
NATIONAL COUNCIL ON SUBSTANCE ABUSE

ANNUAL REPORT 2019-20



CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT

In accordance with Section 14 of the National Council on Substance Act, I have the honour of presenting the Annual Report for the period April 2019 – March 2020.

I am delighted to state, on behalf of my fellow Directors, that we continued to give our full support to the Management and Staff of this important national agency in its ongoing effort to execute the Council's mandate. After focussing on and reviewing the agency's activities, some major revamping of operations was undertaken to reinforce the NCSA's efforts. Set ambitions were realised, including deepening our stakeholder partnerships locally, regionally and internationally in our fight against Substance Abuse and its mis-use in Barbados. The NCSA's task of devising, undertaking and promoting programmes and projects aimed at the prevention, elimination or control of substance abuse, remained uppermost in our mind. New efforts to facilitate and/or conduct up-to-date research and surveys on substance abuse bore fruit. Collaborations grew, and we have successfully developed the art of regularly doing things differently and in new ways.

Strategically, NCSA has also moved from relying on out-of-date and anecdotal information, to making use of researched, evidence-based and up-to-date material. Having established MOUs with some of our strategic partners in mid- 2019, this has enhanced cooperation as is evidenced by NCSA's production of four documents that have recently been presented to the Hon. Minister of Home Affairs. These are: BARDIN Report 2017, BARDIN Report 2018, Barbados National Primary School Survey 2020, and our latest version of the Barbados National Anti-Drug Plan 2020-2025. Concrete plans are already in motion to undertake a National Secondary School Survey in early 2021. In addition, work on an Early Warning System, part of a National Observatory on Drugs has commenced. The information provided in the documents

submitted above confirm that NCSA is delivering on its mandate of advising the Minister of Home Affairs on trends and measures that will help us to eradicate – at least control, substance abuse in Barbados for the foreseeable future.

The sudden and unexpected advent of COVID-19 in Barbados has tested our nation's ability to adjust to, then cope with, and now start recovering from, in often novel situations. Lockdown, isolation, sudden unemployment, electronic schooling and social distancing and mask-wearing, have all enforced changes to established social, work, learning and religious traditions, habits and practices. As a result, mental suffering has affected many Barbadians. Unfortunately, greater (and often a latent) use and mis-use of both legal and illegal substances may be taking place across all ages and segments of our society. Whether accidental, deliberate, or inadvertent, NCSA must continue to lead the fight against this debilitating scourge.

But NCSA can only do so if it is adequately funded. We are one of only seventeen (17) Government agencies that are up-to-date with audited accounts. We have continued that practice this year. However, recent budget cuts have not helped NCSA. What, in 2019, was already a tight financial situation for us, worsened in 2020. Funding for NCSA's ongoing programmes – in schools (once they reopen) and in our various communities and workplaces, is down 25 per cent. As a result, we are struggling in our efforts to survive and function as required. Losing the substance abuse battle is not desirable or acceptable, so I am making an urgent appeal on NCSA's behalf for funding, either from the public purse or private sector at this time.

Despite the above stated challenges, NCSA remains committed and determined to deliver on its mandate.

Hadford Howell MBE JP, NCSA Chairman

INTRODUCTION

The National Council on Substance Abuse (NCSA) was established by an Act of Parliament 1995-13 and is a Statutory Board under the aegis of the Ministry of Home Affairs. Oversight and policy are determined by a Board of Directors and daily operations are currently executed by a team of nineteen (19) persons appointed in established posts. As the need arises additional services can be engaged on a contractual basis, however some aspects of NCSA's programme initiatives are conducted by volunteers. The NCSA's mission is broken down into the following broad categories:

- School-Based Prevention
- Community-Based Prevention
- Treatment & Rehabilitation
- Research and Information
- Volunteer Coordination
- Library Services

Vision Statement

"To be the authority in Barbados for Drug Abuse Reduction"

Goal & Objectives

Goal:

- To be *the* lead agency responsible for the timely provision of drug education through research, information dissemination and programme execution in order to reduce the demand for illegal drugs within the context of the Barbados National Anti-Drug Plan.

Objectives:

- To conduct quantitative and qualitative research to determine the nature and the extent of drug use trends in Barbados;
- To implement school-based programmes that can be measured for impact, effectiveness and behaviour change;
- To conduct community based programmes that utilise universal, selected and indicated approaches in order to increase the effectiveness of programming in this area;
- To implement a national drug prevention communications campaign that promotes healthy lifestyle choices;
- To provide training and/ or identify training opportunities for prevention specialists in various aspects of substance abuse
- To support and add value to the rehabilitation efforts in Barbados as articulated in the proposed Minimum Standards of Care, and in accordance with regional standards of training for treatment and prevention specialists;
- To support, partner and liaise with national, regional and international organisations and stakeholders to ensure that national, regional and international obligations in the area of drug control are met.

The Remit of the National Council on Substance Abuse

Drug abuse is a national problem requiring a national response; policymakers, the public sector, the private sector, the faith-based community, parents, the health and education sectors, the sports fraternity, and community leaders must recognize that “nothing poses greater threats to civil society in CARICOM countries than the drug problem; and nothing exemplifies the powerlessness of regional governments more” (The West Indian Commission, 1992). The NCSA is a national institution that plays a critical role in safeguarding the future human potential of Barbados by discouraging and preventing drug use and its attendant behaviours such as crime, violence, homelessness and risky sexual activity that may lead to HIV/AIDS.

As Barbados' National Drug Commission, the NCSA is a dynamic and responsive organization with dedicated staff committed to the task of educating, training, informing, providing technical assistance and counselling to Barbadians from all walks of life on the complexities of drug and alcohol abuse. As the lead agency on drug abuse, it keeps abreast of global drug trends and patterns of use so that it remains on the cutting edge of the discipline of drug prevention and drug addiction.

This 2019-20 Annual Report reflects the recently approved Strategic Plan of Action, which will guide the Council's activities over the next three years. Programming is therefore linked to the respective objectives and also reflects the programme direction for the new Hemispheric Plan of Action and the Barbados National Anti-Drug Plan (BNADP) 2015-20.

NCSA must therefore receive the requisite human, financial and technical resources to sustain its longevity to achieve genuine national impact using a multi-sectorial approach.

The Concept of Demand Reduction

The term "drug demand reduction" is used to describe policies or programmes directed towards reducing the consumer demand for narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances covered by the international drug control conventions. Demand reduction seeks reduction of drug abuse directly through prevention and treatment interventions. The growing recognition of the importance of drug demand reduction cannot be understated as the escalating drug use and abuse continue to take a devastating toll on the health, welfare, security, and economic stability of all nations.

The United Nations has outlined in its *"Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction"*, that demand reduction policies shall:

1. Aim at preventing the use of drugs and at reducing the adverse consequences of drug abuse;

2. Provide for and encourage active and coordinated participation of individuals at the community level, both generally and in situations of particular risk, by virtue of, for example, their geographical location, economic conditions or relatively large addict populations;
3. Be sensitive to both culture and gender; and
4. Contribute to developing and sustaining supportive environments.

Programming of the National Council on Substance Abuse (NCSA) for the F/Y 2019-20 take into account these policies, which embrace the notion that any meaningful impact in the area of drug demand reduction must recognize the impact of respective communities in which activities, projects or programmes are executed.

DRUG AWARENESS MONTH

Drug Awareness Month (DAM) is celebrated each year during the month of January. However, owing to diminishing resources, a decision was taken to pilot a Drug Awareness Week during June 2019 to coincide with the anniversary of the Council, and also to include activities to mark International Day Against Drug Abuse (IDADA), recognized internationally on June 26th.

DRUG AWARENESS WEEK 2019 ACTIVITIES: JUNE 24 – 30, 2019

24th June Morning Devotions Session at Wesley Hall Infants & Junior Schools

The students at the Junior school were receptive to words of encouragement from past student, Mr. Troy Wickham, Deputy Manager, as he reminisced on his early childhood days at the school. Mr. Brian “Bumba” Payne, Drug Education Officer, further captured the attention of the students, as they actively participated in his rendition of “Calm Down”. The morning’s devotion ended with the students being led in prayer and reciting the National Pledge. The Senior Teacher thanked the NCSA on behalf of the Principal and the entire school for this initiative. They also extended an open invitation to the NCSA to return to the school.

25th June: Drug Education Session at Coleridge and Parry School

Programme Officers, Ms. Paulavette Atkinson, Mr. Brian Payne and Mrs. Makeada Bourne facilitated the half-day session at Coleridge and Parry School with students from first to third forms. Mr. Payne spoke about anger management, ways to calm down and then lead the children in his self-penned rhythm poetry ‘calm down’. Ms. Atkinson discussed the effects of using alcohol and reinforced her point through an activity with the ‘drunk goggles’. Mrs. Bourne presented on the topic ‘Marijuana: Myth or Fact’.

The diversity of presentations and activities were well received by the children and the teachers. This intervention was covered by Barbados Today, The Advocate and Starcom Network.

26th June Morning Barbados

As stated by Mr. Yury Fedotov, Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs & Crime (UNODC), “Drug abuse is a complex problem at the intersection of public health, safety and social issues. It takes a heavy toll on our families and communities, claiming more than half a million lives each year. The **International Day Against Drug Abuse & Illicit Trafficking** shines a spotlight on this preventable crisis and on the global quest to advance successful responses.”

In recognition of June 26th (now commonly referred to as World Drug Day), personnel from the local “drug authority”, the National Council on Substance Abuse (NCSA), appeared on the CBC TV programme Mornin’ Barbados, to advocate on the theme designated for 2019: *Health 4 Justice – Justice 4 Health*.

Ms. Paulavette Atkinson, Programme Officer, emphasized NCSA’s commitment to facilitate a better understanding of the local drug situation, through the application of international standardized research, drug education, as well as better communication and cooperation with judicial, health, treatment and social service counterparts. In fact, eight agencies involved with the Barbados Drug Information Network (BARDIN) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the NCSA on the day, symbolizing their agreement to this process.

Counsellor, Miss Natalia Corbin; in her debut television appearance, outlined the importance of drug assessments, drug counselling and the need to provide both youth and adults with equal universal access to drug treatment. She also gave an overview of the NCSA counselling service which provides out-patient individual and family

therapy to clients aged 12 years and over with mild and moderate drug addiction and drug use issues.

26th June Official Signing Ceremony for the Barbados Drug Information Network (BARDIN) Memoranda of Understanding

Heads of Department from seven (7) agencies joined the NCSA to sign Memoranda of Understanding for the Barbados Drug Information Network on June 26, 2019. The MOUs will formalize the reporting relationships and obligations of the agencies/departments that supply data for BARDIN, and are the product of a collaborative effort between the NCSA and all Network members. At the Ceremony, MOUs were signed between the NCSA and:

- The Psychiatric Hospital
- The Substance Abuse Foundation
- The Centre for Counselling Addiction and Support Alternatives
- The Edna Nicholls Centre
- The Barbados Prison Service
- The Financial Intelligence Unit
- The Criminal Justice Research and Planning Unit

28th June Salvation Army Community Give Back

On Friday, 28 June 2019, six staff members from the National Council on Substance Abuse went to the Salvation Army, Reed Street, the City as part of our outreach. Staff participated in the prepping of food and the serving of the meals.



