

Administrator's Report: ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2007
CUMI ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT
Monday, October 8, 2007

The Committee for the Upliftment of the Mentally Ill (CUMI)
August 2006 – July 2007
Brandon Hill

The Brandon Hill CUMI Day Centre operations for 2007 presented challenges and new objectives for the board as well as the administration of the CUMI rehabilitation and children programme.

The CUMI Day Centre services for the period facilitated **4,381** client's visits averaging **17** daily, reflecting the ratio of **9** males - **7** females. For the period **2** readmissions and **7 new intakes** from the community and hospital. The meals served [breakfast and lunch] for the same period = **8,018**.

The day centre can facilitate a maximum of 25 per day but due to the cost of transportation for clients visiting from home, many of them chose to visit two or three days per week, also the success of the home placement and resettlement of working clients in the community affected the daily attendance.

For those clients attending daily, the staff were able to spend quality time addressing individual cases to maximize maintaining their mental status and well-being.

CUMI rehabilitation registry reflects **1,400** caseload of which **40** are active cases and **30** deaths since CUMI's inception.

The CUMI Children Programme registry has 29 registrations of which **21** are active cases. The services of the psychologist, speech therapist, volunteers [SALTERS] and workshops for parents and children has complimented in improving the linkage with the schools and the partnership with CUMI children and parents. The achievement level of each child has also improved as reflected in the school reports.

The Rehabilitation Programme

The main objective of the CUMI rehabilitation programme and activities are structured to improve the client's life coping skills in readiness for re-settling into communities, empowering them with the knowledge to understand and the skills to manage their mental illness whilst being able to work and function.

Volunteering and work motivation

The clients are encouraged to nurture a spirit of volunteering. This includes **4** of our female clients spending two hours per day [Monday – Friday] volunteering their services to Blossom Garden Child Care Facility. This partnership has worked well over the years. The male clients also volunteer their time by cleaning the verges around Rectory Drive.

The collaboration with Western Parks and Market, St. James Parish Council and Poor Relief Department provides **3** CUMI clients with employment and **2** clients are in other full time employment. All other clients are motivated to work by participating in gardening, plants nursery and workshop/craft activities while some are able to obtain day's work/employment.

Networking & Clinical services/Mental Health Officers [MHO]

The networking between services to enhanced mental health in St. James has improved working relationship between the partners. The partners are: Cornwall Regional Hospital [CRH] Psychiatry Department and the various mental health Type 5/ community Health Centre clinics, the St. James Parish Council/ Poor Relief/ Night Shelter, Care Centre and Western Parks and Market.

Since the passing of Mr. Hall, MHO, the monthly mental health review and follow-up sessions are now provided by doctors and mental health officers [MHO] at the CRH psychiatric clinic, Type 5, Adelphi, Catadupa, Cambridge, Flanker, Maroon Town, Granville and Glendevon Health Centres. The provisions of services are also supported by the P.E.M.T ambulance team and psychiatric/medical social workers. CUMI rehabilitation day centre provides counselling and psychological assessment with group psychotherapy sessions conducted by the psychologist, Tuesdays 9– 1 p.m.

It is now recommended that all clients should obtain a National Health Fund [NHF] card and in the process of obtaining NHF CUMI has assisted the clients to obtain new birth certificates, National Insurance Scheme [NIS], Tax Registration Number [TRN] and National I.D. cards. These documents are also required by each client's when applying for PATH/Poor Relief benefits and exemption for cost against their treatment and medication.

CUMI is represented on the regional psychiatric strategy steering committee board and the mental health review board.

Regular Cash Monthly Donors & Gift-In-Kind

CUMI is thankful for the support from the cash donors, gift-in-kind and volunteers. MCC [Mennonite Central Committee] has provided us with volunteers through the SALTER's programme and cash support for the children programme through Global Family.

Our monthly cash donors are: HART group of companies, Jamaica Money Market Broker's, Caribic Vacations, Sandals group, Mr. R. Whitfield, Mr. & Mrs. Shirley and Mr. N. Chambers.

Sporadic cash donors are: St. John's Methodist Men's fellowship, Mr. R. Golaub, Mrs. J. Hamilton, Ms. Matthew, Mr. & Mrs. Ottey, Mrs. L. Allen and Mr. D. Scott.

Gift-In-Kind: Jimmy & Regal Bakeries, Supersaver Ltd, Hall's Investment, KPMG, Globe Insurance, Chicago & Maryland Tourist Organization-USA, Women Centre, Burchell Baptist & Faith Temple churches, St. James College, Montego Bay High School & Albion Primary & Junior High, Mr. Watkin, Mr. L. Young, Mrs. J. Hamilton and D. Paris, also the electronic and print media.

Jamaica Public Service [JPS] provides summer volunteer, James Maddison University alternative springbreakers.

There are many other individuals and organizations who contributed cash and kind in support of CUMI.

Staff

The CUMI Day Centre staff team consists of 5 persons supported by a relief nurse, male security officer, part-time accountant and MCC volunteers.

The paid staff received their annual ten percent increase for 2007 also annual leave for those who are entitled.

The CUMI Day Centre facility continue to support and provide a learning base for the Cornwall School of Nursing Students, UWI School of Continuing Study Social Workers, schools and other learning institutions.

Website

Part of 2006 to July 2007 visitors to the website totaled **2,791** viewers. Our webmaster has served CUMI well over the past years by volunteering his services, **CUMI takes this opportunity to thank him and wish him well in his endeavour.**

Unfortunately, he's no longer able to support CUMI in this capacity and CUMI is in search of a new volunteer webmaster.

Financial report

A financial report is presented to the board at each monthly meeting. The CUMI trust fund accounts are held at Jamaica Money Market Brokers and the current account is at RBTT bank.

A special tribute and thanks for the life of Mrs. Elizabeth Hall who passed on May 1st, 2007. She will be fondly remembered for her love and caring spirit for her fellow Jamaicans and for being a "people's person". She was a founding member of CUMI and held the post of treasurer 1990 to 1999 and chairperson from 1999 to 2007. She was also the inspiration and director of the CUMI children programme. She was a strong and well known advocator for the oppressed and neglected. Her many services to her community and country included her being the founder member and chairperson for Jamaicans for Justice in the western region. She will always be remembered as our Miss Liz.

Thanks to all of you who donated to the CUMI Trust Fund in memory of Miss Liz ☺

A message of thanks to the board of directors for 2007: the late chairperson Elizabeth Hall, Treasurer Jane Fray, Secretary Dawn Paris, Nurse Administrator Joy Crooks, MCC Representative and Acting chairperson Ron Good, CUMI Psychologist Pearnel Bell, CUMI Account/Audit Arden Hamilton [Victor Wong and Lloyd B. Smith honorary supporters].

As a team we look forward to continue working in support of the CUMI rehabilitation and children programme for the upliftment of all those we aim to serve. Many, many thanks for the services rendered.

CUMI's regular contact information:

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Next regular meeting: November 19th, 2007, 5:30 p.m. at CUMI Day Centre, Brandon Hill