

**NATIONAL COUNCIL ON  
SUBSTANCE ABUSE**

**ANNUAL  
REPORT  
2020-21**

**Cnr 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue Belleville & Pine Road, St Michael**

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# CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT

Dear Minister,

In accordance with Section 14 of the National Council on Substance Abuse Act CAP 46, I have the honour to present the Annual Report for the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021. The Report contains:

- a. an account of the Council's activities throughout the stated financial year; and
- b. a statement of the Council's financial accounts for the year in accordance with Section 13 (1).

On reflection, the Council's activity over the year was dominated by one thing – the COVID-19 pandemic. It was a human tsunamic occurrence and as such, it allowed the Council to do things differently (often at short notice). This led to the pursuance of more strategic, efficient and effective ways of working internally, while continuing to assist individuals in their fight against substance abuse.

“Substance abuse is a rapidly changing and dynamic issue which is not just caring for those caught in the cycle of abusing a substance. It has significant negative on-going impact on the social and economic fabric of our society over time.” This statement is from minutes of the Council's Board of Directors meeting of 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2021, and so aptly reflect the ongoing challenges being faced by the Council on a regular basis. Undoubtedly, these were exacerbated at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Thankfully, our numerically small, but committed and experienced staff drew on the Council's seven established core values – integrity, respect, teamwork, trust, creativity, efficiency and commitment to help us overcome most of the challenges we faced during the year. I believe the Council added three further core values to how it operates – innovation, technological excellence and caring. Therefore, these ten core values helped the Council to enhance our responses whenever we were called upon.

Examples of strategies pursued by the Council during the COVID-19 pandemic era included: holding Board of Directors meetings virtually between April and September 2020 and January to March 2021; purchased an annual Zoom subscription package to enable secure inter-office meetings, Board of Directors meetings and for staff use while they worked from home in a specially designed programme; interactive on-line telephone counselling was offered to substance abusers; older and more problematic computers were replaced with newer ones; new anti-virus software was secured and installed on the Council's ITC equipment; the proposed 'in-person' January 2021 Drug Awareness Month

programme of activities had to be cancelled and was quickly replaced by an innovative interactive on-line programme which was rolled-out in its place; a new Drug Education Through Technology (DETT) programme was introduced; creative financial management of the Council's limited finances was pursued; the Council's public visibility was enhanced by use of social media; a new Barbados National Anti-Drug Plan 2020-2025 was developed; a special COVID-19 newsletter was prepared and issued; and the Barbados Drug Information Network (BARDIN) Reports for 2017 and 2018 were released via Zoom.

The Council's Board of Directors therefore place on record their sincere thanks to the Management, staff, volunteers and stakeholder partners, along with our valued clients, for their understanding, support, collaboration and cooperation throughout what was a most challenging year to operate in during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. Going forward, the Council's Vision Statement remains "To be the authority in Barbados for drug abuse reduction."

**Hadford S. Howell, Chairman, NCSA (2018-2021)**



# INTRODUCTION

The NCSA is a statutory body guided by legislation enacted in 1995. It falls under the aegis of the Ministry of Home Affairs, Information and Public Affairs and enjoys an interface with several Government ministries and departments due to the myriad cross-cutting social issues that impact drug use.

During this reporting period, the Honourable Wilfred Abrahams succeeded Hon. Edmund Hinkson as Minister of Home Affairs, Information and Public Affairs. It would be appropriate to thank Mr. Hinkson for his support of the activities of the Council during his tenure and to welcome Mr. Abrahams as new Minister.

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. The NCSA is an important national institution that has a critical role to play 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 of March 2020, the Council also included in its outreach, the potential increased risk to drug users of infection with COVID-19. As the lead agency on drug abuse, it must remain 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.

During this financial year, the Council, like organisations nationwide, was forced to adapt to the new operational space occasioned by the COVID-19 pandemic which resulted in the closure of schools and restrictions in the number of people permitted to assemble. The NCSA adjusted by utilising digital approaches to disseminating its drug prevention messaging in order to ensure maximum effectiveness and efficiencies. We recognize that in an era of reduced budgets and limited opportunities for face-to-face delivery methods, if the delivery of the drug prevention message is to be continued, it is essential that the NCSA adapt to the changing environment at a rapid pace.