29th June Drug Education Workshop for Social Workers

The Council partnered with Barbados Association of Professional Social Workers (BAPSW) to host a drug education workshop for 30 social workers. 27 social workers attended the all-day event. Presentations were done by a representative from the Royal Barbados Police Force, NCSA Research Department and Drug Education Officer, Mr. Brian Payne. The day started with opening remarks from Mr. Troy Wickham, Deputy Manager, NCSA and Mrs. Sharon-Rose Gittens, President, BAPSW. This activity was well publicized across the media houses



DRUG AWARENESS MONTH ACTIVITIES: JANUARY 2020

The Council partnered with several businesses to install banners highlighting DAM. These Banners were installed in Oistins, Christ Church, the Government Procurement Unit, Spring Garden and the office of NCSA at Belleville, St Michael. The following partner agencies also gave permission for NCSA to install banners to highlight DAM: Probation Department, Barbados Defence Force, General Post Office, RBPF Sports Club.

Officers were kept busy during the month as the DAM calendar this year included:

- Blue Charity Drive at Massy Oistins, Cave Shepherd, Carlton A1 & Emerald City Supermarkets
- Drug Sensitization training for Community Practitioners
- Drug Prevention Education Seminar for Church Leaders
- Newspaper Features
- Lunchtime Lecture with Adrian Lorde

All the events were published and aired in the Media.

'NCSA in the Morning' Show

NCSA in the Morning is an initiative to highlight the work of the staff of the NCSA. These ten-minute weekly conversations set at the breakfast table, saw staff talk about their research, their experiences and their concerns. Following the recordings, the videos were uploaded to all NCSA social media platforms including You Tube. They have also been uploaded to the NCSA website.

This show was an incentive for employees who everyday execute their projects and programmes, away from the glitz of the cameras. Based on feedback received, members of the public expressed interest in and support for the work of the NCSA.

It is hoped that sponsorship can be retained to repeat this series.



NCSA In The Morning Episode 6

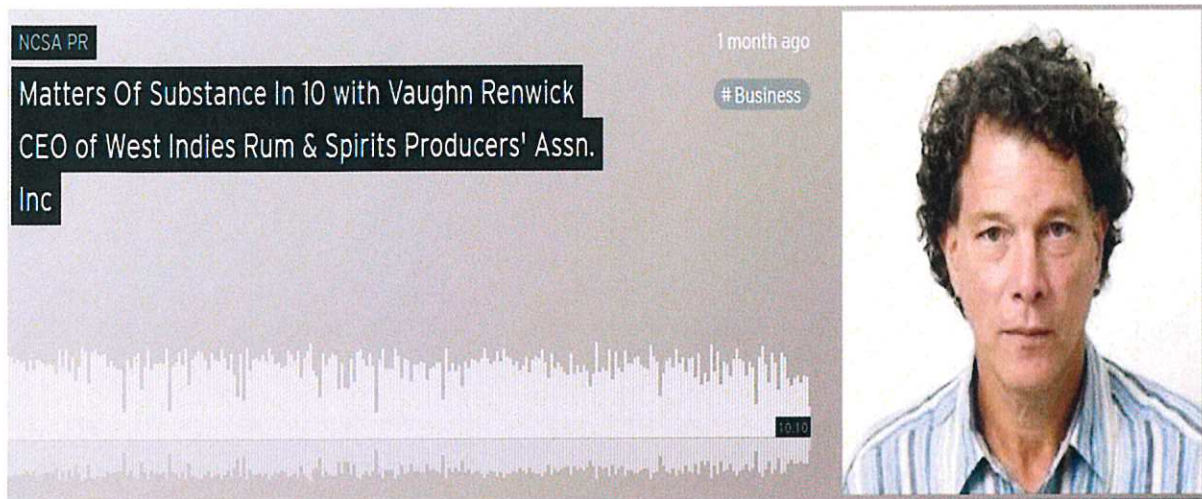
Matters of Substance in 10'

The National Council on Substance Abuse embarked on an educational campaign to better inform Barbadians on the effects of the use and abuse of substances – both legal and illegal.

This was delivered through a ten-minute radio twelve-part series, which was aired on Voice of Barbados every Sunday at 5:00 pm.

From all reports it was informative and gave Barbadians a chance to hear from experts in the field.

Appreciation is extended to Ms. Carol Toppin of 92.9 Starcom Network for hosting this radio show which served to highlight NCSA's work and that of its strategic partners including The Church, The Alcohol Industry, Youth Advocate, Royal Barbados Police Force, Ministry of Education and the Pharmaceutical Association among others.



Blue Week Charity Drive

As part of the activities for Drug Awareness Month 2020, the NCSA hosted a charity drive to raise funds for the NCSA's Counselling Service. This fundraising effort was conducted at Massy Supermarket Oistins, Emerald City Supermarket, A1 Supermarket and Cave Shepherd, Bridgetown. Along with the fundraising effort, the Council provided drug prevention education including practical simulated impaired experiences, to a variety of persons who patronized the businesses where the activities were held. Most staff participated and based on feedback, the public found this interactive event to be highly educational and thought provoking.

Tree Planting Initiative in St. Lucy

In keeping with the national We Gathering initiative, the Council planted trees at several schools in St Lucy including Selah, Half Moon Fort, Ignatius Byer and St Lucy Primary Schools in addition to Daryll Jordan Secondary School.

Workplace Drug Education

Also included in the activities of DAM 2020 were drug prevention sessions to employees in both the public and private sectors.

Commendation is extended to the management of the Transport Authority, for the enrolment of their personnel in the NCSA Workplace Programme and the public display of signage at the various Terminals under their supervision. This

demonstrates their commitment to ensuring that all employees and patrons are fully aware upon entry to the facilities, of the rules which prohibit the sale and use of legal and illegal substances.

Drug simulations were conducted and proved to be very popular amongst the participants. In this regard, they were given a unique opportunity to personally experience how the consumption of chemical substances can affect brain and body function, even when performing everyday tasks.

Furthermore, participants learned how drug impairment can impact not only an individual's feelings, mood and personality, but gained an appreciation of the ripple effect such behaviour can have on the health and well-being of colleagues, patrons and family members. From the overall feedback provided through the participants' oral and written evaluations, eighty percent (80%) agreed that the sessions were informative, timely and useful.

Training

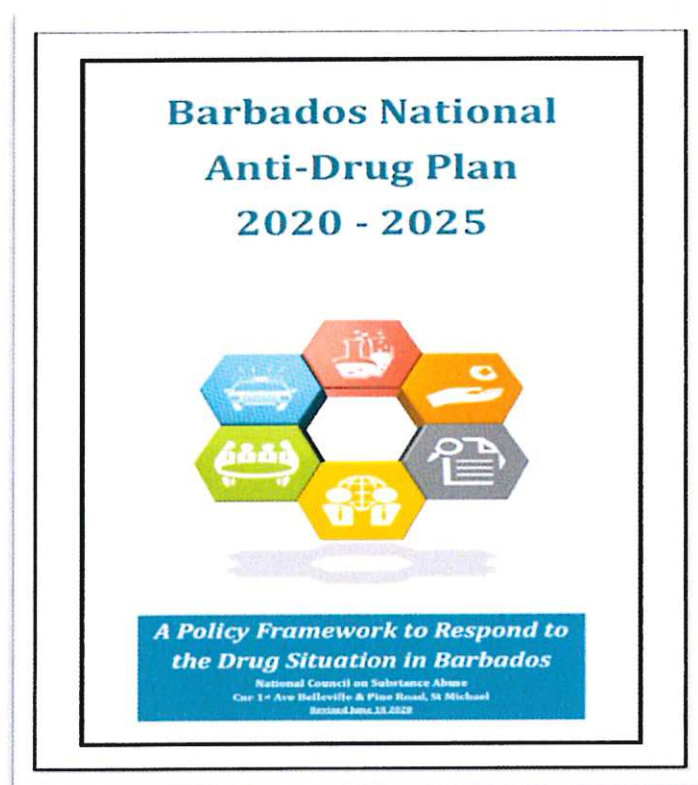
The Council was instrumental in hosting a Training Workshop on the Global Synthetic Drug Monitoring Programme (SMART) as part of the DAM 2019 activities. The workshop was convened by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the Canadian Border Security Agency (CBSA), from January 27th – 29th, 2020 at the Regional Police Training Centre (RPTC), Seawell Christ Church. The workshop exposed NCSA Programme Officers, sixty (60) law enforcement, customs and first-responder personnel from across thirteen organizations, to the identification of synthetic drugs, precursors and security measures.

BARBADOS NATIONAL ANTI-DRUG PLAN

The NCSA is tasked with policy development with respect to assuming centrality for Demand Reduction Efforts. In this regard, it is critical to promote and support programmes and policies that guarantee a multi-sectoral approach to the consumption, abuse and dependence on drugs. It is anticipated that the implementation of the BNADP will be preceded by messaging and other activities to encourage stakeholder buy-in of the strategy in order to ensure its structured operations over the life of the plan.

The Barbados National Anti-Drug Plan (BNADP) 2020 - 2025 is an initiative of the Government of Barbados, implemented through the National Council on Substance Abuse (NCSA) with the support of various government and non-governmental organisations (NGOs), within the framework of the Inter American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) of the Organization of American States (OAS).

This 5-year strategy underscores the commitment of the Government of Barbados to protect its citizens from the scourge of illegal drugs which negatively impacts the quality of life for society as a whole:- communities, families and individuals. At the same time this National anti-drug plan is a tangible demonstration of Barbados' hemispheric obligation to the OAS and its Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM). Its preparation was coordinated by government's lead agency in this area, NCSA, also recognized as Barbados' National Anti-Drug Commission by the OAS/CICAD. Several key agencies contributed to the Plan.



This strategic action plan articulates the current position of the anti-drug effort based on responses from agencies, identifies pathways to a preferred future for the BNADP, and outlines the requisite action necessary for the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the plan. The plan serves as a catalyst to forge an agenda for change, growth and sustainability that will secure the mission of the BNADP, through creating ownership of strategies and building consensus among key stakeholders.

To achieve the strategic imperatives of the BNADP *the plan prioritizes institutional strengthening as the overarching framework to allow for increased stakeholder participation, effective management of scarce resources, and a mobilization framework premised on networking and coordinated advocacy.*

The BNADP takes, as its frame of reference, the CICAD Hemispheric Drug Strategy 2016-20 formulated as strategic guidelines for member states in crafting a response to the drug problem throughout this Hemisphere. This strategy describes five thematic areas- Institutional Strengthening, Demand Reduction, Supply Reduction, Control

Measures and International Cooperation (Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission [CICAD], 2016). Barbados also included as a separate thematic area, Monitoring and Evaluation, given the crucial importance of this activity to all areas of the BNADP.

Reference is also made to the MEM, the evaluation tool used in the Hemisphere to evaluate drug responses in the Member States and make recommendations based on the existing capacity of member states. The MEM Seventh Evaluation Round Report reflects the country's internal reality regarding the implementation of the Hemispheric Drug Strategy and its Plan of Action (2016-2020).

During the financial year 2109/20, the Plan was updated to include recent statistics and reflect current trends. It is hoped that the Plan will be approved, with funding, for implementation by the end of the financial year 2020-21.

RESEARCH

Demand reduction programmes should be based on a regular conduct of research on the nature and magnitude of drug use and abuse and drug-related problems in the population. This is imperative for the identification of emerging trends.

