountant on March 22, 2013 to begin preparations for year-end.

The Region of Peel has reconfirmed Agency funding of approximately \$52,000.

Ontario Trillium Foundation has informed the Agency that our funding cheque for November 2012 has not been deposited. They have cancelled that cheque and will be re-issuing it in the near future.

Several uncashed, stale cheques totaling approximately \$9,000 were located in the finance office after the departure of the former Finance Coordinator. All donors were contacted and asked if they would re-issue their cheques. The Agency was only able to secure approximately \$1,500 from the original amount.

Tax receipts have been issued to Agency donors.

Payroll has been brought in-house. This service is provided as part of our ongoing contract with our external consultant.

The Agency has switched brokers for our healthcare coverage. We are now working with GMS Inc., who will also assume the role of plan administrator. This service is being provided free of charge to the Agency. We are in the process of costing several healthcare plans in order to reduce the expense to no more than 9% of payroll.

May is Sexual Violence Awareness Month, and to celebrate this, a fundraiser is currently being planned. The event is called "Coffee Connect" and will inform key business partners throughout the Region of Peel about our mandate, while providing a forum for business networking. The event will start with ten business representatives sharing a coffee. In turn, each of those ten representatives agrees to host a coffee with nine other individuals; those nine agree to host a coffee for eight other individuals, and so on. The cost of the event is \$10 per person. Coffee hosts agree to cover the cost of the coffee. Not only will this event be an excellent revenue generation source, it will enhance the profile of the Agency in the community.

Other

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge Diane, an Agency volunteer, for her hard work and dedication in assisting with our relocation. Diane volunteers for three full days each week, and has been an invaluable resource. I am excited to inform the Board that Diane has agreed to volunteer as the Agency receptionist at our new office. Our clients will be very pleased to come into our office and be greeted by her joyful personality. Thank you Diane!