Strengthening the health sectors’ capacity to respond to VAWG: The Jamaican experience

Dr. Cynthia Pitter
Dr. Joy Harrison
Overview of Jamaica

- Surrounded by the Caribbean Sea
- Population of 2.87 million people
- 27.8% prevalence rate of IPV
- VAWG is a human rights violation; creates power imbalance among the sexes; often results in gender inequality.
- Reform is taking place - Laws and policies
- Gaps in healthcare
Introduction

• Health care providers are in key positions to respond to VAWG.

• Approach to VAWG in health care is undefined, loose and needs strengthening.

• Needs to strengthen or integrate VAWG in the pre-service curricula of healthcare students.
The University of the West Indies

• Among the top 1.5% of universities in the world. Number 1 in the Caribbean with over 200 programs across 7 faculties and 50 departments and research centres.

• The Faculty of Medical Sciences is the pioneer faculty that prepares healthcare professionals across 7 disciplines including the MBBS and Nursing

• The FMS is obligated to respond to the growing health needs of the Region
The EU Spotlight Initiative Project

Sponsorship/Partnership

UWI-Mona FMS
UNFPA
WHO/PAHO
EU-Spotlight Initiative, Jamaica

Purposes

To:
Review and update pre-service training curriculum for first-line health responders.
Integrate VAWG comprehensively.

Objective

To:
Collaborate with first-line health responders’ teaching institutions to integrate gender equality and ending VAWG in their curriculum.
Terms of Reference

To Develop a:

• Pre-service training curriculum to be integrated in the existing MBBS and Nursing curricula

• Training package for use by teaching faculty
  - Conduct a Training of Trainers’ workshop
  - Pilot test the curriculum with MBBS and Nursing students.

• An advocacy plan to promote adoption of an updated curriculum that integrates training of MBBS and Nursing students to respond to VAWG
## Overview of the Project

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Timeline</strong></th>
<th>March 2021– December 2021</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Target audience</strong></td>
<td>70 MBBS students and 150 Nursing students</td>
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<td><strong>Curriculum</strong></td>
<td>An adaptation of the WHO 2019 document: Caring for Women Subjected to Violence: A WHO Curriculum for Training Health Care Providers</td>
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Methodology

- Team of specialists and experts
- Dialogue with stakeholder/partners
- Review the MBBS and Nursing curricula-gaps were identified
- Developed a facilitators’ guide
- Developed a curriculum with 5 modules
- ToT for teachers
- Seminars with students
- Pilot for 2021/2022
- Advocacy Plan
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<tr>
<th>#s</th>
<th>Modules</th>
<th>Topics</th>
<th>Facilitators</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Module 1</td>
<td>Self-awareness/Overview of VAWG and VAWG as a public health</td>
<td>Ms. Jannette McIntosh</td>
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<td>Ms. Yolanda Paul</td>
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<td>Dr. Marjan De Bruin</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Module 2</td>
<td>First-line support for intimate partner violence and sexual assault</td>
<td>Mrs. Cynthia Pitter,</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>using LIVES</td>
<td>Dr. Monique Lynch</td>
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<td>History taking Utilizing the referral pathway</td>
<td>Mrs. Claudett James</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Module 3</td>
<td>Clinical care after sexual assault</td>
<td>Dr. Kay-Ann Bookall</td>
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<td>Forensic examination</td>
<td>Dr. Karen Carpenter</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Module 4</td>
<td>Clinical support for mental health, and Intimate partner violence</td>
<td>Dr. Clayton Sewell</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>and family planning and Care for mental health and self-care for</td>
<td>Dr. Monique Lynch</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Module 5</td>
<td>Addressing family planning and HIV exposure, Documentation</td>
<td>Dr. Joy Harrison and</td>
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<td>Supporting and evaluating elective experiences in IPV for</td>
<td>Dr. Gillian Mason</td>
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<td>interested student</td>
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In the UN Jamaica Partnership for peace, planet and prosperity.

The 76th Annual Special Feature of the United Nations in Jamaica.
Videos

UWI Community Film Project
The University of the West Indies, Mona

#SpotlightEndViolence
Virtual/Distance Learning

OUTCOMES

Trainer-of-Trainers

Teachers from UWI

10 Additional Schools of Nursing across the Region

Students’ Seminar

61 MBBS and Nursing students-Jamaica, St. Vincent & The Grenadines and St. Kitts

Academic Year 2021/2022

All 5 modules on VAWG were taught to:-

✔ >300 MBBS students

✔ 340 Nursing
Trainer-of-Trainers Workshop

- Some 38 lecturers responded to the call of which 18-20 participants attended each week.

- Each participant was awarded a certificate of participation.
Feedback on ToT

- 85.7% -100% of the respondents reported that the objectives were fully met.
- 57.1% agreed that the duration of sessions were adequate, while 42.9% strongly agreed that the time was adequate.
- 85.7% -100% agreed that the facilitators were knowledgeable.
- 100% reported that the information presented was timely: (71.4% strong agreed, while 28.6% agreed).
- 100% of the participants strongly agreed that the information presented was useful and relevant to their area of expertise.
Teaching methodologies/Methods of assessment

- Lecture/Discussion
- Use of videos
- Break out sessions
- Polls
- Use of scenarios

- Multiply choice questions
- Case-Based Assessment
- Discussion-like formative assessment
Advocacy/Recommendations

1. Extend the use of the curriculum to all healthcare students in the FMS

2. Roster MBBS and Nursing students to Government, NGOs, civil societies as part of their clinical experience

3. Continue the integration of the curriculum

4. Share the VAWG curriculum with other educational institutions for healthcare students

5. Have follow up training for all teachers of healthcare students

6. Review of in-service training curriculum to ensure alignment with pre-service curriculum
Acknowledgement

• Prof. Minerva Thame
• Dr. Tomlin Paul
• The EU Spotlight Initiative, Jamaica
• The UNFPA
• The WHO/PAHO
• Facilitators

• Mrs. Kathy McClure
• Chief Nursing Office
• Nursing Council of Jamaica
• Lecturers
• The student bodies
• All Schools of Nursing
• The UWI Film Project
Thank you!

#SpotlightEndViolence