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Pediatric Mid Year Symposium /June 8th 2022

QUESTION 2: CHILD ABUSE AND THE ROLE OF SOCIAL WORKERS IN PAPUA NEW
GUINEA HOSPITALS

9AM-9:20AM

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PEDIATRIC SOCIAL WORKER

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WHAT IS CHILD ABUSE?

- ▶ Child abuse is any act or series of acts of **commission or omission** by a parent, caregiver, caregiver or another person in custodial role that results in harm, potential harm or threat to a child.
- ▶ **Acts of Commission**- Words or actions that harm, have the potential to harm or threat to harm.
- ▶ **Acts of Omission**- Failure to provide basic needs or protect from harm or potential harm.
- ▶ **PNG Context – 3 Types of Child Abuse-**
 - ▶ 1. Physical
 - ▶ 2. Psychological or Emotional
 - ▶ 3. Sexual

A SOCIAL WORKER IN A HOSPITAL SETTING

- ▶ WHAT IS SOCIAL WORK?
- ▶ The provision of services designed to aid individuals, groups or communities in coping with social issues impacting their livelihood.
- ▶ SOCIAL WORK IN A HOSPITAL SETTING
- ▶ SCOPES OF SOCIAL WORK
- ▶ ROLES OF A SOCIAL WORKER

- ▶ ENTRY POINTS OF PATIENTS AND CLIENTS

- ▶ Consultations from Wards
- ▶ Referred from networking partners
- ▶ Walk in clients
- ▶ Via the hospitals Emergency Departments and O&G

EXAMINATION OF CHILD ABUSE SURVIVORS

Triage Coding System

Level 1: Anyone needing immediate assistance

Level 2: Child Sexual Violence in the first 24 hours of last incident

Level 3: Child Sexual Violence/ Physical Violence in its 2nd, 3rd, 4th or 5th Day

Level 4: Child Sexual Violence/ Physical Violence in 6th Day or more

Level 5: Follow ups

SOCIAL WORK CASE CLASSIFICATION AND INTERVENTIONS

SOCIAL WORK CASE CLASSIFICATION

- ▶ MSWC 1 – HIV/AIDS
- ▶ MSWC 2 – ATTEMPTED SUICIDE
- ▶ MSWC 3 – DRUG/ ALCOHOL ABUSE
- ▶ **MSWC 4 – CHILD WELFARE**
- ▶ MSWC 5 – PSYCHO-SOCIAL
- ▶ MSWC 6 – FAMILY PROBLEMS
- ▶ MSWC 7 – SEXUAL ASSAULT
- ▶ MSWC 8 – UNPLANNED PREGNANCIES
- ▶ MSCW 9 – DISABILITIES
- ▶ MSWC 10 – NEGLECT/DESTITUTE
- ▶ MSWC 11 – CHRONIC/TERMINAL
- ▶ MSWC 12 – REPARTRATION
- ▶ **MSWC 13 – CHILD ABUSE**
- ▶ MSWC 14 – VIOLENCE
- ▶ MSWC 15 – COVID 19
- ▶ MSWC 16 - TB

SOCIAL WORK INTERVENTIONS

- ▶ SWI A – INTERVIEW
- ▶ SWI B – COUNSELLING
- ▶ SWI C – ASSESSMENT
- ▶ SWI D – TRAUMA COUNSELLING
- ▶ SWI E - CRISIS MANAGEMENT INTERVENTION
- ▶ SWI F – LIAISON VISITS AND CALLS
- ▶ SWI G – DISCHARGE PLANNING
- ▶ SWI H - REFERAL
- ▶ SWI I – ASSIST MEDICAL REPORTS
- ▶ SWI J – PRE/POST TEST COUNSELLING
- ▶ SWI K – SOCIAL ASSESSMENT REPORTS
- ▶ SWI L – TELEPHONE INTERVENTIONS
- ▶ SWI M– PARA- LEGAL
- ▶ SWI N – BASIC NEEDS
- ▶ SWI O – HOME VISITS

TEENAGE PREGNANCIES

- ▶ 2020 to May 2022 - Significant rise in the admissions of teenage pregnancies in PMGH Post Natal Ward.
- ▶ Alarminglly several teenage pregnancies have been a result of ongoing child sexual abuse within the family by known persons.
- ▶ Youngest survivor was 12 years old

CHILD GUARDIANS

- ▶ Children with ages ranging from 7-15 years were identified.
- ▶ Between 2020 and May 2022- 13 Children.
- ▶ Parents with chronic or terminal illnesses.
- ▶ Bedridden Patients



CHILD CLUSTERS

▶ **DEFINITION:**

▶ Children imitating and re enacting sexual practices and behavior which they have been exposed to through:

- ▶ 1. watching pornography
- ▶ 2. witnessing adults having sexual intercourse
- ▶ 3. listening to stories with sexual implications

▶

▶ **Two types of Clusters:**

- ▶ 1. One adult perpetrator having sex with different children in a group
- ▶ 2. Children having sex with other children in a group

▶ Age Range: 4 years -10 years

▶ Biggest cluster so far is 7 children

▶ First cluster case identified in 2016

COMPARING DATA FROM 2015-2021 NEW CASES ONLY

YEAR	CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE	CHILD PHYSICAL ABUSE	CHILD WELFARE	TOTAL
2015	320	36	123	479
2016	248	54	107	409
2017	329	34	120	483
2018	318	52	136	506
2019	248	48	95	391
2020	262	25	132	419
2021	237	21	154	412
	1962	270	867	3099

BIGGEST CHALLENGE & WAY FORWARD

- **When Dealing with Children, we deal with who and what is around the child.**
- More awareness and education needed on the rights of a child.
- Hospital staff capacity building in recognizing and identifying child abuse cases.
- Increase in the number of social workers to ensure all child abuse cases are identified and managed to ensure that the child survivor gets the help he/she needs.

NETWORKING PARTNERS

- ▶ Social Work does not work in isolation.
- ▶ Government Bodies
- ▶ Non government
- ▶ Faith Based Organizations
- ▶ Kind hearted individuals

LAWS AND POLICIES ON CHILD PROTECTION IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA

▶ **Laws applicable to Child Protection:**

- ▶ 1. Lukautim Pikinini Act 2015 (LPA)
- ▶ 2. National Child Protection Policy 2017-2027 (LPP)
- ▶ 3. LPA Operational Manual 2016
- ▶ 4. Organic Law on Provincial and Local Level Governments 2014
- ▶ 5. Criminal Code of PNG 2002
- ▶ 6. The Adoption Act 1975
- ▶ 7. The Juvenile Justice Act 2014 (JJA)
- ▶ 8. The Family Protection Act 2013 (FPA)
- ▶ **the draft Juvenile Justice Officer's Handbook (2019)*
- ▶ **the draft PRNGC Police Protocols- child victims and witnesses (2019)*
- ▶ **the draft Welfare Officers Handbook On Procedures and Guidelines (2010) and others..*

STOP CHILD ABUSE

* **ACKNOWLEDGING YOUR PRESENCE DURING THIS PRESENTATION.
THANK YOU!!!**

ANY QUESTIONS?