Philippine General Hospital
Child Protection Unit

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The PGH-CPU...

- A collaborative program committed to the highest clinical standards of care for abused children
- Founded in January 22, 1997
- A project of the University of the Philippines Manila Philippine General Hospital and the Advisory Board Foundation (now Citybridge Foundation)
MISSION

The CPU is a child-friendly unit using a multidisciplinary approach and networking in providing comprehensive medical and psycho-social services to abused children and their families, to prevent further abuse, and to initiate the process of healing. Training is provided for medical and other key professionals in the recognition and management of abused children. Research and advocacy are done for the improvement of child protection services and the prevention of child abuse.
VISION

A dynamic, model CPU providing sustainable comprehensive services for abused children and their families, working for the advancement of field of child protection in partnership with community, local, and national government and non-government agencies under a nationwide multidisciplinary child protection system in pursuit of the realization of children’s rights.
PGH-CPU MILESTONES

1997 – PGH-CPU opens its doors as a new child friendly center for abused children
1998 – DSWD and CPU partnership formalizes a reporting and referral network for abused children in Metro Manila
1999 – DOH becomes a partner in developing WCPUs nationwide
   - Child abuse is incorporated in undergraduate medical curriculum
PGH-CPU MILESTONES

2000 – Supreme court issues Rule on Examination of a Child Witness
2001 – consensus on Medicolegal Terminology and Interpretation of Medical Findings Released
2002 – PNP becomes a partner in developing the Women’s and Children’s Crisis Center and in the Training of Women’s and Children’s Desk officers
PGH-CPU MILESTONES

2003 – PGH-CPU receives Civil Service Commission Pag-Asa Award

2004 – Multidisciplinary Death Review for suspicious child deaths started

2005 – PGH-CPU receives UP Manila Jewels Finalist Award from UP Manila Chancellor
2006 – PGH-CPU is cited by WHO and UN Secretary General Study on Children and Violence as a model for intervention for the care of abused children
The number of new patients seen at CPU has been steadily increasing to average four per day, or a thousand per year.

Majority (81%) of the patients seen at PGH-CPU are victim survivors of child sexual abuse.

In 2006, more boys were seen for physical abuse than girls.

The younger children are most vulnerable to physical abuse.
The PGH-CPU’s services in the framework of the Care Continuum
INTERVENTION AND PREVENTION

INTAKE

FORENSIC SERVICES
- Medical
- Psychiatric
- Social Work
- Police
- Court Testimony

MEDICAL SERVICES
- Diagnosis
- Treatment
- Developmental Assessment

MENTAL HEALTH
- Diagnosis
- Treatment

LEGAL SERVICES
- Investigation
- Counselling
- Legal Documents

SAFETY ASSESSMENT

MULTIDISCIPLINARY CASE MANAGEMENT
- Provision of Services
- Risk and Needs Assessment
- Case Conference
- Coordination
- Tracking

CASE CLOSED
INTAKE

- Guardian completes consent and patient is registered in the Child Protection Management Information System (CPMIS).
- Social worker interviews caretaker while child plays in playroom.
- Child then receives any or all or a combination of the following services: forensic, medical, mental health or legal services.
INTERVENTION AND PREVENTION

- Forensic Services:
  - Medical
  - Psychiatric
  - Social Work
  - Police
  - Court Testimony

- Medical Services:
  - Diagnosis
  - Treatment
  - Developmental Assessment

- Mental Health:
  - Diagnosis
  - Treatment

- Legal Services:
  - Investigation
  - Counselling
  - Legal Documents

SAFETY ASSESSMENT

MULTIDISCIPLINARY CASE MANAGEMENT:
- Provision of Services
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CASE CLOSED
FORENSIC SERVICES

- Information that is valuable for courts is obtained in adherence to legal requirements for evidence collection.

- Services include videotaped forensic interview, medical exam, collection of specimens, psychiatric evaluations, and social work evaluations.

- When summoned, CPU professionals appear in court to provide fact and expert testimony about their findings.
MEDICAL SERVICES

- Physicians examine patients for medical problems not associated with abuse and devise and implement a treatment plan.
- A staff developmental pediatrician performs developmental screening of CPU patients who are suspected to have special needs.
MENTAL HEALTH

- Psychiatrist or psychologist conducts initial mental health screening and devises a treatment plan.

- Psychiatrist or psychologist conducts regular therapy sessions with the patient until the patient shows improvement in his/her symptoms.
INTERVENTION AND PREVENTION

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CASE CLOSED
LEGAL SERVICES

- Patients receive free legal counseling and assistance in preparing legal documents.

- CPU policewoman conducts necessary investigations and steps for filing cases at the DOJ.
SAFETY ASSESSMENT

- CPU team put their findings together to determine child’s safety in his/her current placement.
- Action plans are implemented to protect the child, like alternative placement or immediate home visit.
MULTIDISCIPLINARY CASE MANAGEMENT

- CPU team draws up action plan to achieve goals of safety, health, development, and legal protection of the child.

- The team works with patients, non-offending parents, and other child protection agencies.

- CPU social worker act as case manager.
MULTIDISCIPLINARY CASE MANAGEMENT

➤ Risk and Needs Assessment:
  Social worker conducts home visit to assess risk of reabuse and identify needs.

➤ Case Conference:
  Multidisciplinary conference is held on a regular basis to monitor progress and developments.
MULTIDISCIPLINARY CASE MANAGEMENT

 Coordination:
External agencies involved in the case are invited to share their inputs and participate in planning interventions.

 Tracking:
Safety concerns, family function/dysfunction, and legal issues are assessed.
CASE CLOSED

A case is closed when:
- goals have been met
- services are no longer required
- services have been refused
- services cannot be given by CPU
- child/family cannot be located
The PGH-CPU is a multidisciplinary training center that trains physicians, mental health professionals, nurses, social workers, and police. Each discipline has its own specific curriculum and the training is both interdisciplinary and multisectoral. At the end of the training, each trainee becomes an expert on child protection in his/her field.
TRAINING AND RESEARCH

- Child Protection Management Information System (CPMIS) Database
  - a database system developed to facilitate case management and research in the unit.
PGH-CPU SERVICES
GOVERNANCE

- Governance: ascertaining effectiveness and accountability
- PGH-CPU coordinated with different government and non-government agencies
EMERGING PROBLEMS

- A significant number of sexually abused patients were abused by adolescents and young boys.
- There was a sudden increase in number of child trafficking patients referred for forensic services.
“Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old, he will not depart from it.”

-Proverbs 22:6
THANK YOU!