

**OVERSIGHT VISIT REPORT OF THE PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH  
AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT CONDUCTED AT SWARTFONTEIN  
SUBSTANCE TREATMENT CENTRE ON 16 FEBRUARY 2017 -  
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT**

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## **1. INTRODUCTION**

The Portfolio Committee on Health and Social Development (the Committee) has a mandate in terms of Rule 119 of the Rules and Orders of the Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature to conduct oversight over the Department of Health (the department) by holding it accountable through various measures which the Portfolio Committee may undertake during the course of a financial year.

One of the instruments that enable the Portfolio Committee to execute its mandate is to conduct public hearings and oversight visits to social development facilities/centres in the Province.

## **2. PURPOSE OF THE OVERSIGHT VISIT**

The purpose was to:

- ❖ To assess the impact of the programme for substance abuse patients and the progress of the construction project.

## **3. METHOD OF WORK**

The oversight visit on 16 February 2017 was unannounced; hence the Department and the Centre were not notified in advance.

#### **4. OBSERVATIONS**

**The Committee observed the following:**

- The Centre is operating from the newly constructed female section units, the area is very neat and adequately furnished, and construction is well underway.

#### **5. INTERACTION WITH THE MANAGEMENT OF THE CENTRE**

##### **5.1 Presentation on services provided to Service Users and progress on the construction project**

Mr. Mnisi, the Centre Manager presented the report on behalf of the Centre and the Department. He outlined the following in his presentation:

- The Centre operates under Act 70/2008 (Prevention of and Treatment of Substance Abuse Act 70/2008) and adheres to the Minimum Norms and Standards of In-patient Treatment Center's;
- The Centre is a fully fledged and functional Treatment Centre and the demand to access the Centre is becoming higher due to the huge problem of substance abuse in the Province especially the abuse of Nyaope, Dagga and Alcohol which constitutes about 95% of the service-users admitted at the Centre;
- The target group is 18 years and older, providing treatment for a period of three (03) months. The Centre currently had 39 admitted service users, 36 males and 3 females. The 39 service users were admitted in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of the current financial year;
- The Centre has 35 staff members; four social workers, one medical nurse, 17 care officers and 11 administration personnel;

- Construction is underway at the Centre, the Centre is currently operating from the newly constructed female section units;
- The approved structure is set to accommodate 40 male and 10 female service users;
- Admission criteria:
  - Servicers –Users should be 18 years and over
  - A detailed psychosocial report compiled by a Social Worker.
- The following documents should accompany the report:
  - Care plan for Individual Development Treatment Plan (IDP)
  - Release address: undertaking for the provision of accommodation
  - Contractual Agreement must be signed by social worker, parent/guardian/,service-user
  - Medical certificate completed by doctor
- The person should be in a reasonably good medical condition in order to participate in the therapeutic program, there should be a proof of detoxification and a designation letter;
- The Centre offers the following vocational programmes to supplement the treatment programs: Computer literacy, Gardening and Sewing.

## **Construction Project**

### **PHASE 1 (FEMALE UNIT)**

- Phase 1 (Female unit) completed and has a capacity of 50 service-users.

It consist of ;

- **5x residential houses;** each residential house has
  - 5x bedrooms (2 service-users per room)
  - Sitting room
  - Ablution facilities and a

- veranda
- **Administration building;**
  - waiting area
  - 2 x offices for the care officers on duty
  - professional nurse consulting room
  - sick bay
  - boardroom
  - kitchen
  - ablution facilities
- **TV and laundry building;**
- **A security building/ guardhouse (with a generator room)**
- The structure is fully functional and occupancy took place in September 2016 and currently had 39 service-users (as of the 16<sup>th</sup> of February 2016). One residential house is for the female service-users (10) and the other four houses for the male service-users. The overall capacity of the Phase 1 is 50 (10 females and 40 males)
- Occupancy certificate available

#### **PHASE 2 (MALE UNIT)**

- Construction of the Male unit commenced on 02 November 2016 and will be completed in the 2017/18 financial year. Once completed it will have a capacity of 100 service-users and this will be done in phases (**residential unit 1 and residential unit 2**)
  - **Residential unit 1 will be the construction of**
    - 5x residential houses
    - Administration building
    - TV and laundry area
    - Security guard houses

➤ **Residential unit 2 will then follow after**

The overall capacity of the Centre, after the completion of the construction processes will be 150 service-users (50 females and 100 males).