OBJECTIVES

1. To ensure the conduct of timely and cyclical research on the nature and extent of the drug phenomenon among various populations in Barbados; to provide a scientific basis for the delivery of effective drug prevention programmes and projects
2. To consistently share research findings with NCSA Board and Staff; to disseminate research findings to key stakeholders locally, regionally and internationally (as a means of informing policy and programming)
3. To use research findings to guide Programme Officers in structuring, monitoring and evaluating drug education and prevention projects
4. To produce timely publications and other communication tools on the nature and extent of the drug phenomenon in Barbados as part of its information role
5. To consistently partner with local, regional and international agencies in an effort to advance the value of the research process in programme design and development.
6. To propel the NCSA mandate through the dissemination of research and information on aspects of substance abuse through the provision of library services.

ACTIVITIES & COMPLETED PROJECTS

- **Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) Intake Form Project:**
April 1, 2019 to March 31, 2020

This project focuses on determining the profile of drugs users through the collection of demographic and other data at the point of intake (e.g. arrest, psychiatric and

infectious disease history, drugs for which treatment is being sought and previous substance abuse treatment). Mrs. Laura Foster, NCSA's Research Assistant is the local coordinator for the project. Coordination involves liaising with treatment centres and OAS/CICAD, providing intake forms for the treatment centres, data entry and the submission of completed databases to CICAD.

Participating treatment centres submitted completed intake forms for the period January to June, 2019, to the NCSA by the agreed upon deadline of July 15, 2019 and the final databases were submitted to OAS/CICAD on July 31, 2019.

Completed intake forms for the period July to December 2019 were submitted to the Council by January 15 2020. Data entry for the second half of 2019 took place between January 15-31, 2020 and completed databases were submitted to OAS/CICAD on February 3, 2020.

- **Memoranda of Understanding and Data Submission Forms for the Barbados Drug Information Network: April 1 – June 26, 2019**

The Research Assistant was responsible for designing agency-specific Memoranda of Understanding and associated Data Submission Forms for BARDIN. This involved collaborating with participating stakeholders to ensure the appropriateness of the documents for each agency/department. Following the first round of stakeholder meetings which were held on March 4 and 5, 2019, initial drafts were created for: The Edna Nicholls Centre, the Substance Abuse Foundation; the Centre for Counselling Addiction Support Alternatives, the Psychiatric Hospital, the Barbados Prison Service, the Royal Barbados Police Force, the Financial Intelligence Unit, the Criminal Justice Research and Planning Unit.

The draft documents were circulated to the respective agencies/departments for review on April 18, 2019. The documents were adjusted as necessary based on the feedback received from the agencies/departments. Final drafts were circulated for

review and approval following a Heads of Department briefing meeting on May 14, 2019.

An MOU signing ceremony was held on June 26, 2019, as part of the NCSA's celebrations for International Day Against Drug Abuse (IDADA) and as one of the Council's activities for Drug Awareness Week 2019. The Research Assistant was responsible for coordinating this event and served as Master of Ceremonies on the day.



In attendance were representatives from: the Barbados Prison Service, the Financial Intelligence Unit, the Edna Nicholls Centre, the Substance Abuse Foundation, the Psychiatric Hospital, the Criminal Justice Research and Planning Unit and the Centre for Counselling Addiction Support Alternatives. The MOU for the RBPF was later signed on July 12, 2019.

- **Barbados Drug Information Network (BARDIN) 2017 & 2018 Reports**

The Research Department produced two annual BARDIN reports during this reporting period which include contributions from:

- National Council on Substance Abuse
- Edna Nicholls Centre
- Centre for Counselling Addiction Support Alternatives
- Substance Abuse Foundation

- Inmate Drug Rehabilitation and Counselling Programme
- Royal Barbados Police Force
- HMP Dodds

As in previous reports, the data is divided into three broad sections: Demand Reduction, Treatment and Rehabilitation, and Supply Control.

A vital feature of the BARDIN 2018 report is that marijuana continues to be the illegal drug of choice among young people than adults. Persons who use marijuana are mostly males who use this drug for the first time before their tenth birthday. Among adults, alcohol and crack are the leading drugs motivating the need for treatment, but a noticeable trend in drug use in Barbados is polydrug use. Crack cocaine, marijuana and alcohol continue to be consumed singly or in various combinations.

Both reports were scheduled to be disseminate don March 25 2020, but had to be postponed due to the COVID 19 pandemic. The dissemination is now scheduled for July 2020.

- **Primary School Needs Assessment**

This research explored how the National Council on Substance Abuse (NCSA) can improve the delivery of drug education in primary schools. In order to determine the effectiveness of drug prevention education interventions among primary school students, a rapid assessment methodology was used to assess the knowledge, attitudes and opinions of students, principals, teachers and facilitators of drug education in primary schools. The data collected included self-administered questionnaires from 140 teachers and 180 students from six participating schools, focus groups interviews with seven volunteers who deliver drug education in the primary schools and face to face interviews with three school principals and one member of staff from the NCSA.

Among the concerns noted was the absence of formal assessments of how drug education is working to deter drug use in primary schools. It was felt therefore that the conduct of a survey among the primary school population would assist in determining the usefulness of the NCSA's current interventions with this population.

- **National Primary School Survey 2020: July 17, 2019 – March 31, 2020**

During this period, the Research Assistant designed the 2020 National Primary School Survey and managed/coordinated the conduct of the Survey. Activities included:

- Designing the data collection instrument,
- Piloting the questionnaire,
- Compiling the sample frame
- Identifying classes for inclusion at the participating schools
- Notifying selected schools
- Preparing and circulating parental consent forms as requested by schools
- Ordering the necessary stationery
- Recruiting, selecting, training and managing the data collection team;
- Preparing and distributing data collection packages;
- Overseeing the data collection process; receiving completed questionnaire packages from the data collection team and securely storing the packages;
- Recruiting, selecting, training and managing the data entry team and data entry process;
- Coordinating payments for the data collection/data entry personnel; co-authoring the final report;
- Liaising with the technical consultant;
- Preparing and circulating correspondence as needed throughout the process.

The questionnaire design process took place between July – September 2019. Sample selection took place in November 2019 with the selected schools were notified on December 4, 2019. Training of the data collection team took place on December 6, 2019 and the questionnaire was piloted on December 9, 2019. During the period December

15 – 24 2019, the final questionnaires were printed and prepared for data collection, which took place between January 13, and 31, 2020. Data entry was conducted from February 10 – 21, 2020 with data cleaning from March 4 – 12, 2020. Data analysis and report writing started on March 13, 2020 and extended into the 2020/2021 financial year.

- **Early Warning System (EWS)**

The Early Warning System is a multidisciplinary network, which collects, appraises and rapidly disseminates information on the use of new psychoactive substances (NPS).

Early Warning Systems are mechanisms to identify the use of new psychoactive substances (NPS) that may lead to their problematic use among Barbadians. A psychoactive substance means any substance that, when consumed by a person, can induce a psychoactive effect on the person. New psychoactive substances (NPS) are a range of drugs that have been designed to mimic established illicit drugs, such as cannabis, cocaine, ecstasy and LSD. The ability of Barbados to report on the consumption and trends of NPS allows for the implementation of policy frameworks on the prevention, treatment and rehabilitation of persons who consume NPS.

Project Aim: To develop a monitoring, evaluation and reporting framework for the use of new psychoactive substances (NPS) in Barbados.

Objective:

- To identify the consumption of NPS in Barbados
- To inform the public of the harms associated with the use of NPS in Barbados
- To reduce the use of NPS in Barbados
- To identify trends and identification of new ways of using old drugs
- To inform policy on the reduction of NPS in Barbados

An EWS Committee (EWSC) will be responsible for the identification, testing and dissemination of information of an NPS in Barbados. The EWSC will include staff from the Forensics Centre, Health and Criminal Justice Practitioner, school officials, researchers and drug prevention and education specialists. The principal objective of the EWSC is to collect and disseminate primary data on new psychoactive substances and disseminating information to the relevant agencies.

To date, the NCSA has made strides to implement the EWS including the hosting of a meeting of representatives of Demand and Supply and Control sectors; convening a meeting of the members of the Technical Oversight Committee (TOC), January 15, 2020, and the Training of members from various stakeholder groups on devices to identify NPS, January 27 through 29, 2020.

INTERVENTIONS FOR THE SCHOOL-AGED POPULATION

AIM:

To engage students in drug education activities that will assist them to make healthy and safe choices, identify risky situations, and develop strategies to prepare them for challenging situations.

GOALS:

- To reduce the number of young people using drugs;
- To delay the uptake of drugs for as long as possible;
- To reduce the harmful use of legal drugs and medicines;
- To reduce adverse individual and social consequences of drug use; and
- To engage parents where possible.

A range of structured prevention programmes were earmarked for implementation within public and private primary and secondary schools. These programmes adhere to CICAD's Hemispheric Guidelines on School-based Drug Prevention which sets out principles for best practice in prevention. Such programmes involve interactive and creative methodologies (art, drama, dance, mural design, and poetry) and, in some cases, incorporate parental involvement. This reinforces the important nexus between the school and the home environment.

PROGRAMME MATTERS

- **Life Education Centre**

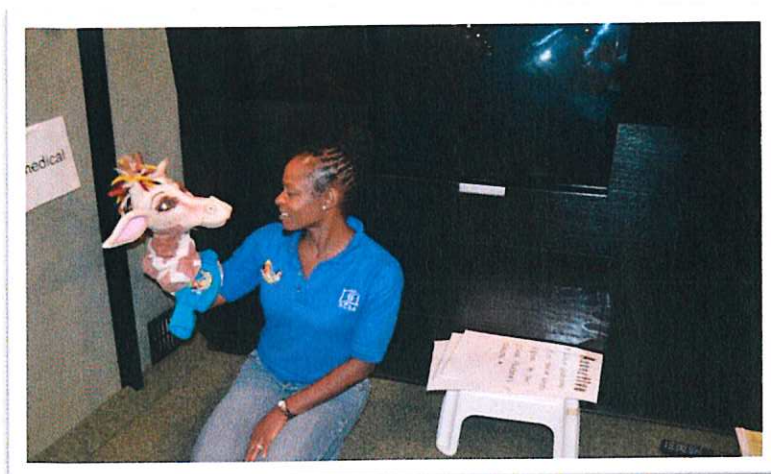
The Life Education Centre (LEC) remained the focus of interventions in the Primary Schools. The programme delivery was enhanced with the full implementation of the revised post-visit sessions for junior school pupils at all schools. These activities were complemented with continued interaction with the students through the other established NCSA programming for this audience.

The LEC was pressed into full service throughout the school year and during the summer vacation in partnership with the National Sports Council Summer Camp, with over two thousand nine hundred (2,900) children participating in the drug prevention programmes.

Efforts to enhance the LEC programme content extended to making contact with LEC Australia, who provided a comprehensive outline of their existing programme offerings. In addition, guidance has been provided regarding the legal action steps required to move towards a more independent LEC Barbados initiative.

Despite having undergone extensive rehabilitative work in 2018-19, as the LEC was returned to full service, new structural challenges started to emerge. Subsequent to a meeting with the service provider, efforts were made to have the appropriate measures undertaken to rectify the problems. While the majority of corrections have been made, to date, a few minor issues remain outstanding.

