

The Marikina City Information and Service Delivery Network (ISDN) on Adolescent Health and Development (AHD)

The ISDN was introduced and implemented in Marikina City in 2016 with technical assistance from the Commission on Population (POPCOM) National Capital Region (NCR). As an initial step, relevant key players in the city government together with non-government partners were gathered to create an advisory group. The said advisory group led in the design of the ISDN in Marikina City through the conduct of series of workshops. Each advisory group member took on specific role to make the ISDN functional:

- City Health Office through the Marikina Youth Health and Adolescent Wellness Center (MYHAWC) – central hub/main service provider and overall head of the advisory group;
- Department of Education (DepEd) Marikina City – mobilization of students;
- City Social Welfare and Development (CSWD) - catering to disadvantaged children;
- Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) Federation (Youth Council), City Councilor in-charge of Health and barangay health centers to cater to communities;
- Philippine National Police-Women Children Protection Department (PNP-WCPD) – cater to abused children and teenage girls; and
- Private organizations and hospitals – provision of health services including mental health.

The ISDN Advisory Group serves until now as the Adolescent Health Council in Marikina City which indeed strengthened public and private partnership.

As one of the major features of the ISDN, a referral pathway was introduced and implemented which included the schools, barangay health centers, private facilities and public hospitals as end referral facilities. To systematize the referral system within the network of facilities, a standard referral form was developed and utilized together with a directory of providers (*please see attached copy of referral form directory*).

One noteworthy feature of the ISDN is the engagement of school within the network. In the previous years when there was no ISDN yet, most of the referrals came from health center. With its active cooperation, each school has designated a nurse to attend to the common health concerns of the students and made the necessary referrals to appropriate facilities.

The ISDN was also instrumental in the establishment of the first school-based teen center in Marikina City. In 2018, Sto. Nino National High School launched the center with support coming from the Department of Health (DOH), Marikina City Health Office, the Department of Education (DepEd) and the Barangay Council. A total of 40 students from the said school were trained to become peer educators for the center. The teen center has become a showcase to various government agencies as part of their benchmarking on adolescent health.

Moreover, through the ISDN, all the barangay health centers in the City have adopted a designated time exclusive for adolescents which they aptly called as, “adolescent hours” (*please see attached schedule per barangay*).

The ISDN also paved the way for the MYHAWC to be accredited by the DOH as a level three (3) Adolescent Friendly Health Facility (AFHF) in 2019. This made the MYHAWC as one of the two level three AFHF in the NCR, the other one is the National Government Center (NGC) Teen Center in Quezon City (*please see attached DOH endorsement*).