

NAME: EMELIA KUMI TAWIAH

PLACE OF WORK: E.P. HEALTH CENTRE, DZEMENI

GRADE: COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH NURSING OFFICER

INNOVATION

BACKGROUND

The E.P. Health Centre, Dzemeni located in Tongor- Dzemeni town, found in the South Dayi district of the Volta region of Ghana, is a Christian Health Association of Ghana (CHAG) affiliated healthcare provider belonging to the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Ghana. It was established in the year 1999 to cater for minor ailments in the community. In the year 2000, maternity and delivery services were added and full time operation of the facility began.

The facility currently serves (10) catchment areas. These are; Dzemeni E.P. Top and Down, Pig farm, Kpongboni, Dzakiti, Adzebui, Jamah, Torbge Oko, Dzemeni market as well as Tongor Tsanakpe and communities beyond the Volta lake with a target population of 12,689. The inhabitants are mainly fisher folks, farmers and traders. The source of water is the Volta Lake, and safe water home.

The facility provides 24hrs with the following services; maternity and delivery, mental health/ psychological and wellbeing, public health (reproductive and child health, nutrition), laboratory services and general OPD with detention, dispensary and ophthalmic. It has eight (8) bed capacity for medical services and ten (10) bed capacity for maternal and delivery services. There is forty – five (45) staff in the facility.

OBJECTIVE ONE: INCREASING O.P.D ATTENDANCE BY 5%

When I assumed duty at Dzemeni, there was no report on OPD attendance for mental health conditions since there was no mental health staff at the facility.

Upon team work, community entry, community sensitization, community durbar, case finding, and health education, I have been able to increase the attendance to 199 as evidence in the District Health Information Management System (DHIMS) II on the monthly mental health client status form annual year compared to 2023 which was 119.

Regular home visit leading to decreased relapses.

OBJECTIVE TWO: PROBLEM SOLVER

To bridge the gap on privacy and confidentiality whiles accessing the mental state of persons living with mental conditions because of no unit space, several engagements was made to the E.P management, the director of E.P Health Services at Ho, the acting director of CHAG on the problem I identified.

The contractors came and work began. In 2017 there was a grand commissioning of a day care Centre sponsored by UKaid/CHAG, two (2) consulting room furnished with curtains, furniture, three (3) ludu, three (3) oware, one public address system, fan.

A year later a motorbike, a laptop and medication was added.

OBJECTIVE THREE: TEAM PLAYER

I collaborated with the RCH unit to go for planned outreach to all the ten (10) catchment of the community.

Collaborated with opinion leaders, schools, faith based and traditional healers as well as the entire community on the need to prioritize mental health through health education, they were able to learn more on how to handle mentally ill patients and to avoid the use of external force and cruel mode to restrain patients.

OBJECTIVE FOUR: IMPLEMENTATION OF A NURSE LED EPILEPTIC CLINIC

I implemented a nurse- led epileptic clinic to cater for persons living with epilepsy the community.

I collaborated with E.P management, local leaders and patients to ensure cultural and community alignment.

I organized workshops and training sessions for nurses and staff of E.P Health Centre, Dzemeni.

This has resulted in access to care for persons living with epilepsy.

OBJECTIVE FIVE: TO REDUCE SUBSTANCE MISUSE AMONG THE YOUTH

A program designed to reduce substance induced psychosis among the youth is in place.

Through health education at schools, market, homes, O.P.D, the general population has been enlightened about the effect of substance on their mental health.

SCHOOL MENTAL HEALTH EDUCATION AT DZEMENI RC JHS



AN INTEGRATED CLIENT



TRAINING WORKSHOP SESSION



HOME VISIT AT TORGBE OKO AREA



HOME VISIT AT DZEMENI DZAKITI



FAITH BASED HEALING CENTER HEALTH EDUCATION



HEALTH EDUCATION AT COMMUNITY INFORMATION CENTRE (CIC)



O.P.D HEALTH EDUCATION



OUTREACH SESSION