As part of the “We Gathering” national initiative, the LEC visited schools in accordance with the parish-based schedule from January to March 2020. These interventions were enhanced by NCSA’s participation in the “One Million Tree” planting programme in collaboration with the National Conservation Commission, at each of the schools within each parish.



The accelerated pace of the monthly parish-based approach resulted in a more efficient, streamlined delivery of programming. Regrettably, delays were encountered due to intervening circumstances on the behalf of the supportive service providers involved with the relocation process, however all parties remain committed to the process.

The early closure of schools due to the Covid-19 pandemic did not directly impact on the delivery of programming as the closure coincided with the final scheduled activity for the term.

- **The Barbados Substance Abuse Badge for Organised Youth Groups**

NCSA has been involved in providing training and drug education for members of the Barbados Boy Scouts Association (BBSA) since 2006 and had undertaken the task of revising the Substance Abuse Badge requirements. Upon completion of the revisions, it was suggested that the badge be made available to all organised youth groups which may not have a merit or badge system in place, but have a structure which would facilitate the conduct of the drug education. The alignment of this programme with organised youth groups is in keeping with recognised preventive efforts to reduce risk while enhancing protective factors. Youth groups often meet outside of regular school hours and are generally seeking to provide positive experiences and qualities that will guide young people to grow into healthy and responsible citizens.

Subsequent amendments have been made to the programme and preparations were ongoing for the official handing over of the revised curriculum and the commencement of the pilot training programme for the leaders of the BBSA. However, due to the COVID-19 outbreak and the new protocols, measures will be undertaken to transfer the training to an online platform for implementation.

- **NCSA Primary School Survey**

As the Drug Education Officer with responsibility for drug prevention education in Primary Schools (DEO'P'), Mrs. Wendy Greenidge worked closely with the NCSA's Research Department in the Primary Schools Needs Assessment, which was the forerunner to the Primary School Survey. In the initial stages, the DEO'P' along with the Manager, NCSA were invited by the Ministry of Education, Technological & Vocational Training, to participate in a meeting with stakeholders in May 2019, to discuss responses to the drug situation in the context of the school population. NCSA was granted permission to undertake research with the students at primary and secondary schools in order to provide insight into the current situation.

Subsequent to the meeting, the decision was made to conduct a survey at the primary school level first. As mentioned earlier, the NCSA Research Assistant led the process of drafting and piloting of the survey instrument in partnership with the Ministries of Health and Education with technical guidance provided by OAS/CICAD. The resulting instrument was administered to the students in January 2020 by members of the NCSA Primary School Team.

- **Secondary School Interventions**

Structured drug prevention in secondary schools continued to be facilitated by Mr. Brian Payne, Drug Education Officer Secondary Schools (DEO'S'), ably assisted by Ms. Jennifer Baptiste, Junior Programme Officer (JPO). Module 2 of this *Drug and Life Skills Awareness Programme* was conducted at Parkinson Secondary and The Alleyne School.

- **Edna Nicholls Out of School Suspension Centre**

Mrs. Makeada Bourne, Community Programme Officer, continued sessions weekly at the Edna Nicholls Centre during this financial year. Sessions were held every Tuesday morning with all students who attended the Centre.

The drug education focused on alcohol, marijuana and Tobacco (especially e-cigarettes/vaping). It must be noted that a number of students tested positive for marijuana use. The CPO expressed concern regarding the students' seemingly growing awareness about e-cigarettes and the acknowledgement that they use them thinking that it is not harmful. This is an area which the NCSA has identified for sustained education.

During a period of leave for Mrs. Bourne, the sessions continued to be facilitated by Ms. Paulavette Atkinson. Role play, interactive videos and group discussion were the main teaching methods used to deliver drug education and all sessions incorporated these two topics:

- **Choices & Consequences**
- **Drug Use – Abuse – Addiction**

The steadfast support of the Edna Nicholls Centre team; led by Ms. Debra Hewitt, Programme Coordinator, continues to enable the seamless preparation and debriefing from each weekly session. Commendation must be extended for their invaluable contribution in assisting with the classroom management of the students involved in the drug education sessions.

- **Drug Education Workshop for Guidance Counsellors**

The NCSA hosted a workshop for Guidance Counsellors on February 27, 2020. Presentations made included:

- New Psychoactive Substances and the Abuse of Synthetic Substance and their effects by Dr Ronald Chase, Psychiatric Hospital
- Identifying Drugs by Constable Hill , Royal Barbados Police Force

- NCSA Counselling Services – Mrs Natalia Corbin-Ifill, Counsellor, NCSA
- BARDIN 2016 findings by Mr Jonathan Yearwood, Research Officer, NCSA

In addition, there was an interactive session utilising educational simulation aids which mimic the effect of drug-impaired physical states. This activity was facilitated by Mr Brian Payne and Ms Jennifer Baptiste, NCSA.

Counsellors on the lookout for sneaky students

Children are becoming extremely crafty in their efforts to sneak illegal drugs and alcohol into the school system and in some cases, they have even managed to distort the results of drug testing.

According to President of the Barbados Association of Guidance Counsellors Margaret Grant, drug abuse among the society's youngest continues to manifest itself in "unexplained aggression" and poor performances in school.

"Our children are learning how to camouflage drug testing results, they are learning how to stash substances in their school bag handles, pen barrels and sharpeners," said Grant, who warned that the problem could badly affect public health, security and economic productivity.

While addressing the opening of a drug education workshop for guidance counsellors hosted by the National

Council on Substance Abuse (NCSA) at the organisation's Belleville, St Michael headquarters she explained: "Sometimes students are being caught. Within the schools particularly coming onto the end of term, they might think that surveillance is low and might tend to bring alcohol in drinks and bring So teachers need to be extremely vigilant even when there are class parties."

The guidance counsellor added that despite the propensity for some students to tamper with drug testing results, troubling changes in behaviour are being exhibited.

"They can mask it so well, but sometimes when we see unexplained aggression among our children, that is a hint that they might be on drugs. Children slacking off in school and their attitudes changing dramatically and drastically, sometimes their interests in life start to change, their choice of friends

start to change and they start to take on a completely different persona," Grant told **Barbados TODAY** after the opening ceremony.

Her warning comes just months after NCSA Chairman Hadford Howell revealed that children as young as eight have abused either alcohol or illegal drugs.

The Guidance Counsellors Association president also pledged to continue working with the NCSA's Drug Education Programmes, the police's DARE programme, and other effective interventions.

During her brief remarks, NCSA Manager Betty Hunte explained that the workshop would equip the country's counsellors with the tools necessary to identify young substance abusers, those at risk and children living in households where drugs and/or alcohol are abused. (KS)



Margaret Grant

Barbados Today. (2020). *Counsellors on the Lookout for Sneaky Students*. Retrieved from

<https://epaper.babadosoday.bb/html5/reader/production/default.aspx?pubname=&edid=c434513c-d3f4-4b5a-a8ea-1b70ce7f5c56&pnum=3>

COMMUNITY INTERVENTIONS

Projects and programmes at the community level vary due to the vastness and free-flowing nature of community life. Wherever possible structured approaches are conceptualized through partnerships with the governmental organisations, as well as with NGOs, CBOs, the church, service clubs, and with sports and other social clubs. These community-based prevention interventions allow direct interaction and outreach with universal and selective populations within the general public.

OBJECTIVES

1. To consistently deliver and facilitate drug prevention education to children, youth, parents, and adults in communities across Barbados through structured interventions and programmes;
2. To work in tandem with key operatives and stakeholders at the community-based level in an effort to infuse drug prevention education into social development initiatives;
3. To consistently partner with key local stakeholders in an effort to alleviate drug abuse;
4. To involve and engage other community agents in the facilitation of drug prevention education, such as the faith-based community, sports fraternity, NGOs, CBOs, service clubs, recovering addicts, civil society;
5. To utilize volunteers in the delivery of drug prevention education in an effort to expand outreach and capacity-building;
6. To introduce alternative activities to drug use and deviant behaviour

Ongoing activities are conducted island-wide within communities, educational and sport centres, workplaces, polyclinics, shops, commercial / retail outlets, government and private sector agencies:

- **SPORTS – Not Drugs!**

In April 2019, NCSA Programme Officer, Ms. Paulavette Atkinson, delivered three interactive drug education sessions as part of the SPORTS – Not Drugs! programme with community-based sports-persons from the Northern, Central & Southern Zones on the island:-

- April 2nd Youth Workshop with 13 males and 3 female athletes aged 11-17 years
- April 4th Community Leaders Conference at the BOA with 15 Coaches & Managers
- April 6th Multi-Sport Rally with 150 athletes at the Whitehall Playing Field, St. Peter

Additionally, education was delivered to youth athletes as part of celebrations for International Day for Sport for Development and Peace 2019. All participants gained knowledge on one method for *“Coping with Peer Pressure”* as well as contact information regarding how to access the NCSA counselling service.

One Man A Month (OMAM)

The One Man A Month (OMAM) Coalition was revived after a protracted hiatus under the Chairmanship of Rev. Dr. Lucille Baird and Reverend Chris Baird of Mount Zion’s Mission Inc. (MZM) and the NCSA, represented by the Programme Officer, hosted three Committee Meetings at the NCSA Training Room to discuss strategies on how best to deliver social, spiritual and educational support primarily to men, as well as women and youth living in vulnerable communities directly impacted by drugs, crime and violence. OMAM recommenced outreach in the central areas of New Orleans and Chapman Lane and will later expand to various “hot spots” in St. Philip and St. Lucy. Additional OMAM Stakeholder agencies include:

- Bureau of Gender Affairs, Ministry of Youth & Community Empowerment
- Community Development Department
- Criminal Justice Research & Planning Unit
- Men's Educational Support Group (MESA)
- The Probation Department

- **Workplace Drug Education Interventions**

With the goal of the NCSA Workplace Programme being "to promote the prevention, reduction and management of workplace drug-related problems", workplace drug



education remains an important component in building the life-skills of workers across the public and private sectors to resist drug use as a mechanism for coping with work-related stress. Interventions continued to be facilitated mainly with personnel attached to two key government departments in the transport sector: the Technical Operations

Department of the Ministry of Transport, Works & Maintenance (MTWM) and the Transport Authority respectively.

Partnerships were also forged with private sector entities including the Insurance Institute of Barbados (IIB). Discussions are ongoing with HR, supervisory and senior managers regarding the inputs and logistics needed to convene a special workshop to conduct training on the development and implementation of workplace drug policy / protocols and drug intervention strategies.



Barbados Employers' Confederation

Given the recent decision by the Barbados Government to decriminalize cannabis for medical purposes and the development of draft legislation to oversee the proposed Cannabis Industry, the Programme Officer attended a special seminar with NCSA Board Member, Dr Ronald Chase, which was convened on June 13th, 2019 by the Barbados Employers' Confederation (BEC). Entitled: Decriminalization of Marijuana – the Employers' Response, the forum provided an insight into standard international Human Resource and employment practices being utilized to address and manage marijuana use (medical and recreational).

- **ICI "Safe & Sober" Campaign 2019**

The Programme Officer facilitated two drug education training sessions with twelve members of the Junior Chamber International – Barbados, in June 2019. This marked the second year of collaboration with this organization to promote drug prevention media messages and to prepare committee members to intervene and offer support to young adults the public. "Sober Zones" – special areas set-up at all-inclusive entertainment events during the CROP-OVER season, provide party-goers with the opportunity to "sober-up" and access social support to help prevent and reduce drunk driving.