The ensuing pandemic meant however, that the Council was mandated to increase the pace at which it integrated technology in its outreach. As a response, a whole-of-office approach was utilised to develop our model – “DRUG EDUCATION THROUGH TECHNOLOGY”, the aim of which is *‘to diversify the delivery of the NCSA’s mandate through the incorporation and utilisation of technology for drug prevention education and fundraising’*

Our initiative, “Drug Education Through Technology”, implemented in June 2021, is projected to result in the achievement of the following outcomes:

Short Term:

- Increased access to drug prevention education interventions among target audiences by 50%
- Increased visibility of NCSA’s demand reduction efforts by 80%
- Identification of project funds raised –\$25,000

Medium Term:

- Certification of NCSA’s suite of programmes to TVET<sup>1</sup> standards
- Development of NCSA’s branded messaging

Long Term:

- Certification of NCSA’s suite of programmes to ISSUP<sup>2</sup> standards
- Reduced drug use among target audiences by 80%
- Sustained increase in the number of interventions conducted

Our programming interventions are grounded in The United Nations Guiding Principles on Drug Demand Reduction which set out the tenets for the optimal functioning of national and international drug commissions as follows:

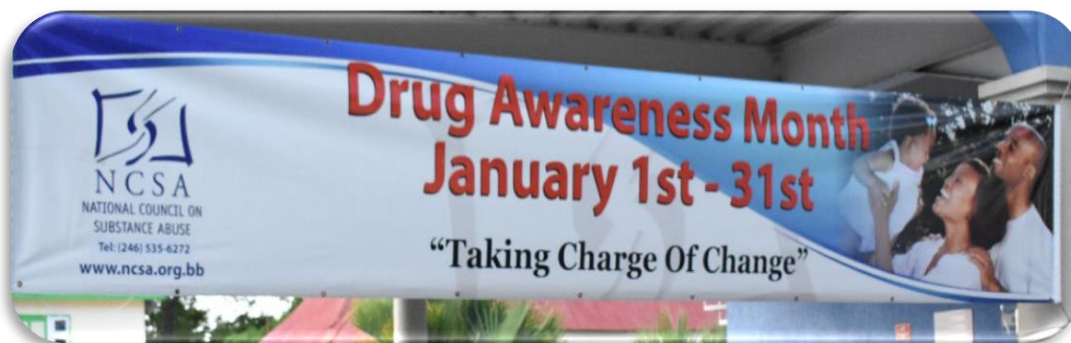
- a. There shall be a balanced approach between demand reduction and supply reduction, each reinforcing the other, in an integrated approach to solving the drug problem; and
- b. Demand reduction policies shall:
  - i. Aim at preventing the use of drugs and at reducing the adverse consequences of drug abuse
  - ii. 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
  - iii. Be sensitive to both culture and gender
  - iv. Contribute to developing and sustaining supportive environments.

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<sup>1</sup> Technical and Vocational Education and Training Council

<sup>2</sup> International Society of Substance Use Professionals

# DRUG AWARENESS MONTH 2021



For several years, Drug Awareness Month (DAM) has been recognized in Barbados during the month of January. It is during this period that the Council experiences an increase in expenditure owing to the various activities associated with highlighting various aspects of the Council's work during the month.

January also represents the time when people traditionally commit to improving their lives and the issue of substance abuse, especially with regard to alcohol use and abuse, impacts on several individuals, families and communities. This month therefore provides an ideal opportunity to spread our message of taking charge of one's life by making the changes necessary to facilitate that growth.

Appropriate education and intervention play an important role in living a drug-free life and individuals have come to rely on the NCSA to assist in providing these services. While the view has been expressed, both internally and externally, that perhaps this expectation of the Council would be made more impactful by projecting a national, well-coordinated approach to the drug demand effort, we are also cognizant of the economic conditions which dictate that extreme financial prudence is observed in the execution of our mandate. This has been exacerbated by the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic.

This public health emergency resulted in the cancellation of several events including a Motorcade, the Annual Church Service, community-based Drug Take-Back Day and the Annual DAM Interagency Fun Day & Scavenger Hunt. Despite these challenges, we still recognised DAM 2021, through the undertaking of the following activities:

- **Devotions:** January 1<sup>st</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup>

As was done in 2020, STARCOM Network partnered with NCSA through the broadcast of daily Devotions. These devotions were prepared and read by various staff members.

- **Morning Barbados**

Throughout Drug Awareness Month, we informed listeners of new trends and the health and social impact that substances, both legal and illegal, are having on the population. Guests included NCSA Manager, Community Programme Officer, Counsellor and also President of the Pharmaceutical Society.

- **Newspaper Articles:** January 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>

NCSA utilised the traditional print media to publish articles reflecting current and new trends which initiated sensitization of New Psychoactive Substances (NPS).

- **Partnership With Co-Operators General Insurance:** January 1<sup>st</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup>

Co-operators General Insurance Company Ltd. partnered with NCSA through the sponsorship of Drug Tips which were broadcast during the CBC Evening News.

