

THE NATIONAL FAMILY PLANNING BOARD'S OUTREACH SERVICES

COUNSELLING SERVICES



The Marge-Roper Counselling Service

This is a call-in, walk-in and write-in counselling service managed by a trained nurse/counsellor. It targets persons in the reproductive age group, providing them with easy access to information and counselling on Family Planning/Family Life Education (FP/FLE) issues.

Persons wishing a private, confidential and personal session with the counsellor can just walk into office at: 5 Sylvan Avenue, Kingston 5, from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm. Persons who wish to remain anonymous can access the service by calling the numbers: 968-1619, 968-1634-35.

The counsellors also maintain a referral system with appropriate agencies within the country, in order to cater to the needs of clients that the NFPB counselling service cannot address. Referrals are made for the following services – antenatal care, receipt of contraceptives not issued at the NFPB, contraceptive counselling at special youth-friendly clinics, STI/HIV counselling and testing, general counselling, child welfare, skills training/education, domestic violence, drug abuse, sexual abuse and other services.

Marge Roper is available to provide the service from Mondays to Thursdays, 8:30 a.m to 4:45 p.m and Fridays from 8:30 am to 3:45 pm.

Teen Seen

The goal of the programme is to address Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health issues, including unplanned pregnancy, STIs, voluntary abstinence and referral to appropriate services and counselling specifically for young people.

The format used is based on the edu-tainment approach wherein entertainment is used as a vehicle for education and information. Content for each programme focuses on a topic discussion, youth news, vox pop and artistic performances.

Teen Seen forums have focused on:

- Discrimination and stigma associated with teen sex and pregnancy;
- Teens and under age sex;
- Teens and male sexual responsibility;
- HIV/AIDS vulnerability;
- Communicating with parents;
- Peer leadership;

- Teens and self esteem;
- Teens and abortion;
- Sexuality abstinence; and
- Peer pressure.

“Ask Marge” Radio Programme

The NFPB continues its outreach service through the media, via the “Ask Marge” radio programme on RJR at 9:40 am on Tuesdays. On this programme, areas of Reproductive Health are discussed.



Workshops

Workshops are conducted by the training officers at the NFPB for persons such as community health aides, nurses, teen mothers, and professional persons such as members of the police force.

Armed with Audio / Visual materials they conduct these workshops to strengthen the target groups understanding of Sexual and Reproductive Health issues.

The training officers travel the length and breath of the island conducting these workshops and they also disseminate Information Education and Communication materials.

Educational Materials

The Communications unit of the NFPB produces a variety of Sexual and Reproductive Health materials on both print and electronic media that are used by our target audiences, including teachers, guidance counsellors, students and parents. They also provide a variety of NGOs with materials especially when they are conducting health fairs and mounting exhibitions. The materials are also used by our training officers, Marge Roper and the Library.

Materials include the Menstruation Brochure, Puberty Boy and Puberty Girl. These materials can be accessed by visiting or calling the NFPB and requesting same.

Other Activities

Marge Roper Column

There is a “Marge Roper column” which comes out in the Star every two (2) weeks on a Friday. Through this column, Reproductive Health issues are discussed and individuals write in to have particular questions answered by Marge on the topic.

Presentations/Rap Sessions

From time-to-time, training officers from the Outreach Department and Marge Roper will visit schools or centres which request their expertise to give presentations or rap sessions. These may be aimed at students, giving them information on Reproductive Health, which may include issues such as abstinence and peer pressure.

Media and Schools

Through collaborations with media entities, the NFPB’s Marge Roper through the various promotions, disseminates information and educational material at schools.