- **BWU May Day 2020 Planning Committee**

NCSA continues to participate in the Barbados Workers' Union (BWU) May Day Planning Committee. The official launch of May Day 2020 was scheduled for mid-April, but was subsequently cancelled due to restrictions caused by the COVID 19 pandemic.

- **Caribbean Youth Forum on Drug Demand Reduction**

The Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) of the Organization of American States (OAS) organized the first 'Caribbean Youth Forum on Drug Use Prevention in which thirteen Caribbean States were represented.

The goal of the Youth Forum was to promote youth leadership in drug demand reduction by developing youth-led drug use prevention programmes. Youth teams across the English-speaking Caribbean were expected to design drug prevention projects that were derived out of research for implementation by youth. Mrs. Makeada Bourne, Community Programme Officer, NCSA, was assigned by the NCSA to oversee the Barbados Teams and guide the implementation of the projects. These projects were expected to have the full support of the Drug Councils of each nation.

Prior to the youth implementing projects, they were trained during intense sessions. These training sessions were implemented through a two-pronged approach. The first stage was the gathering of two team leaders from each nation for a three-day training-seminar. This seminar was held at the Raddison Hotel, Barbados 21st - 23rd May 2019. Myles Smith and Akeil Payne were the representatives for Barbados. The sessions were very interactive and lead by Ms. Dichen and Ms. Phillip. The focus was not only to build the knowledge of the participants but their skills. They focused on the following topics: Risk & Protective Factors, Drug Use Scenario in the Caribbean, Self-esteem, Communication skills, Decision-making skills, Assertion Skills, and Coping Skills.

On completion of this training, the team leaders were required to return to their countries and formulate teams of three. The teams were required to familiarize themselves with current research and write a draft project in preparation for phase two in October. Mrs. Bourne met on several occasions to assist the Barbados team with understanding the status of drug use among the youth through research. Barbados teams comprised of:

<u>Team Myles</u>	<u>Team Akeil</u>
• Mr. Myles Smith	• Mr. Akeil Payne
• Mr. Travis Gardiner	• Ms Najee Moore
• Ms. Rashana Jones	• Mr. Brandon Blackman



The second phase of training was held 21st – 25th October 2019 at Hilton Hotel, Barbados. There was an opening Ceremony and the Minister of Youth delivered the feature remarks.

One of Barbados Projects - 'the Drug Smart Ambassador Programme' (Team Myles) was announced as one of the winners along with Jamaica and Suriname at the closing ceremony. Each project was given a seed-grant of US\$1,000.00. It must be noted that all projects are expected to be implemented in the various countries. It is hoped that implementation of the Projects can commence in 2020.

- **Workshop for Leaders of Faith-Based Organisations**

The National Council on Substance Abuse strengthened its relationship with the clergy through a drug education seminar for church leaders. The objective of the seminar was to increase the knowledge of church leaders about drugs and their impact. It was hoped that at the end of the seminar Church Leaders would not have only walked away with increased knowledge, but inspired to implement drug education sessions or drug prevention programmes within in their churches and communities in partnership with the NCSA. The whole-day seminar was held the 9th January 2020 in the Training Room of the NCSA and was the first of many to follow.

A public announcement was made inviting church leaders to the seminar. The response was overwhelming with just over fifty church leaders showing interest to attend the seminar. In some cases, leaders wanted to have members of their Boards

and youth leadership teams to attend. On the day of the seminar, there were some challenges that affected the attendance. There was heavy rainfall, an emergency meeting was called for a particular denomination and some persons called in with other overnight emergencies which caused them to be unable to attend the seminar. The result was Forty-three (43) church leaders attended the seminar.



Attendees were exposed to presentations on 'what the research is saying', 'identifying drugs', 'signs & symptoms' and 'the Church's Response to Substance Use and Abuse'. The attendees have requested another seminar with a focus on the drugs and types and have requested NCSA's support in implementing drug education sessions with their youth groups.



Drug Awareness Workshop for Pastors & Ministry Leader of Faith Base Organizations

PROJECT SOFT 2019

In 2019, the National Council on Substance Abuse (NCSA) celebrated 17 years of the positive impact on Barbados of Project Safeguarding Our Future Today (Project SOFT). Approximately five hundred and ten (510) families benefitted from participation in this programme to date through: attendance at the residential camp, participation in the Prevention First Club (Parents & Children), counselling, timely referrals for parents and children who were using/abusing substances, and guidance in family and career situations.

Project SOFT 2019 aimed *“to increase the protective factors of 11 year old students transitioning from primary school to secondary school in order to prevent or delay the onset of drug use or abuse”* through the following objectives:

1. To increase participants knowledge about the dangers associated with the use and abuse of alcohol, tobacco and illegal drugs.
2. To increase participants knowledge about their bodies and the importance of a healthy lifestyle.
3. To increase participants knowledge about the link between drug use and HIV.
4. To introduce positive alternative activities to drug use and deviant behaviour.
5. To increase and develop participants' life skills: introduce participants to information that would teach them how to resist negative peer pressure, effective communication with the family and school systems, time management, and decision-making.
6. To increase participants knowledge on what is juvenile deviant behaviours and the consequences of these behaviours.
7. To implement a family transitional programme - the main aim of which is to ensure that parents are kept abreast of challenges which both they and their

children may face with regard to the use and abuse of drugs, both legal and illegal.

8. To equip the parents with life skills needed to combat the abuse of drugs by their children (effective communications with adolescents, understanding developmental stages, coping with transitions)
9. To increase the knowledge of parents on the negative impact of drug use.

To ensure that objectives were met the Programme was divided into three Components:

Component 1 - Residential Camp

Component 2 - Prevention First Club - Children

Component 3 - Prevention First Club - Parents.

COMPONENT 1 - RESIDENTIAL CAMP

Component 1 was a one-week residential self-development project. During this phase the important values of self-discipline, positive relationship building, and self-esteem were taught as important elements in the overall development of young people.

The controlled environment allowed the trained facilitators/team leaders to build positive relationships with the participants, introduce new skills, reinforce positive behaviours learnt and bring clarification to misunderstandings.

Parents and Children Sensitization Meeting

Prior to the implementation of the camp, a Parents and Children Sensitization Meeting was held at the National Council on Substance Abuse's Training Room, Cnr. 1st Avenue Belleville & Pine Road, St Michael, Barbados. The half day meeting was held Saturday, 17th August 2019. The objectives of the meeting were to: (1) assure parents of their children's safety and security, (2) to provide them with an overview of the week of activities and (3) to allow them to seek clarification for questions or concerns.

Camp Overview

The camp was rescheduled to Wednesday, 28th August – Monday, 2nd September 2019 after the passing of storm Dorian. Although days later, 35 children still participated in the programme which was held at NANIKI, Suriname, St. Joseph.

Under the theme “Transitioning the Family”, the agenda covered the dangers associated with drug use & abuse, self-esteem, stress management, decision making, anger management, adolescent development, peer communication, nutrition and health, conflict resolution and many others. Participants experienced drug-free activities which were educational, important to their physical and psychological health, yet were fun. They learnt to express themselves and to communicate through drama, dance, song and other traditional outdoor activities.

The NCSA structured the camp to empower participants with the information, tools and skills needed to prevent or delay the onset of drug use. Facilitators were therefore encouraged to be creative in their methods to communicate with the campers. Our interaction with the campers and each other were guided by the strength perspective, solution focus and behavioural change theories.

Onsite Management Team:

The Project SOFT team consisted of the following NCSA Staff and NCSA Volunteers:

Mrs. Makeada Bourne	Camp Director
Ms. Paula Hinds	House Mother
Ms. Cheryl Padmore	Group Leader
Ms. Alicia Trotman	Group Leader
Mr. Myles Smith	Group Leader
Ms. Kiraly Browne	Group Leader
Mr. Rasheed Drakes	Group Leader
Ms. Margaret Eastmond	Camp Nurse
Mr. Corey Bolden	Security
Mr. Jimmy Edwards Griffith	Security

Facility

The camp was held for the first time at NANIKI, Suriname, St. Joseph. The fresh air and relaxing environment was ideal for the children. The grounds were surrounded by lush green palm trees and a beautiful view of the east coast.. There was adequate space for sporting activities, culture events, outdoor movies, for play and for the children to be children.

The Managing Director and catering staff were excellent and very accommodating. For the dorms, the NCSA partnered with Disaster Emergency Management to borrow cots for the campers and leaders.



Component 2 & 3 Prevention First Club

Follow-up sessions were done with parents and children after the residential-camp.

Graduation

The graduation which was scheduled to be held 21st March 2020, was postponed owing restrictions of COVID-19. The date will be determined once restrictions are relaxed.

TREATMENT & REHABILITATION

The 1998 UN Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction addresses the need “to cover all areas of prevention, from discouraging initial use to reducing the negative health and social consequences of drug abuse. They should embrace information, education, public awareness, early intervention, counselling, treatment, rehabilitation, relapse prevention, aftercare and social reintegration, Early help and access to services should be offered to those in need”.

In keeping with this thinking, NCSA has supported the operations of drug treatment facilities since treatment is a critical component on the continuum of prevention. It is hoped that the drug Treatment Court will resume its operations at full capacity. In addition, the Council was able to restart its counselling service during this period, under the leadership of Ms Natalia Corbin.

- **The Counselling Service/Treatment**

From April 1, 2019 to March 31, 2020, 56 clients were seen at the National Council on Substance Abuse. Forty-five of these clients were males while 11 were females. For the most part, these clients were seen weekly. Sessions utilized the Cognitive Behavioural Therapy and Motivational Interviewing approaches to help clients address their presenting problems. Clients ranged in age from 11 to 64 and presented with substance use issues, emotional and behavioural issues. As it relates to substance use, 5 of the above mentioned females were referred for marijuana use issues and were 15 to 39 years of age. In addition to the marijuana use. The remaining females presented with emotional and behavioural issues alone and ranged from 13 to 52 years of age. For the males, 36 between the ages of 12 to 35 were seen for marijuana use/abuse issues. Five males, ages 25 to 64, presented with challenges related to alcohol use. One male (32 years old) presented with Polysubstance Use and was referred to the

Psychiatric hospital while 3 males, ages 11 to 15, presented with emotional or behavioural issues alone.

For this reporting period, 21 clients were referred by the Edna Nicholls Centre; 12 were referred by a parent or family member; 6 were referred by Guidance Counsellors; 6 from the Probation Department or the Court System; 4 were referred by a friend; 2 were self-referred; 2 were referred by an Employer; 1 was referred by a staff member of the Council; 1 by the Child Care Board and 1 from a medical doctor.

To assist with the counselling of clients referred to the Council, the Counselling department at the National Council on Substance Abuse acquired the assistance of three Volunteer Counsellors. For the reporting period, one Volunteer Counsellor was assigned 3 clients, another was assigned 2 clients while the other was assigned one client.

- **Universal Treatment Curricula Training**

After completing the two Training Sessions of Master Trainers for the Universal Treatment Curricula (UTC) that were held in Washington D.C, NCSA's Counsellor, Ms Corbin attended the UTC Examination Refresher Course followed by the ICAP Examination (ICAP-Trainer Credential) from July 1- 5, 2019 in Vienna, Austria. The Universal Treatment Curricula training was an initiative between the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission of the Organisation of American States, the Colombo Plan International Center for Certification and Education and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to create a cadre of master trainers for the English speaking Caribbean Member States. This training also sought to improve the knowledge, skills and competencies of substance use treatment professionals as well as assist substance use disorder professionals in the development of a balanced perspective of the principles relating to both the science and art of addiction treatment.

