VALLEY TRUST REVIVES HEALTH SERVICES THROUGH AMALGAMATING

COMMUNITY STRUCTURES IN KWADEDANGENDLALE

The Valley Trust under the new leadership of Director, Mr Sboniseni Vilakazi is forging new relationships with the community, including local councilors; traditional healers; FBO’s; CBO’s, Government Departments and traditional leaders in the area of Kwadedangendla, near Botha’s Hill. The organization has 60 years of operation in this area with its main focus on changing people’s lives through rendering health care. It played a pivotal role in rendering health services in the area during the apartheid era. In his welcoming speech during the first informative workshop which was attended by various community structures, Mr Vilakazi assured the community including the Clinic Board Committee members of Halley Stott Clinic; Molweni Clinic and Ngcolosi Clinic that they have a new strategy to revitalize health programs in these areas and they are willing to work closely with the Health Department.

Councillor Phewa of Ward 103 commended Mr Vilakazi for his efforts and pledged his continuous support whenever he is needed.

This relationship comes amid changes in the Department of Health when the main focus is on re-engineering primary health care, which has already started in eThekwini District. Four Outreach teams involving PHC specializing Nurses have been introduced and placed in Halley Stott; Umsunduzi; Amaoti and Umbumbulu clinics. The Clinical and Programs Manager (eThekwini District), Ms Shabane mentioned that although there is a newly hired outreach team which will visit homesteads, it is still inadequate, since the district has a total population of 3.5million people, however, much has been done to enforce PHC programs. She further applauds Valley Trust for taking initiative to work with the communities in providing health services.

The Valley Trust will be a coordinating force in uplifting health activities together with the communities of Kwadedangendla. According to Mr Vilakazi, not only will they be focusing on direct health matters, but also on other social challenges affecting people’s health, including poverty alleviation, drug abuse etc.. Halley Stott Clinic, under KwaDabeka CHC management has in the long past years been housed by the Valley Trust.

Mrs Gumede (PHC Supervisor for Molweni, Halley Stott, and Ngcolosi Clinics) had a presentation on the role and responsibilities of the Health Committees. Although there were challenges identified by the communities, many were resolved and some were noted for urgent remedy. Some of the challenges were identified, inter alia, as follows: a need for gateway clinic in one of the hospitals in the West; staff attitude at clinics; Community care Givers CCG’s monitoring and training; Clinic Board members constitution; Operational Kits for the CCG’s; EMRS (Ambulance delays).

Mrs G Sthole who was representing EMRS (Emergency Medical Rescue Services) explained to the community how ambulances work and pleaded with the community not to abuse this service. She further appealed to community leaders, including Induna and Councillor Phewa to contact EMRS when there are community gatherings or meetings so that they will be able to educate people on EMR services.

Among attendants were: Traditional healers; Representative from Anti Tobacco Organisation; Community Care Givers; Clinic Board Committees; Community Members e.t.c.

The meeting was a huge success and is set to sit soon for progress review.

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More information on Valley Trust can be found on www.thevalleytrust.org.za

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Nb Pictures will be available on the next KDCHC newsletter edition