STEPPING THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS

IS CORRECTIONAL HEALTH CARE ALL THAT DIFFERENT?

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Women Offenders Conference
4th and 5th December 2007
- Confinement
- Stereotypes
- Loss of Liberty
- Loss of Privacy
- Rules
- Loss of Choice
- Medical Centre
- Sick Parade
- Medical Requests
- Sick Certificate
- Health Centre
- Nurse Triage Clinic
- Health Requests
- Unfit for Usual Duties
What is Meant by Health?

World Health Organisation defined health as a "state of complete physical, mental and social wellbeing and not merely the absence of disease"
Factors Affecting Health and Wellbeing

Lifestyle

Experiences

Relationships

Health and Wellbeing
Health Trauma Cycle

Healthy

Community

Trauma

Prison
PSH Health Care Model features 5 main elements
- Early detection and assessment
- Prompt and effective treatment
- Preventative health measures
- Comprehensive health education
- Discharge Planning

Reception Assessment
- General Background
- Medical Background
- Drug and Alcohol
- BBV / STI
- Sexual and Reproductive Health
- Mental Health / BPRS

Discharge Planning
- Commence at Reception
- Collaborative interface between criminal justice and health care
- Continuity of treatment, interventions and social support

Victorian Prisoner Health Survey (2003)
- 31% women diagnosed with mental health problem
- 24% diagnosed with depression
- Asthma and back problems
- 2/3 reported using illicit drugs

Staffing Profile
- Health Services Manager
- Administrative Support Officer
- RN’s and RPN’s
- Medical Practitioners
- Pharmacist
- Dentist
- Consultant Psychiatrist
- Physio, Optometry, Podiatry

Future Directions
Today’s women’s health programs are going beyond the foundation that has traditionally been built with obstetric and gynaecological programs to expand the depth and breadth of care provided to women. Research studies demonstrate that domestic violence, depression, sexual assault, poor body image, esteem issues, and pain management are all emerging as important well being issues for women.
The PSH model of health care recognizes correctional facilities to be an integral part of the community. When we identify that inmates are temporarily displaced community members, incarceration can be viewed as a unique opportunity to reach a seriously at-risk population.

### Specialist Nurse Clinics and Education Programs

- Nurse Triage Clinic
- Nurse Clinic
  - Pathology
  - Chronic Health Care Plans
  - Wound Management
- Sleep Clinic
- Pain Management
- OSTP Clinic
- Discharge Planning Co-ordinator
- Vietnamese Liaison Nurse
- Diabetes Educator
- Asthma Clinic
- Sexual Health/Family Planning
- Public Health Clinic (BBV)
- Well Women’s Clinic
  - Breast Screening
  - Osteoporosis Screening
  - Menopause
- Women’s Health Clinic
  - Weight Management
  - Body Image
  - Dietary Plans
- Maternal Health

### Comprehensive Medical Practitioner Services

- General Practitioners (including 3 female GP’s)
- Obstetrician
- Sexual Health Specialist
- Drug and Alcohol Specialist
- Consultant Psychiatrist
- Dentist

From a public health perspective, the state of health or illness of the correctional population reflects the state of health or illness of the community of which they are a part.
Thankyou for listening.

Any Questions?