On Friday July 5, 2019, the Counsellor sat the Credentialing Exam and is now an International Certified Addiction Professional (ICAP) at the Basic Level/Level I-Trainer Credential. Ms Corbin is now certified to be a trainer of the UTC for eight basic

courses. With this certification, upcoming trainings will be on the horizon as soon as the necessary logistics are in place.

- **Project SOFT Presentation**

On August 28, 2019, the Counsellor made a presentation at NCSA's one-week residential self-development camp. This programme was designed for children in Class 4 who are about to transition to Secondary school. Stress Management was the topic of the presentation and the areas covered included: What is Stress?, Triggers of Stress in Children, What Stress Feels Like, How People React to Stress, the Effects of Stress on the Body, Good and Bad Stress, Signs That You Are Stressed, and Techniques to Manage Stress.

- **Presentation to Church Leaders**

On January 9, 2020 the Counsellor made a presentation to Church Leaders during the Council's Outreach programme to the same population during Drug Awareness month. The Counsellor was asked to lead out in this presentation to inform the participants about The International Society of Substance Use Prevention and Treatment Professionals (ISSUP) and the training they provide through the Universal Treatment Curriculum.

- **Ethics in Substance Abuse Treatment Presentation**

On January 16 2020, the Counsellor facilitated a Drug Sensitization Training for Community Practitioners, captioned *Ethics in Substance Abuse Treatment*.

The Ethics in Substance Abuse Treatment Training session was a half-day workshop that targeted treatment professionals in the field of Substance Use/Abuse and its purpose was twofold. It first sought to inform the participants about the Universal Treatment Curriculum (UTC), which is a professional development series of courses developed by international curriculum developers. The UTC is also coordinated by the International Centre for Credentialing and Education of Addiction Professionals (ICCE). The other and main focus of the workshop was to expose/re-exposing treatment professionals in the field of substance abuse to the importance of Ethics and more so in the field of Substance Use/Abuse Treatment.

Twenty-three participants were in attendance from the following agencies: the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, the Psychiatric Hospital, Supreme Counselling for Personal Development, Her Majesty's Prisons Dodds, Substance Abuse Foundation Inc., Avis and JRB, New Testament Church of God, the Edna Nicholls Centre, NCSA Counselling Volunteers and an unstated organization. The areas presented include: Ethics Defined, the Importance of Ethics, Elements of Professional Code of Ethics, Limitations of Counsellor Code of Ethics, Unique Ethical Concerns for the Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Treatment Field, What is an Ethics Code, Functions and Purpose of a Code of Ethics, Values and Models for Ethical Decision Making.

- **Presentation to the Barbados Immigration Department**

The Counsellor made a joint presentation with the Research Officer on March 12, 2020 to Immigration Officers at the Immigration Department. The Counsellor's presentation was captioned Substance Use, Addiction and Counselling. Topics presented include: What is a Drug?, Legal Drugs such as Alcohol, Tobacco and Their Effects, Illegal Drugs and Their Effects, The Definition of Substance/Drug Abuse, Addiction Defined, The Progression of Addiction, Factors That Play a Role in Addiction, Help for Addiction in Barbados, and NCSA's Counselling Service.

- **Counselling Brochure**

The Counsellor created and completed a brochure to inform the public about the Counselling Service at the National Council on Substance Abuse. This was also distributed to the public. Appointment cards were also created and used as a means to remind clients about their appointments.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Concern was expressed that the Council needed to highlight its work and raise its public profile. In this regard, Ms Deanzer Roberts came on board during October 2019 and has since undertaken sterling efforts to ensure that the public is kept abreast of NCSA's projects, programmes and activities.

- **Get The Facts Make The Choice**

The NCSA produced 28 one-minute drug prevention messages themed: "Get The Facts Make the Choice". These tips, were aired on Hott FM daily after the 4:30 evening new.

- **Vox Pops**

A series of Vox Pops was undertaken by Ms Roberts as the issue of medicinal marijuana was topical. Also discussed was the use of Breathalyzer testing.

Summary:

- *Many were concerned that the lack of jobs for young people is causing them to turn to drugs.*
- *Some blamed parents while others believe that the drugs are all a part of a plan to keep down the youth.*

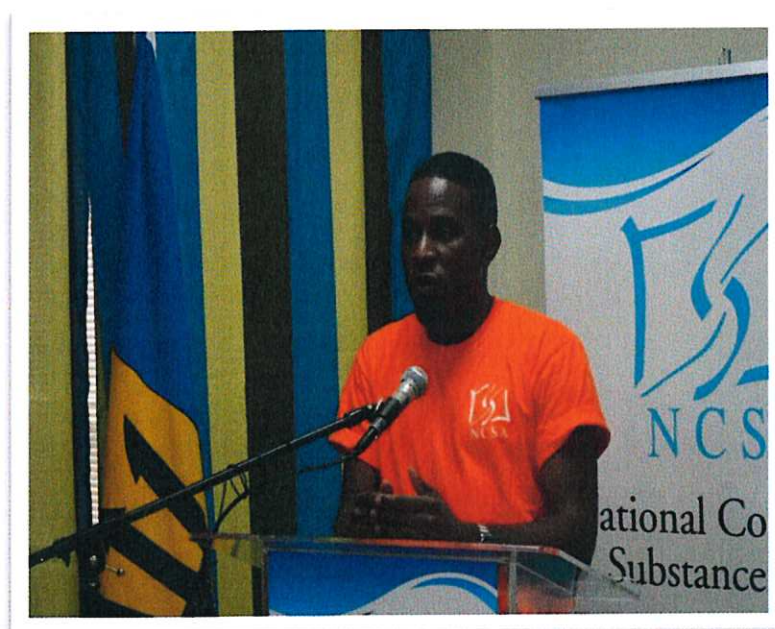


- **NCSA Quarterly Newsletter “Matters of Substance”**

The Junior Programme Officer has responsibility for producing the NCSA’s Newsletters, which are published quarterly. For the period under review, three quarterly editions of the NCSA newsletter were completed and circulated both in hard and soft copy. Contributors include staff members and guest writers across a range of prevention and treatment areas. The NCSA wishes to thank the Ministry of Innovation, Science and Smart Technology for its assistance in the timely distribution of these newsletters via its email blast, thereby ensuring that the NCSA’s drug prevention education reaches several public sector employees.

- **‘Tek it Easy’ Crop Over Campaign: July 5 – 24, 2019**

The NCSA launched its “Tek it Easy” media campaign on July 1st, 2019 with a press conference which was held at the National Council on Substance Abuse (NCSA).



Mr Kevon Henry, NCSA Board Member at the Launch of the Tek-it-Easy Campaign

The aims of the campaign were:

- To establish a trendy , focused and coordinated campaign over the Crop Over period to encourage users to “tek it easy”
- To create a dominant public profile for the NCSA in the period, raising attention to the NCSA

- To further legitimize the efforts of the NCSA by engaging on broad National level

Mr. Edwin Yearwood, composed the song *'Tek it Easy'*, which was played during the campaign period.

During the month of July, programme officers made appearances on various media platforms including radio stations 98.1 and 95.3 to raise awareness on alcohol use and abuse especially during the Crop Over season.



NCSA Deputy Manager, NCSA Manager and other members of the Tek-it Easy Team at the Campaign Launch

STAFF TRAINING

An important component of achieving the programming goals of the NCSA within the context of the BNADP and Sustainable Development Goals 2030 is enhancing the institutional capacity of the Council in order to provide the best national response in coordinating, monitoring and evaluation of a multi-sectorial response to the national effort against drug abuse. There must be continuous staff training to allow the NCSA to fulfil its mandate effectively. This is critical in maintaining efficiencies in a manner consistent with Government's overall thrust.

The Council is therefore placing renewed emphasis on ongoing training of its staff. Where possible, the Council takes advantage of relevant training courses offered by Training and Administration Department. However, the provision for local training has been decreased given that there are few local and or regional training opportunities for drug prevention specialists. The Council relies on in-person and on-line training provided by overseas institutions to maintain its knowledge-base with respect to new and emerging trends in substance abuse.

Staff must also be complemented for taking the initiative to undertake self-paced online study offered by recognised training institutions. As can be seen, attendance at these local/regional/international fora also keeps the Council aware of emerging trends in several areas related to the use of illegal and abuse of drugs, and this information can be used to fashion proactive approaches to educational thrusts, as well as enhance skills in programme and policy development.

NCSA STAFF TRAINING APRIL 2019-MARCH 2020		
PERIOD:	EMPLOYEE (S):	COURSE:
4 April	Wendy Greenidge	"Teachable Quick Start", Webinar, Teachable.com
17 April	Natalia Corbin-Ifill	Relapse Prevention Planning Using Learning Style and Temperament
6 May	Makeada Bourne	Events Management Certification
21 - 23 May		OAS Youth Leaders Training
29 May	All Staff	Web Registry Training by DPD @ NCSA
5 June	Betty Hunte Troy Wickham Curtis Edwards Gina Fenty Stephen Bishop Timothy Ifill	BAASS Connect 2019
1 - 4 July	Natalia Corbin	Universal treatment curriculum examination refresher course - Vienna
1 - 5 July	Jonathan Yearwood Jennifer Baptiste	CJRPU Crime Victimization Survey - Training Workshop
16 July	Natalia Corbin-Ifill	Live Enhancing Healthy Adolescent Development
18, 19, 23, 24 July	Betty Hunte Troy Wickham Curtis Edwards Gina Fenty Stephen Bishop Timothy Ifill Lisa Layne	SAGE 300 Software Training with Hazel Alleyne Orchid Software Solution

NCSA STAFF TRAINING APRIL 2019-MARCH 2020		
PERIOD:	EMPLOYEE (S):	COURSE:
27 July - 19 August;	Jennifer Baptiste Troy Wickham	Part I, Advanced Training in Media Based Substance Use Prevention - California
11 - 12 September	Makeada Bourne Jennifer Baptiste Laura Foster	Crime and Victimization Survey Workshop, Marine House
September 26	Wendy Greenidge	"Minecraft, not Ms Pac-Man: Transforming Prevention Presentations for Today's Audience", Online Course, Prevention Technology Transfer Centre Network
		"Taking Down Tobacco", Online Course, Tobacco Free Kids
		"The Rise of Vaping" Online Course, Tobacco Free Kids
15 October	Troy Wickham Betty Hunte	Workshop for Caribbean countries on Planning in Drug Demand Reduction: Scope and Use of the planning tool "OneStep@Atime", Nassau, Bahamas
6 - 16 December	Troy Wickham Jennifer Baptiste	Part II, Advanced Training in Media Based Substance Use Prevention - California
10-12 December	Jonathan Yearwood	Sub-Regional Workshop Drug Information Networks (DINS) St. Georges, Grenada
3 January	Paulavette Atkinson Laura Foster Wendy Greenidge	NCSA Staff Training - Website Portal Implementation - Mr. Reymar

NCSA STAFF TRAINING APRIL 2019-MARCH 2020		
PERIOD:	EMPLOYEE (S):	COURSE:
	Troy Wickham Jonathan Yearwood Timothy Ifill Makeada Bourne Jennifer Baptiste	Gooding @ Data Processing Department
27 - 29 January	Paulavette Atkinson Makeada Bourne Wendy Greenidge Laura Foster Jonathan Yearwood	UNODC / CBSA Global Smart Programme, Regional Police Training Centre
29 January - 6 May (Wednesdays only)	Troy Wickham	Assessor Training - Learning and Development Directorate in conjunction with the TVET Council
10 - 22 February	Lisa Layne Agnetha Roach-Chase	Servicing Meetings
24 February - 6 March	Lisa Layne Agnetha Roach-Chase Cindy Bennett	Managing Incoming Correspondence
28 April	Lisa Layne Agnetha Roach-Chase Cindy McIntosh Robert Ifill Cheryl Osbourne	Truth About Drugs; Online basic course
12-13 May	Laura Foster	Data and Deterrence Conference, Courtyard by Marriott, Bridgetown, Barbados

ATTENDANCE AT OVERSEAS CONFERENCES

The National Council on Substance Abuse, as Barbados National Drug Commission, serves as the representative of the Government of Barbados on matters relating to drug demand reduction as outlined in the NCSA Act 1995-13. The Council is expected to give informed opinion, share in regional and international initiatives and act as a liaison between the Government of Barbados and external organisations which share the common goal of demand reduction.

