



FOL Newsletter

Fountain of Life

KCH ONE STOP CENTER TEAM

Following the One Stop Center training for Lilongwe and Mchinji that took place from 29th to 31st July 2014, it was suggested that members present at the training form teams that should start operating immediately at their respective hospitals even though there are no One Stop Center “Buildings.”

Kamuzu Central Hospital (KCH) has a One Stop Center team now that is fully functional even though there is no structure. The team meets every last Wednesday of the month. The chairperson is a medical doctor Yamikani M’angisa-Mgusha and it comprises of medical doctors, Nurses, Police officers from the Victim Support Unit and from the hospital, a Prosecutor from the police, Social Welfare officer and members from Fountain



Some members of the KCH One Stop Center Team

of Life.

All members of staff at the hospital will be oriented on all protocols to follow when they receive victims of rape and sexual assault and where to direct them since the team is now functioning. This is great progress as Fountain of Life counselors now have a room to start counseling rape victims as part of the OSC team in Lilongwe.

FIFTH ISSUE

Did You Know?

- There are only three professional trauma counselors/psychiatrists in Malawi.
- A lot of people do not know about the One Stop Centers and information about rape and how they can be helped

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ON-GOING TRAINING FOR LILONGWE VOLUNTEER COUNSELORS



Counseling Training by Zoe Giarraputo

The volunteer counselors for Lilongwe have been getting on-going training from a volunteer social worker, Zoe Giarraputo who is from Australia. Zoe meets the counselors once every two weeks to share her skills and discuss how counseling can be adapted into the Malawian culture. The counselors share experiences and provide topics they want to cover and Zoe facilitates. This is good progress for the lay counselors because they are able to use practical approaches to counseling. It keeps them active and involved.

RAISING AWARENESS ON RAPE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT

Fountain of Life is currently working with Children of Blessing Trust (COBT), an NGO that helps children with disabilities based in area 25. We are partnering with COBT to raise awareness on rape and sexual assault. Apart from FOL, COBT has also involved a nurse from the One Stop Centre team from Kamuzu Central Hospital, a police officer from a Victim Support Unit and a social worker from the Social Welfare Office to provide a complete package of how rape victims are helped by each one of the service providers.



A facilitator giving a presentation at one of the awareness workshops

The awareness is being carried out in eight rural communities in Lilongwe where COBT works. It will take one day for each communities, eight days for the whole awareness workshop from October to Early November.

So far the communities have been very responsive and interactive during the awareness sessions and from their feedback it is clear that they did not know most of the things that they learned. They asked the team to raise awareness in the whole of Lilongwe if possible.



Irene Mkosi

FOL welcomes the new Blantyre Coordinator for the One Stop Centre in Blantyre at Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Irene Mkosi.

The One Stop Centre continues to receive more and more cases every month which is a clear sign that Malawi needs One Stop Centers in all district hospital and community hospitals as soon as possible.



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UPDATE ON THE COMFORT PACK CAMPAIGN

For a period of three (3) months FOL used a crowd funding site to try and raise support for the purchase of comfort packs for victims of rape and/or sexual assault. These simple concrete expressions of care and support for someone who has been traumatized are so important and communicates that they are still valuable and that someone still cares for them.

Unfortunately for whatever reason, the campaign did not go as well as hoped. Enough was raised to help us get almost 70 comfort packs and that is great for 70 victims who come forward. We were hoping for much more and are still open to anyone who wants to help FOL with a comfort pack—\$25 will easily cover one pack.

Thanks so much to those who have supported this effort.

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**MALAWI'S ANSWER TO THOSE
SUFFERING FROM SEXUAL ASSAULT**