## **5.2 Comments by the Committee**

### **Admission for Children under 18 years**

Aware that the Centre is for treatment of youth 18 years and above, the Committee cited its concern for the growing statistics of younger users; requesting the Department to consider revising its target group accordingly. The Department reported that admission of children and young people under the age of 18 years is dealt with in terms of the Children's Act 38 of 2005 and they are sent to facilities that provide residential treatment programs suited to the children's need. The Department also reported that currently, children and young persons under the age of 18 years are sent to Mkhondo Alathia Rehabilitation Centre in Piet Retief. However, the Department is in the process of building a new treatment facility that will also caters for the children in Nkangala District.

### **Medical Services**

The Committee cited its concern that the Centre only has one Professional Nurse serving all admitted service users. The Department reported that medical services are available to all service-users on admission at the Centre and this is provided by the Professional Nurse. Medical care as well as emergency medical services are available on a consultative basis and where need arises, the Department reported that referrals to the local hospitals are made; hence there is a need for an additional Professional Nurse to enable the Centre to render 24 hour medical services.

### **Liaison with Stakeholders**

The Committee asked which stakeholders the Centre was in liaison with. The Department reported that the Centre strives to make its services more accessible to many people within the Mpumalanga Province, especially women who are abusing substances. Since the beginning of 2016/17 financial year, the Department reported that a total of 13 outreach programs have been conducted where information about substance abuse was provided to various schools and organizations involved in the field of substance abuse as well as the services of the Centre. The Department also reported that International calendar days were also celebrated (i.e. International Day against Drugs and Illicit Trafficking) which was held in Thembeke Municipality. The Centre reportedly receives reports of service-users who have been identified, assessed and found to be in need of in-patient treatment by the Social Workers from various Government Departments as well as civil organizations; there is a high level of interactions with various stakeholders involved in the field of substance abuse.

The Department further reported that Mbombela Local Drug Action Committee is fully functional, involved and spearheaded by Mbombela Local Municipality. Different stake holders forms part of Mbombela LDAC and have programs in place where the Centre is playing a role. The Department also reported that the Centre is also part of the Provincial Substance Abuse Forum.

### **Activities Offered at the Centre**

The Committee enquired on the activities offered at the Centre apart from the rehabilitation programme. The Department reported that apart from the structural treatment program which is rendered by the Multi-Disciplinary Team (professionals at the Centre), the Centre is currently fast tracking the implementation of additional programs that will benefit the service-users i.e. computer literacy, gardening and sewing. Department of Education and the Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land Administration and

Environmental Affairs have come on board to offer their expertise and 14 computers have been procured.

### **After Care Services**

Appreciative of the services rendered at the Centre, the Committee enquired on the after care services available to the service users. The Department reported that after care is the continuation of the treatment program. Service-users who have completed inpatient treatment program relapsed due to the lack of after care services, after care is an ongoing professional support rendered to service-users after a formal treatment program has ended to enable them to maintain sobriety and personal growth and to self-reliance and proper functioning. Prior to the release of the service-user, the Department reported that the Centre ensures adequate referrals and linking of the service-user with the referral Social Worker, community services and support groups. Further to that, a detailed progress report is reportedly sent to the referral Social Worker for the continuation of after care services.

### **5.3 FINDINGS MADE BY THE COMMITTEE**

After the interaction with the Centre management, the Committee found that:

- a. The Centre only has one Professional Nurse serving 39 admitted service users;
- b. The Centre Manager is on an acting capacity from December 2016.

### **5.4. RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY THE COMMITTEE**

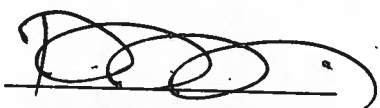
After the deliberations and the in loco inspection, the Committee recommended that the Department must:

- a. Consider and budget for the appointment of another Professional Nurse in the 2017/18 financial year;
- b. Prioritize the appointment of a Centre Manager within the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2017/18 financial year.

**The Chairperson requests the House to adopt the report with its findings and recommendations and that a progress report on the implementation of House resolutions be provided on or before Thursday, 13 April 2017.**

## **6. CONCLUSION**

The Chairperson would like to express her heartfelt gratitude to all the Honourable Members of the Portfolio Committee on Health and Social Development for their attendance and active participation during the oversight visit. She further wishes to thank the management of the Centre and the Legislature staff for providing support to the Committee.



**HON. P NGOBENI**

**CHAIRPERSON: PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH  
AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT**

29/03/17

**DATE**