As signatory to various treaties, the Government through the National Council, is expected to update its counterparts on its commitments and progress through the sharing of information and other resources where necessary.

Attendance at such conferences has enabled the NCSA to raise its profile in the regional and international arenas, and has resulted in the Council being the beneficiary of several funding initiatives to support research, training and institutional development particularly through CICAD. Because of the strides the Council has made locally, Barbados has been cited as a model of development for many Caribbean countries and many of our projects and activities have been highlighted abroad. The NCSA is now poised to take its efforts to a higher level given the support of our local, regional and international partners.

Given government directives on attendance at overseas conferences in light of financial constraints, attendance at conferences and workshops has been undertaken only where financed by the convening agency with regard to the strategic importance of the nature of the meeting/ conference/ workshop. The Board has prioritized attendance as outlined to result in strategically building the knowledge base of the

Council so that its response to the drug phenomenon will remain on the cutting edge, allowing for a structured yet flexible approach in its interventions:-

Policy making: meetings arising out of treaties signed/ agreements reached by the GOB which relate to demand reduction e.g. MEM and GEG; Hemispheric Anti-Drug meetings; EU-LAC initiatives

- Research and Development
- Regional Drug Observatory Meetings e.g. hosted by CARICOM
- Training and Institutional & Capacity Building e.g. CARIAD
- Conferences on related areas e.g. Emerging trends in Internet Trafficking; Treatment etc.

Staff have represented the national drug prevention effort at high levels at regional and international fora:-

- Mrs. Laura Foster, National Coordinating Entity (NCE) for the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism of the OAS/ CICAD;
- Mrs. Betty Hunte, Governmental Expert Group (GEG) for the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism of the OAS/ CICAD; Mrs. Wendy Greenidge, Alternate to the GEG;
- Mrs. Betty Hunte, Designated Delegate, the Inter-Governmental Working (IWG) of the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM)
- Mr. Jonathan Yearwood, Technical Advisory Group , CARICOM
- Mrs. Wendy Greenidge, Point person on the International Society for Substance Use Professionals (ISSUP) Prevention Education and Certification;
- Mrs. Natalia Corbin-Ifill, Master Trainer on the International Society for Substance Use Professionals (ISSUP) Treatment and Rehabilitation and Certification;

- Mrs. Betty Hunte, Point Person for COPOLAD Activities

During the period under review, the Council attended the following overseas meetings, which was made possible by sponsorship from the host agencies.

- **4TH Annual Conference and Permanent Council of COPOLAD**” held in Paramaribo, Suriname from June 17th to 19th, 2019.
- **20th Meeting of The Demand Reduction Expert Group of the Organisation of American States Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (OAS/CICAD)**, August 26th – 29th, 2019 in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia.
- **3rd Bi-regional Meeting for the exchange of best practices in Drug Demand Reduction: Accreditation and Quality Assurance**, Panama City, 27-28 November, 2019.
- **66th Regular Session of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD)**, Miami, Florida, November 19-21, 2019.
- **Institutional Co-ordination Meeting “Contribution of COPOLAD to the work of the EU-CELAC Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs”**, Brussels, Belgium, 19-21 February 2020.

LINKAGES WITH ORGANISATIONS, COMMUNITIES & AGENCIES

During the year under review, the Council strengthened its relationships with existing partners and undertook to forge new alliances. These linkages included:

- Ministry of Small Business, Entrepreneurship & Commerce: Stakeholders Consultation to discuss the Liquor License Act Reform, amendments to the Liquor License Act and provide, Comments to Draft Liquor Licensing Act 2019;
- Barbados Drug Service: input provided to the revised Legislation of Chemical Precursors,
- Cannabis Licensing Authority discussion surrounding the proposed regulations
- Ministries of Health and Home Affairs: Proposed Joint Technical Committee with the Ministry of Health to Recommend Policies to Address Mental Health and Behavioural Challenges affecting Youth with Disciplinary Issues
- CARICOM Monitoring and Evaluation Mission with respect to the project "Support for Crime Prevention and Violence Prevention and Social Development - CARIFORUM, European Development Fund (FED/2017/390-548)". As part of the Technical Oversight (TOC) set up by the CARICOM Secretariat, the Research and Information Officer monitored the implementation of crime and violence prevention and mitigation activities in selected schools and communities in Suriname.

Drug Education Presentations:

In addition to the activities mentioned previously, programme staff delivered drug prevention education presentations to a number of audiences including:

- All Saints Anglican Church
- American University of Barbados
- Anglican Youth Ministry Council,
- Barbados 4H Foundation
- Barbados Boy Scouts Association
- Barbados Community College
- Barbados Defence Force
- Barbados Employers' Confederation
- Barbados Fire Service
- Barbados Hotel and Tourism Association
- Barbados Nurses Association
- Barbados Olympic Association
- Barbados Student Nurses Association
- Barbados Vocational Training Board
- Belleplaine Seventh Day Adventist Church
- Benthams Wesleyan Holiness Church
- Black Bess Wash Bay Crew and Social Club Inc.
- Chalky Mount Wesleyan Holiness Church
- Codrington College
- Co-operators General Insurance
- Dance4life Barbados
- Diabetes Association of Barbados
- Diabetes Association of Barbados.
- Emmerton Community Center
- Erdiston Teachers' Training College
- FM-H SLCT Help Line
- Guidance Counsellors Association

- HRMAB Learning and Development
- Immigration Department
- In the Winners' Circle
- Inspire Academy
- Inspiring Healthy Lifestyles
- Insurance Institute of Barbados
- Island of Adventure Summer Camp
- Kiwanis Barbados South
- Lands and Surveys Department
- Ministry of Youth Community Empowerment
- Mission and Evangelism Committee Bethel Circuit
- Mt Zion Seventh Day Adventist Church
- PG Plumbing Services
- Queen Elizabeth Hospital and Psychiatric Hospital
- RUBIS Service Station
- Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic
- St Leonard's Anglican Church
- Supporting Our Society
- The Barbados Alliance to End Homelessness
- The Parent-Teacher Association The Lester Vaughan School
- The Way to Calvary Seventh Day Adventist Camp
- Turtle Beach
- UWI Cave Hill, Open Campus & UWIHARP
- Wesleyan Women Unity Wesleyan Holiness Church
- Youth Asthma and Health
- Youth Entrepreneurship Scheme

NCSA BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

- Mr Hadford Howell – CHAIRMAN
- Rev Dr. Beverly Lashley – DEPUTY CHAIRMAN
- Ms Deborah Payne – PERMANENT SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
- Mrs Angela Sealy - MEMBER
- Dr Ronald Chase – MEMBER
- Mr Mark Maynard – MEMBER
- Ms Angela King- Patrick – MEMBER
- Mrs Tracy Barker-Linton – MEMBER
- Mr Kevon Henry – MEMBER
- Mr Desmond Sands – MEMBER
- Mrs Sophia Parris – MEMBER
- Mr Cleviston Hunte – MEMBER
- Senior Superintendent Euklyn Thompson - MEMBER
- Mrs Juanita Brathwaite-Wharton – MEMBER
- Ms Jacquelyn Clarke – BOARD SECRETARY



NCSA STAFF



Betty Hunte - Manager



Troy Wickham - Deputy Manager



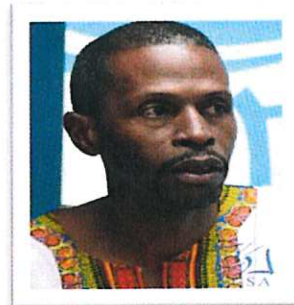
Paulavette Atkinson - Programme Officer



Jennifer Baptiste - Junior Programme Officer



Cindy Bennett, Receptionist



Stephen Bishop - Assistant Accountant



Makeada Bourne - Community Programme Officer



Natalia Corbin-Ifill - Counsellor



Curtis Edwards - Accountant



Gina Fenty - Administrative Officer



Laura-Lee Foster - Assistant Research Officer



Wendy Greenidge - Drug Education Officer (Primary Schools)



Robert Ifill - Driver



Timothy Ifill - Technician II



Lisa Layne - Secretary

Cheryl Osbourne - Office Attendant



Brian Payne - Drug Education Officer
(Secondary Schools)



Agnetha Roach-Chase - Clerk Typist



Jonathan Yearwood - Research &
Information Officer

HAPPY RETIREMENT

NCSA Celebrates Brian “Bumba” Payne

Celebration was definitely in the air, and fun and food were on the menu when the Management and Staff of the National Council on Substance Abuse held a surprise function on Friday, February 28th, 2020 in recognition of the Retirement of long-standing colleague and friend – Brian “Bumba” Payne after almost twenty-five years of unbroken service to the people of our nation.

Laughter, tears and endless hugs abounded throughout the event, as staff member after staff member vividly recalled their most cherished experiences with Brian. Memories of those first years at the National Drug Resource Centre (NDRC), the facility at Trents, St. James which was the original home of the NCSA, came flooding back as if it was only yesterday! From the street marches during Child Month, to ambush theatre on World No-Tobacco Day, promoting drug and HIV awareness during Crop Over, youth interventions in Queens Park and karaoke right on the street Corner of James & Roebuck Street by our last building in the capital city Bridgetown.

But how does one even begin to encapsulate the many sides of Brian “Bumba” Payne?! Entertainer, educator, song-writer, brother, friend, confidante – he is a man of boundless energy whose talents could never be hidden under a bushel. B. Payne as he is fondly referred to at the NCSA, can be aptly described as an “all-rounder”.

In addition to his calm demeanour, warm smile, down-to-earth, engaging personality and an illustrious career in the calypso arena, he also amassed diverse academic accomplishments including a Masters of Science degree in the field of Counselling Psychology. In this regard, he easily formed and maintained strong associations with social workers and education stakeholders including Guidance Counsellors; whom he readily assisted in delivering the Health & Family Life Education (HFLE) programme.

