



August 28, 2011

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Dear members of Zonta Club of Denver,

We apologize for the tardiness of this interim report. Staff was unexpectedly out of the office when it was due. In the future, we will be more diligent in meeting your deadlines.

Interim Report

Project Goals:

I. The goal of the Empowerment Specialty Clinic is to improve the lives of women who are and have been involved in the criminal justice system and street level prostitution who live in poverty and want to “leave the life” by receiving drug treatment, mental health and trauma treatment, training and employment services and comprehensive case management services.

II. The goal of the Empowerment Specialty Clinic is to begin to fill the gap in mental health services for women living in poverty who do not have health insurance, have an Axis I mental health diagnosis and need medication to assist them in their recovery.

III. Number of women helped: 25

Summary Status: In the first six months of the operations of the Empowerment Specialty Clinic, one hundred and two women were referred to mental health, trauma and substance abuse treatment services at the Empowerment Program. Sixty-two women enrolled in services. The duration of treatment varies with each participants needs and desires for treatment and averages from 6 to 9 months. Some participant’s services are interrupted by arrests and consequent incarcerations. If the participant is in Denver County Jail, Empowerment staff work with the DCJ transition staff to assure continuation of treatment and other services when the participants is released.

Goal A: To fill a gap in mental health services of the Empowerment Specialty Clinic by providing resources for medication to dual diagnosed women who are ineligible for services from other public or private mental health providers.

Objective A-1: By the end of the grant period, 50% of all participants will have successfully completed concurrent drug, mental health and trauma treatment service sessions and reduced their drug use by a minimum of 50%. Participants will also have decreased scores of PTSD, anxiety and depression; 75% will have completed a minimum of half of all service sessions. STATUS: Data is not complete for this and will be available at the end of the grant period. However, all participants have enrolled in treatment services with a retention rate of about 70%.

Objective A-2: By the end of the grant period, 80% will have increased their HIV prevention skills and behaviors and completed job readiness training activities. STATUS: Data is not complete for this and will be available at the end of the grant period. However, all participants have received HIV prevention services. Data on HIV testing services is not currently available and will be reported at the end of the grant.

Goal B: To provide safe housing for women who are or have been involved in prostitution and who want to “leave the life” and do not qualify for existing housing assistance, employment and training services of the Empowerment Program.

Objective B-1: By the end of the grant period, housing services will have been provided for an additional 15 women who receive treatment and trauma services in Empowerment Specialty Clinic services. STATUS: As of July 30, 2011, 20 participants have been placed into transitional housing services that would otherwise be homeless.

Objective B-2: By the end of the grant 50% will have been placed in permanent housing. STATUS: As of July 30, 2011, 12 participants have been placed in transitional and permanent housing.

Conclusion: Initial enrollment goals have been exceeded by 248%. The demand for concurrent mental health, trauma and drug treatment services exceeded our expectations. In order to meet the increased demand for safe housing, Empowerment is currently trying to work with the City and county of Denver’s Office on economic Development to rehabilitate a small apartment building on Logan Street that can provide permanent housing for formerly homeless women living with co-occurring disorders.

The support from Zonta Club of Denver has literally saved the lives of many of these women. Your support helps them get housing and the medications that initially stabilize them and allow them to receive treatment services that can help them turn their lives around. On behalf of the participants, staff, volunteers and Board of Directors, thanks you for your support.

Best Wishes,



Carol Lease
Executive Director