

★ Organization of an itinerant team to help women victims of domestic violence

France

CCAS Montpellier
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Last update : 18/02/2009

Context

Figures show that more than 550 000 of women are victims of domestic violence each year (latest data from INSEE). Only 20 % will talk to a professional. The lack of good listener and specific spaces when violence just come out is the main reason. The possibility of a direct presence of professionals to give an efficient answer in this extreme situation become an important challenge.

With a SOS phone line and special police services, the hospital is still the first place where women victims of violence go. The hospital helps the women on a medical basis. But in case of domestic violence, it is necessary to give to the person a rapid and global answer to help the women to get out of the circle of violence. The arrival to the hospital should give them a clear conscious and help them to refuse all form of violence in the future.

The legal service of this hospital is a strategic place for the target group especially because violence is approach and examined on a daily basis. Professor Baccino, who is in charge of the service is particularly involved on this problematic and as notably written a reference book on the domestic violence against women (Médecine de la violence, éd. Masson 2006).

At the end of 2007, it has been important to organize a partnership between the Centre and housing welcome center for women and the legal medicine service. Signed in January 2008, the partnership agreement bring a complete and multi- disciplinary answer as prevention action and to stop rapidly the violence.

Description

The mobile team in charge of women victims of violence intervene complementarily within the care given by the hospital. The services provided are usually based on tutoring and psychological social, legal and administrative help.

Psychological support :

Evaluation of the trauma
Ability to listen and take into consideration the stress generated by the situation
Help in decision making

Social tutoring

Urgent housing in case of emergency
Temporary housing in the housing and welcome centre for women (which is manage by the CCAS)
Financial support

Legal and administrative help

Legal advices

Means

1 assistant from social services
1 psychologist
Services providing by the centre and follow-up of the beneficiaries

Budget in 2008 23 920 euros

Assessment

Since its creation, more than 30 women benefit from the intervention of the “mobile team”. Based on various successful methods (social emergency services, mobile team on mental health), this project has an interesting prevention action approach. Its aim is to go to the user of social services when he need it, and reduce the trauma that avoid new attempts. This project is based on a mutualisation of skills and means from both structures : CHU and CAHF. Its implementation has enhanced the relation between professionals and was part of its success.

However, the common work between the CCAS and the CHU was not an easier task especially due to a different management. The implementation of the project is due to the determination of the legal medicine service and the women accommodation which tried to convince the administrative level to implement these common working procedures to the employees, to doctors and social workers working on this action.

CCAS Estimation

One year after the implementation of the service, the obtained results by the itinerant team are satisfied. This project helped to enhance the cooperation between professional working since the beginning of the project but it also improved the participation of other professionals. A campaign of information will soon be organized inside private hospitals. New partnerships are currently negotiated especially for the grouping of the social and medical cooperation and also to buy a means of transportation for emergencies.

Target group

Women
Domestic violence

CONTACT

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