



GJ CROOKES HOSPITAL ASIKHULUME — LET'S TALK

Issue 7
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Happy reading !

Hi Readers !

Christmas is slowly approaching again, and it's that time of the year where we need to look back at the year gone by. By the time of our next newsletter Christmas will have come and gone.

We need to appreciate some our achievements for 2003. One of them being our Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative (BFHI) success—although the formal awards have not been done yet. We have also got our long awaited Finance and Systems Manager (Mr Appadu), our Human Resource Manager (Mr Khawula), our Social Worker (Miss Malindi Nene). We also acknowledge all the hard work done by various units for our external survey by COHSASA and to urge everybody to keep on working hard towards our institution obtaining accreditation status.

I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of the Batho Pele Task Team to say thank you to all of you for making this hospital a place of healing, both spiritually and physically.
"KEEP ON REVIVING THE PASSION OF EXCELLENCE."

Written by: T.G. MKHIZE

**POINTS OF
INTEREST**

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Programme of Celebration of Women's Day held in our Out Patient's Department

This was definitely a Women's Day event. Mrs KV Msomi was the programme director and female Pastor Msani from the Free Methodist Church said the opening prayer. Introduction & welcome was by Mrs Whitfield who briefly introduced the events and mentioned the available resources around at hospital such as the Crisis Centre to attend to needs of Women and Child abuse. PMTCT programme prevention of mother to child transmission and the Drop in Centre, day clinic for TB and HIV patients for counselling and ongoing treatment. Sr FN Duma spoke about domestic violence in summarised versions as physical violence, verbal, emotional violence,, sexual abuse or rape, economic and financial abuse. She mentioned how the Crisis Centre could assist and what women should do to speak out against violence. CPN G Nteyi spoke about Prevention of mother to child transmission and the availability of Neviropine. The management of child and mother post delivery as well as options available within the PMTCT

Ongoing counselling, immunization , monitoring of child developmental stages and treatment of minor ailments. Jabu Mthethwa (Aids Councillor Member) gave an extremely motivational speed as a person living positively and openly with HIV. She raised awareness about the importance of having a balanced diet and further emphasized that the stigma attached to the disease and the fact that being diagnosed with HIV/AIDS does not mean a death sentence but a chronic disease like diabetes and



CPN Ngcobo strutting her stuff—to the enjoyment of the ladies.

hypertension. She further emphasised the importance to have knowledge of the disease, to be brave and that support is a great help. Unfortunately this was Jabu's last speech. Her life was tragically cut short when she was shot whilst on duty in the Drop in Centre. This came as a great shock to us all.

'Jabu you may be gone but you'll never be FORGOTTEN. You will be greatly missed by the hospital staff, community and province as a whole. Rest In peace.'

Miss APN Mbambo spoke about HIV/AIDS and TB. She mentioned mode of transmission, signs, symptoms and positive living. Safety measures abstinence of youth, diet and nutrition. She advised of the availability of a full time doctor at the institution and management of HIV/AIDS and TB patients. CPN P Ngcobo was guest speaker and summarised the available resources at the hospital. Sr TG Mkhize gave the vote of thanks on behalf of management and thanked all for attendance and the guest speakers.

Compiled by: SR SP Mbanjwa

INFO PAGE



A MOMENTOUS OCCASION OR TAKING TIME OUT TO APPRECIATE THE IMPORTANT THINGS IN LIFE

INFORMATION TASK TEAM

With the view that statistics is the cornerstone of good management, GJ Crookes hospital has established an information task team to validate and improve the quality of data at the institution. The members of management that make up the task team are district medical officer, PHC coordinator, senior matron, quality assurance sister, chief admin. Clerk (patient admin.) and the FIO. The team meets monthly to peruse and evaluate the monthly hospital statistics report. The team plays an active role in identifying gaps and sharing ideas to improve data collection.

Each member of the team is assigned with a task for the next meeting. In this way measures are put in

place to ensure that data is accurate and correct. Statistics is an important performance indicator and assists in planning and funding of the institutions. We at GJ Crookes Hospital are committed to produce information of a high quality, converting information into knowledge thus improving service delivery at all levels.

Written by: Prea Moonsamy



Despite the recent tragic shooting of Ms Jabu Mthethwa that rocked the closely knit community within our institution, time was taken to forge closer bonds with and appreciate some of our colleagues. A special luncheon was organised in appreciation of our two industrious human resource officers, Mr PS Iyer and Mr TZ Khumalo who have done an excellent job in leading the human resource department to the formidable position it is in today. Due credit must of course be given to Mr RP Appadu for his unswerving commitment and support over the last three years and remember we will still be calling on your expertise when needed. We would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate him on being promoted to finance and systems manager and to welcome aboard the human resource manager, Mr SGG Khawula and wish him a pleasant stay at our institution. Tribute was paid to Mr Iyer and Mr Appadu and our charming hospital manager, Mrs Nyawo.

