



## **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.

April 15, 2013

### **Strategic Priorities**

#### Enhancing Access to Services

Last month, I reported that we were migrating the Crisis Line to our toll free number (1-800-810-0180). I am happy to report this transition is complete and the Agency now provides free access to all services.

Our commitment to refer all Crisis Line clients to our in-person counselling services is well underway, and we have welcomed several new clients in the two short weeks we have been operational in our new location. All of our prior clients have been contacted and transitioned to a new Therapist.

Our strategic commitment to decrease wait times by implementing two therapy groups and four workshops per quarter is operational. The Agency is providing its first workshop, on Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), on Tuesday April 30, 2013 between 6-7:30 p.m. Subsequent workshops will follow over the coming weeks. The curriculum is currently under development for the therapy groups, and our goal is to offer the groups beginning in early May 2013.

#### Implementing Evidence-based Care to Drive Results

The training of all staff by Dr. Pilowsky on April 5, 2013 was a success. Dr. Pilowsky provided training on how to write a clinical note, how to assess for suicide risk, how to gather clinically relevant information from clients, and how to organize clinical files. The

day also included staff orientation to the Agency, and an educational session provided by Jennifer Keeler and Deepy Sur from Trillium Health Partners, Chantal's Place.

Standardized Agency processes are being developed, so that each client will be welcomed in a consistent manner. We have achieved our commitment of assessing all in-person clients for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, Anxiety, Depression and generalized pain at the initial intake session, and at the mid and end points of therapy. Crisis Line clients are being assessed for suicide risk and general mental health condition. An office protocol of answering the Crisis Line by three rings has been implemented.

### Strengthening Partnerships & Enhancing Prevention and Outreach Activities

The Agency's Youth Outreach Worker and I met with Jan Courtin, Superintendent for the Peel Public School Board regarding our re-conceptualized Our Youth, Our Future Program. Based upon that conversation, a brochure that will be shared with the Public and Catholic Schools Boards is under development. This brochure will share the Agency's vision of the Program and will be used as a stepping stone to more formalized relationships between our Agency and the two Boards.

The Take Back the Night community event is confirmed for May 10, 2013. Working in collaboration with the event Advisory Committee and student volunteers, the event will occur between 6-9 p.m. and be a family friendly evening with the purpose being to speak out against sexual violence against women and children. All people are invited to attend the event at Bramalea Secondary School, which will include a community walk, a strong Agency presence, community BBQ, and family activities, such as a bouncy castle.

### **Organizational Update**

#### Recruitment

Recruitment for the Community Outreach Liaison is ongoing.

#### **Finances**

The Agency's external accountant and I met with a potential financial firm in order to understand what the audit process would entail for the fiscal year 2012/13. It is recommended that the Agency engage with BDO, under the direction of Tim Sothern, to conduct the audit for fiscal year 2012/13. Tim has many years of experience working with non-profit organizations of varying sizes, and holds a leadership position from a highly regarded national firm. The audit will take place between May and June 2013.

The Ministry of the Attorney General has provided permission to have our audited financial statements and Q4 Final Report in by June 28, 2013. This is an extension of approximately one month to accommodate the complexity of the audit this year.

### **Other**

As you are aware, May is Sexual Violence Awareness Month. We are hosting a Coffee Connect fundraising beginning May 2, 2013.

Our Agency Open House will be May 7, 2013 from 10 a.m.-12 p.m. This event will represent the Agency's official unveiling of our new name and logo, and provide community members and partner agencies the opportunity to visit our new location and meet our staff. An official invitation is being developed and will be distributed this week, but please hold the date!

The past few weeks have been extremely hectic with our relocation and on-boarding of new staff. I would like to extend a sincere thank-you to all those who assisted with the move. I would also like to thank our new Agency staff for 'moving with the tide' and being flexible in meeting client expectations while simultaneously learning a new job. We have a great team that will only grow stronger.