On any other given day, B. Payne would be found out-and-about in the secondary and vocational institutions of learning across Barbados delivering– the holistic drug

education and life skills programme (DELS) he conceptualized and developed for adolescent and school-based populations. Through DELS Brian has been able to utilize his prolific musical talent to develop and incorporate rhythm poetry into universal drug education, as well as to use culture and the performing arts like dance and drama as a dynamic way to connect with youth.

Even in the time leading up to his last days in office, Brian was still doing what he loves most – educating others who want to know about new approaches to preventing drug use amongst our youth, during a Guidance Counselors' Seminar at the NCSA. He even made time to personally extend support to the family of a dearly departed friend.

Not hearing his voice on the other end of the phone afterhours; no longer having him accompany you to your vehicle when working late in the evenings, or having him be the first to volunteer with the delivery of community outreach during Drug Awareness Month and special international days, are now only fond memories to cherish forever!

Brian may have officially retired, but he will always be regarded as a beloved NCSA Team member.



**REPORT ON THE AUDIT OF THE ACCOUNTS OF
THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON SUBSTANCE ABUSE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2020**

NATIONAL COUNCIL ON SUBSTANCE ABUSE

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AUDITOR GENERAL'S OFFICE BARBADOS



INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Board of Directors of the National Council on Substance Abuse

Opinion

I have audited the financial statements of the National Council on Substance Abuse (the Council), which comprise the Balance Sheet as at 31st March 2020, Statement of Income and Expenditure, Statement of Cash Flows, and Statement of Changes in Fund Balances for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In my opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects the financial position of the National Council on Substance Abuse as at 31st March 2020 in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) for Small and Medium-sized Entities issued by the International Accounting Standards Board.

Responsibility of Management and the Board of Directors for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with the International Financial Reporting Standards, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

My responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on my audit. I conducted my audit in accordance with the International Standards on Auditing. Those standards require that I comply with ethical requirements, and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance on whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement.


An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditors' judgment, including the assessment of the risk of material

National Council on Substance Abuse
Balance Sheet
As of March 31, 2020

(Expressed in Barbados dollars)

	2020	2019
	\$	\$
Assets:		
Current Assets		
Cash	16,744	91,426
Prepaid Expenses	7,303	23,545
Loans receivable - Current (note 4)	1,952	2,453
Total Current Assets	25,999	117,424
Long-Term Assets		
Loans receivable - Non-Current (note 4)	-	-
Property, plant and equipment (note 5)	72,454	76,077
Total Long-Term Assets	72,454	76,077
Total Assets	98,453	193,501
Liabilities and Funds:		
Current liabilities		
Trade and other payables (note 6)	171,132	11,681
Funds	(72,679)	181,819
Total Liabilities and Funds	98,453	193,501

Approved on behalf of the Council



Chairman



Member

National Council on Substance Abuse
Statement of Income and Expenditure
For the year ended March 31, 2020

(Expressed in Barbados dollars)

	2020	2019
	\$	\$
Income		
Government of Barbados grant (note 2(a) i)	1,999,046	1,966,388
Other Income	23,997	9,840
Reduction in provision for doubtful debt	-	-
Proceeds from sale of vehicle	-	-
Total Income	2,023,043	1,976,228
Expenditure		
NCSA Secretariat	2,033,045	1,790,479
Research & Coordination	19,698	6,229
School Prevention	65,406	48,015
Treatment & Rehabilitation	5,859	699
Community Prevention	132,277	44,514
Depreciation (note 5)	50,547	38,816
Total Expenditure	2,306,832	1,928,752
Excess of income over expenditure	(283,789)	47,477

National Council on Substance Abuse
Statement of Cash Flows
For the year ended March 31, 2020

(Expressed in Barbados dollars)

	2020	2019
	\$	\$
Cash flows from operating activities:		
Excess of income over expenditure for the year	(283,789)	47,477
Adjustment for:		
Gain on sale of vehicle		
Depreciation	50,547	38,816
Excess of income over expenditure before working capital changes	(233,242)	86,293
Decrease/(increase) in prepaid expenses	16,241	(3,928)
Decrease/(increase) in loans receivable	501	(802)
Increase/(decrease) in accounts payable and accrued liabilities	159,451	(22,090)
Net cash generated from operating activities	(57,049)	59,473
Cash flows from investing activities:		
Adjustment for Fixed Assets	29,291	-
Purchase of plant and equipment	(46,925)	(23,318)
Net cash generated from investing activities	(17,634)	(23,318)
Increase/(decrease) in cash during year	(74,683)	36,155
Cash - beginning of year	91,426	55,271
Cash - end of year	16,744	91,426

National Council on Substance Abuse
Statement of Changes in Fund Balances
For the year ended March 31, 2020

(Expressed in Barbados dollars)

	Accumulated surplus	UNDCP Fund	Total
	\$	\$	\$
Balance at March 31,2018	139,639	(5,297)	134,342
Excess of income over expenditure for the year	47,477	-	47,477
Balance at March 31,2019	187,116	(5,297)	181,819
Excess of income over expenditure for the year	(283,789)		(283,789)
Adjustment for Fixed Assets	29,291		
Balance at March 31,2020	(67,382)	(5,297)	(72,679)

National Council on Substance Abuse
Notes to Financial Statements
For the year ended March 31, 2020

(Expressed in Barbados dollars)

1. Formation and objectives

The National Council on Substance Abuse (the "Council") was established as a Statutory Board by the National Council on Substance Abuse Act, 1995-13 which was enacted on March 1, 1996. One of the primary functions of the Council is to advise the Minister of Home Affairs on measures for the eradication or control of Substance Abuse. The Council receives its primary funding from the Government of Barbados and executes its mandate through its secretariat located in Bridgetown.

2. Significant accounting policies

This is the second set of financial statements prepared in accordance with IFRS for small and Medium-sized Entities' issued by the International Accounting Standards Board. The principal accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently to all years presented, unless otherwise stated.

a. Basis of preparation

The financial statements of the Council have been prepared in accordance with the International Financial Reporting Standards for Small and Medium-sized Entities (IFRS for SMEs) under the historical cost convention except for available-for-sale financial assets which are carried at fair value.

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with IFRS for SMEs requires the use of certain critical accounting estimates. It also requires management to exercise its judgement in the process of applying the Council's accounting policies. The areas involving a higher degree of judgement or complexity, or area where assumptions and estimates are significant to the financial statements are disclosed in Note 3.

b. Cash and cash equivalents

For the purpose of the cash flow statement, cash and cash equivalents comprise cash and bank deposits with original maturity dates of ninety days or less.

National Council on Substance Abuse
Notes to Financial Statements
For the year ended March 31, 2020

(Expressed in Barbados dollars)

2. Significant accounting policies ... continued

c. Property, plant and equipment

Property, plant and equipment is carried at cost and depreciated on the straight line basis to write off the cost of assets over their expected useful lives as follows:

Furniture, fixture and fittings	- 10 years
Motor vehicles	- 5 years
Computer and office equipment	- 4 years
Books and research material	- 4 years

d. Revenue recognition

(i) Grants

Revenue grants are not recognised until there is a reasonable assurance that they will be received and that the Council will comply with the conditions applying to them, where applicable. Grants are recognised in the statement of revenue and expenditure and fund balances on a systematic basis matching them with the related costs for which the grants are intended to compensate.

Capital grants relating to plant and equipment are deferred and amortised on a systematic and rational basis over the useful lives of the assets to which they relate.

(ii) Other Income

Income from donations and fund raising events are recognised as earned.

3. Critical accounting estimates and judgements in applying accounting policies

Estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

The council makes estimates and assumptions concerning the future. The resulting accounting estimates will, by definition, seldom equal the related actual results. There

National Council on Substance Abuse
Notes to Financial Statements
For the year ended March 31, 2020

(Expressed in Barbados dollars)

are no estimates and assumptions that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year.

4. Loans receivable

	2020	2019
	\$	\$
Loans receivable	1,952	2,453
	<u>1,952</u>	<u>2,453</u>

Included in loans receivable is an amount of \$10,632 relating to payroll cost incurred by a previous employee during a study period, prior to March 31, 2000. The original loan of \$47,402 is being repaid in equal monthly installments of \$300. A provision of \$7,280 has been made against this loan.

National Council on Substance Abuse
Notes to Financial Statements
For the year ended March 31, 2020

(Expressed in Barbados dollars)

5 Property, plant and equipment
i) Purchased Assets

	Motor vehicles	Furniture, fixtures and fittings	Computer and office equipment	Books and Research Materials	Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Year ended March 31, 2019					
Opening net book amount	66,342	13,374	11,859	-	91,575
Additions	-	-	23,318	-	23,318
Depreciation charge	(25,854)	(1,638)	(11,323)	-	(38,816)
Closing net book amount	40,488	11,737	23,853	-	76,078
At March 31, 2019					
Cost	409,556	179,974	604,443	-	1,193,973
Accumulated depreciation	(369,068)	(168,237)	(580,590)	-	(1,117,895)
Net book amount	40,488	11,737	23,853	-	76,078
Year ended March 31, 2020					
Opening net book amount	40,488	11,737	23,853	-	76,078
Additions	-	-	46,925	-	46,925
Depreciation charge	(25,854)	(1,638)	(23,055)	-	(50,547)
Closing net book amount	14,634	10,099	47,723	-	72,456
At March 31, 2020					
Cost	409,556	179,974	651,368	-	1,240,898
Accumulated depreciation	(394,922)	(169,875)	(603,645)	-	(1,168,442)
Net book amount	14,634	10,099	47,723	-	72,456
Total purchased and contributed assets					
Net book value at March 31, 2020	14,634	10,099	47,723	-	72,456
Net book value at March 31, 2019	40,488	11,737	23,853	-	76,078

National Council on Substance Abuse
Notes to Financial Statements
For the year ended March 31, 2020

(Expressed in Barbados dollars)

6. Trade and other payables

As a non-profit making Statutory Board established by Substance Abuse Act, 1995-13, the Council is not subject to taxation.

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
	\$	\$
Trade payables	171,132	11,681
Accrued liabilities	-	-
	<u>171,132</u>	<u>11,681</u>

7. Other income

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
	\$	\$
Overseas Conferences	.	.
Community Outreach	11,394	.
Project SOFT	10,800	8,800
Research	.	.
Other	1,804	1,040
	<u>23,997</u>	<u>9,840</u>

National Council on Substance Abuse
Notes to Financial Statements
For the year ended March 31, 2020

(Expressed in Barbados dollars)

8. Expenditure

Description	NCSA Secretariat \$	Community Prevention \$	School Prevention \$	Research and Coordination \$	Treatment and Rehabilitation \$
Project Personnel					
National project staff	1,418,820	-	-	-	-
Operating Expenses					
Operating Expenses - NCSA	44,755	-	-	-	-
Training	39,610	484	3,567	306	928
Life Education Centre	-	-	56,796	-	-
Other Communities	-	68,978	-	-	-
HIV/AIDS expenses	-	-	-	-	-
Research projects	-	-	-	19,392	-
Project SOFT	-	40,316	-	-	-
Operating Expenses - Schools	-	-	5,043	-	-
Utilities	108,604	-	-	-	-
Treatment & Rehabilitation	-	-	-	-	4,931
Miscellaneous					
Professional fees	26,020	22,500	-	-	-
Supplies and Stationery	29,739	-	-	-	-
Maintenance	365,498	-	-	-	-
Peer Counselling workshops	-	-	-	-	-
Total	2,033,045	132,277	65,406	19,698	5,859