



***A Regional Case of POAR :
“The case of FI.MI.”***

**Centre for Excellence in Rural
Sexual Health (CERSH)**

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Topics covered in this presentation:

1. Time Frame of this case
 2. Referral
 3. Department of Health investigation of the allegations
 4. Public Health management
 5. Criminal Investigation
 6. Outcomes
 7. Community Consultation and Education
 8. Some after thoughts.....
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Time Frame

October 1996 – March 1998

Including the criminal trial

Team from Department of Health

- 3 Partner Notification Officers
 - Chief Health Officer (Dr. Graham Rouch)
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The Referral

Referral source of POAR:

- Interstate colleague
 - Young Man
 - History of Intellectual Disability
 - History of Psychiatric Disability
 - Prisoner
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Investigation of Allegation:

Assessment of alleged POAR client:

- 52 Year old business man
 - Married, father of 5 children
 - No history of psychiatry, intellectual disability or physical disability
 - Diagnosed HIV positive in 1987
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Public Health Management

Managing the partners placed at risk:

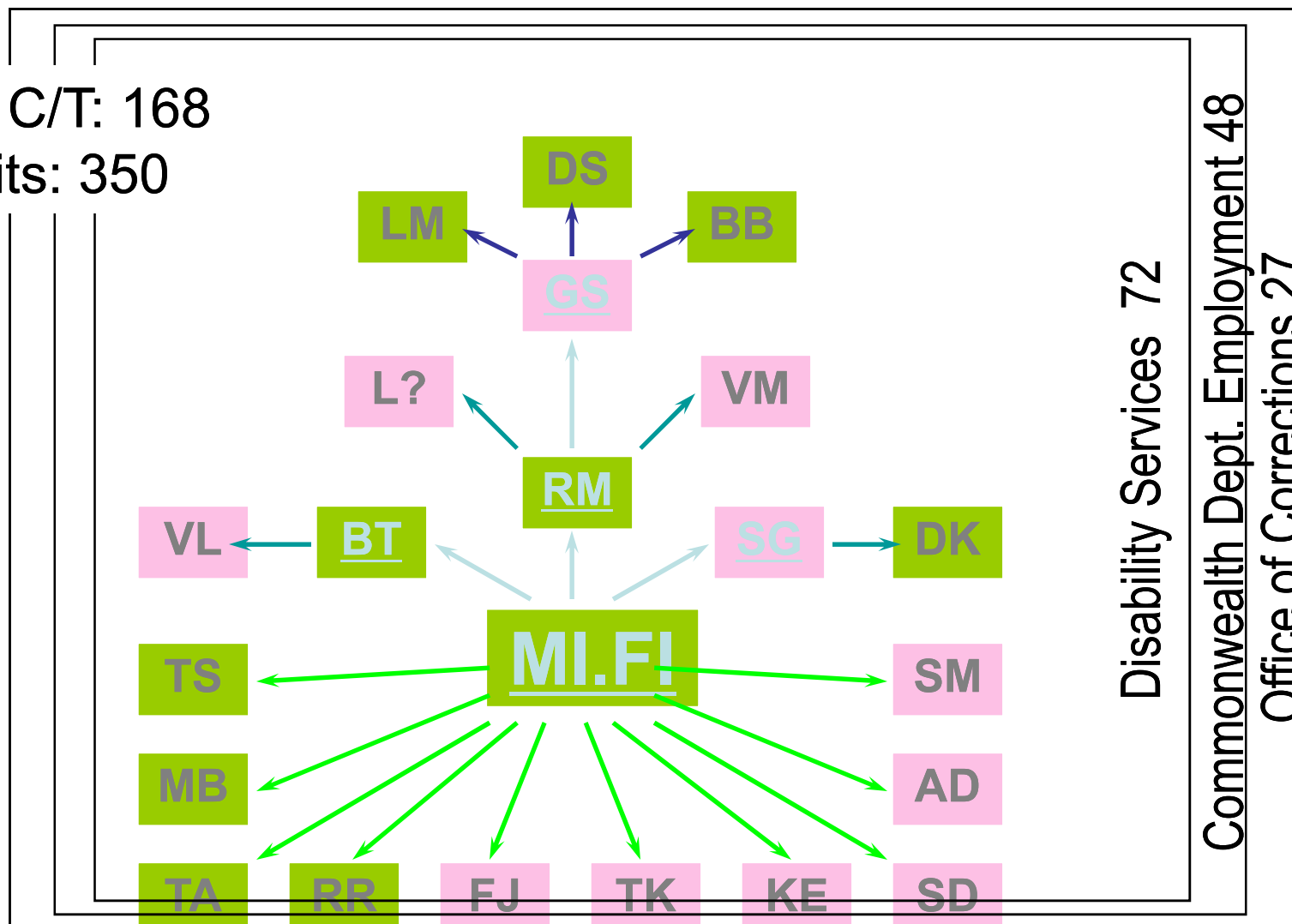
- Disabled clients of DoH
- Psychiatric clients (inpatient and community)
 - Office of the Public Advocate and Guardianship Board
- Homeless young people
- Referrals from the Police

Managing the POAR client:

Referral to Police after evidence of rape



Total C/T: 168
Visits: 350





Criminal Investigation:

- Task Force established by Police
 - 3 experienced Detectives
 - Covert investigation to start
 - Search Warrant of home and holiday house
 - Initial charges laid – client under house arrest but allowed visitors
 - County Court
 - Sentencing
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The Criminal Charges:

- 80 charges of intentionally transmitting a serious disease
- 21 counts of attempting to intentionally transmit a very serious disease
- 180 charges of reckless conduct likely to cause death
- 13 counts of administering a drug to enable sexual penetration
- 6 counts of indecent assault
- 2 counts of bestiality

Total: 304 criminal charges

Committed to stand trial on 172 charges.



Outcome:

Eventually FI.MI. stood trial on 21 charges;

- FI.MI. was found guilty on 11 counts and sentenced to 8 years imprisonment with a minimum of 5 years to serve.
- There were a further 2 trials scheduled to deal with alleged rape, sexual assault of minors and bestiality.

FI.MI. was found hanging in prison 2 weeks after being sentenced in March 1998.



Community Consultation and Education

- **Worked in a regional community for almost 2 years**
 - **Maintained confidentiality**
 - **Managed to build relationships with local health service providers and families**
 - **Relied on local health services for follow up testing, care and counselling for those involved**
 - **Worked with a multidisciplinary team in the region – disability services, psych services, division of GP etc.**
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Some after thoughts.....

Coping in a small team with high workload and stress

- **Work in the city continued - so we rotated**
- **Open line to the Chief Health Officer**
- **Designated a consistent co-ordinator for this case**
- **Trust in colleagues**
- **Laughter**
- **Evening meals**
- **Professional stress management**
- **Managing our personal lives but.....**

WE WERE GLAD WHEN IT FINISHED!!!!!!



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