



NEWS RELEASE

September 30, 2010.

For immediate release

TAKING REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH MATTERS TO MALES

In excess of 1,000 males consisting of community health aides (CHAs), parents and caregivers (including adolescent fathers) and service providers have been trained since April 2010 in matters related to their reproductive health and that of their loved ones. With only three (3) months to go before the end of the year, the momentum is building feverishly as even more groups of males anticipate the National Family Planning Board (NFPB) hosted training sessions for them in reproductive health matters.

Headlined *Preparation for tomorrow's parents; Fathers make a difference; Transforming men into Clients; Sex and your children – worth talking about; and Gender dynamics in Relationships & Contraceptive Use*, these parish based workshops continue to reap tremendous successes as far as getting men to verbalise their concerns and queries and work toward finding solutions for common challenges.

An outline of the workshops for parents/caregivers reveals they are aimed at equipping the audience with information on adolescent sexual and reproductive health (SRH) issues so that they can better communicate with their child(ren)/ward(s) on sensitive issues. Other sessions on 'Gender Dynamics in Reproductive Health Relationships' allow nurse practitioners, midwives and public health nurses to articulate their own role in offering services to couples through counselling as well as to examine gender relations, dynamics and contraceptive services provision. In the meantime, CHAs have been challenged by the trainers to recognise the importance of involving men in reproductive health initiatives.

The NFPB is heartened by the successes seen in terms of knowledge transfer and behaviour change among the males who have attended the



sessions. Relying on a domino –effect initiated by each participant the NFPBs expected result, albeit incremental, is for males to take reproductive health matters into their hands and to become advocates for the cause.

Training workshops continue for the months of October and November 2010.

Date	Title	Audience	Venue
October 12	Preparation for tomorrow's parents	Adolescent parents	St. Catherine Health Department, St. Catherine.
October 20	Fathers make a difference	Fathers	St. Catherine Health Department, St. Catherine.
October 29	Transforming men into Clients	CHAs	St. Catherine Health Department, St. Catherine.
November 24	Sex and your children – worth talking about	Parents/Caregivers	(Venue to be decided), St. Thomas.
November 29	Gender dynamics in Relationships & Contraceptive Use	Service Providers	(Venue to be decided), Trelawny.
November 30	Transforming men into Clients	CHAs	(Venue to be decided), Trelawny.

Additional information related to the workshops can be obtained from the National Family Planning Board, 5 Sylvan Avenue, Kingston 5, Telephone (876) 968-1632-3, Fax (876) 968-1626.

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