The warm ambience created the perfect setting for the intimate and cosy affair enjoyed by a few select invited staff members and management. A sumptuous lunch was enjoyed by all. Food for thought ...perhaps this could be done on a monthly basis and opened to the larger workforce to cement the bonds of a healthier working relationship.

Penped by: Ms Saloshnie Pillay

HAVE YOU SEEN THE SIGNS ON THE N2?

At last our signage has been erected on the N2 southbound just before the Scottburgh / Dududu off-ramp. These signs are to vie direction to people coming to our institution. The first one is about 300 metres from the off ramp. The second sign is on the off ramp to direct people to the left at the top of the bridge. The third one is just before the T-junction at Cutty Sark. We hope it will now be easier for all or clients to access the hospital. Well done to our hospital management!



SUB DISTRICT TB TEAM

We have felt it important to bring to your awareness of the TB team behind the TB Control in this sub-district.

The structure it comprises is Sub-district TB coordinator—Mrs B Goldstone, Sub-district Coordinator —Mrs M Whitfield, control district centre department (Drop in Centre) - Mr PV Ntuli.

The tracing team members are Ms B Mbhele—(SASO), Mr AM Majeko—(Community Health Facilitator), Ms M Madondo—Santa Community Worker, Ms P Mngadi— Umzinto PHC Services

Our Vision: A sub-district where the spread of TB is reduced and all diagnosed patients are cured.

Our Mission: To effectively cure 85% of all diagnosed TB patients and prevent further spread in the sub-district.

Meetings: The team meets every 1st Thursday of the month at 14h30 at the district health office.

We request everybody's support in our efforts to control TB in our sub-district.



Compiled by: PV Ntuli (Drop in Centre)

Excerpt of letter from Lindy Fourie ex GJ Crookes Medical Technologist

"I would like to take this opportunity of thanking everyone for the pleasure and privilege of working with such outstanding and caring group of people. Even though I was at the hospital for only a short while, it has been a wonderful time in my life and I got to know a lot of new people. I am sorry not to have been able to say a personal goodbye to many, but do wish every one all the very best for the future.

Warmest regards"

Report on District Substance Abuse Essay Competition



Due to the high incidence of drugs and substance abuse amongst school children across the entire province—it was decided at provincial level to create an awareness amongst primary school children even before they start indulging in drugs and even before they commence with high school.

The provincial health promotion committee which is presented by Mrs M Munsami and other school nurses from DC 21 decided to carry out a substance abuse essay writing competition amongst 12 primary schools in each district. The main aim of this competition was to create an awareness amongst primary school children. The title of the essay was - “Substance Abuse in Schools”.

The 12 schools were chosen as 4 urban, 4 peri-urban and 4 rural.

The substance abuse task team was formulated, comprising of representatives from various departments such as education, SAPS, social welfare, school health, mental health And rehabilitative services. Various workshops and awareness days regarding substance abuse were carried for teachers, pupils and the community at large. Essays were collected from schools and adjudicated by members of the task team. Strict criteria was followed in adjudication. Some of the essays presented were of a high standard.

The district function was held on the 31 July 2003 at the Port Shepstone Clinic Hall where prizes and awards were given to the children. The event was a great success with 11 of the 12 schools attending. Speakers for the day were from health, education and SAPS. Prizes were awarded to first, second and third in each grade. The provincial substance abuse essay competition takes place on the 8/10/03 at Stanger. Pupils that obtained first position in each grade would participate.

Submitted by: Mrs E Munsami (Mavis)
School Health Services

Victim Empowerment Programme

Following the taxi disasters at Malageni, Umzinto, which claimed the lives of 14 school children on 30 April 2003 there was a critical need for the formulation of a victim empowerment structure in the UGU—District. Caregivers, victims, and family members will be assisted in the process of dealing with the crisis or disaster. A forum is being formed in the UGU district that includes members from UGU sub-districts, who will in turn form forums at sub-distinct levels.

The forum consists of stakeholders from SAPS, EMRS, Department of Education, Department of health, Social Welfare, Psychologists, community members, NGO's, CBO's and municipalities. This victim empowerment programme is focusing on trauma prevention strategies including psychological, physical and social factors, such as domestic violence, rape, floods, faction fight victims. We welcome all categories of staff.

Submitted by: MRS NP KHWELA

MENTAL HEALTH

The new Mental Health Act no. 17 of 2002 has been published. Health workers are advised to update themselves with the act. Training is going on regarding the integration of mental health and PHC. This enables PHC nurses to attend mental health cases more effectively and efficiently.

Two professional nurses namely, Mrs PE Shezi and Mrs TC Khwela from GJ Crookes District Health have already attended a one week training in mental health integrating with PHC these nurses are in turn conducting 5 day workshops at intervals. They are training the PHC nurses and are willing to extend the programme to hospital staff as well. The next training / workshop will take place on the 20-24th October 2003. If you are interested please contact Mrs NP Khwela.

Submitted by: MRS NP KHWELA