- **Webinars:** January 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>; 26<sup>th</sup>

As the Council engaged in the new normal with respect to maintaining its visibility and relationships with its partners and its publics, three webinars were hosted to highlight the challenges posed by NPS. Panellists included representatives from the following agencies:

- United Nations Office on Drugs & Crime (UNODC)
- Inter American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD)
- Canadian Border Security Agency
- Trinidad & Tobago National Drug Council
- Barbados Association of Medical Practitioners (BAMP)
- Barbados Pharmacy Council
- Forensic Sciences Centre

The webinars brought together the following audiences:

- ✓ International Experts Roundtable
- ✓ First Responders Roundtable
- ✓ Law Enforcement/ Border Control Roundtable

- **Banners** January 1<sup>st</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup>

NCSA banners highlighting Drug Awareness Month and promoting drug education messages were displayed at:

- Massy Oistins
- Six Roads
- Norman Centre Mall
- Barbados Defence Force Headquarters
- St John, St. Peter, Black Rock, Glebe, Warrens Polyclinics
- NCSA Office



# RESEARCH

Demand reduction programmes should be based on the 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 policy making and 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.

The activities of the Research Department at the NCSA are led by Dr Jonathan Yearwood, Research and Information Officer; and Mrs. Laura Foster, Research Assistant. They provide support in the formulation of survey tools, review and feedback of project proposals and writing research reports.

During the period under review, several major activities were undertaken:

- 2020 National Primary School Survey
- Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) Intake Form Project
- Barbados Drug Information Network (BARDIN) Reports



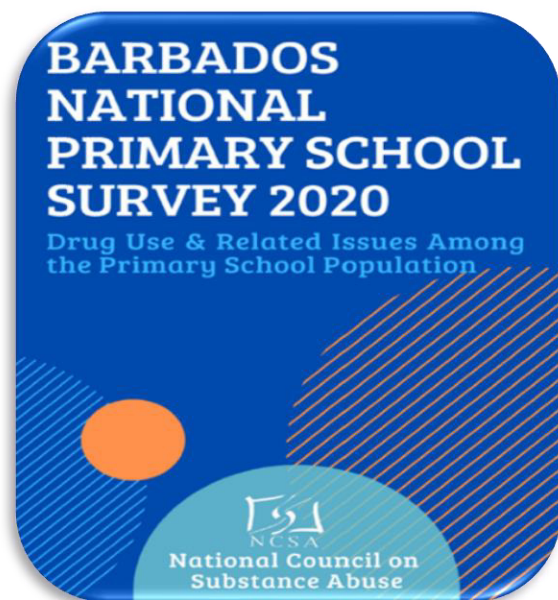
- Barriers to Treatment: Factors Hindering Women's Use of Treatment Services in Barbados
- Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism, 8<sup>th</sup> Round
- Assessment of the Inmate Drug Rehabilitation and Counselling (IDRC) programme
- Situational Analysis of the Drug Situation in Barbados 2017-2018

### **2020 National Primary School Survey: April - October 2020**

The Barbados National Primary School Survey 2020 examined drug use and related issues among Class 3 and Class 4 students (typically aged 9-11 years) enrolled in public and private primary schools across Barbados. It is the third of its kind to be conducted locally, with the previous surveys being conducted in 2006 and 2009.

The survey was primarily designed to determine: the prevalence and frequency of drug use, common drug sources and locations of use, as well as the age of first use for various substances. It also assessed a number of factors associated with drug use, including perceived risk, curiosity, access to drugs, parental involvement, school experience, social media use, video gaming and bullying.

The 2020 National Primary School Survey was designed, managed and coordinated by Mrs. Laura Foster, Research Assistant. The Research Assistant was also responsible for co-authoring the final report, together with the Survey's Technical Consultant, Dr Ken-Garfield Douglas. The key findings were presented to the Ministry of Education on September 24, 2020



The virtual dissemination to all stakeholders took place on October 5, 2020. "Opening Remarks" were delivered by Mr. Hadford Howell, Chairman of the NCSA Board of Directors, and the "Feature Address" was delivered by Hon. Wilfred Abrahams, Minister of Home Affairs, Information and Public Affairs. The Research Assistant presented the Survey's key findings, and the Technical Consultant discussed the implications of the findings. The event was attended by local stakeholders, representatives from regional drug councils as well as representatives from international partner agencies e.g., Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

### **CICAD Intake Form Project: April 1, 2020, to March 31, 2021**

The Project is an initiative which began in Trinidad & Tobago between the NGO treatment centres and the National Drug Council which among other things sought to improve treatment data. A workshop was convened in 2010 in which the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) participated. Out of this and in partnership with the European Union – Latin America and Caribbean Foundation (EULAC) Project, a template was proposed, which met all of the criteria for a client registration information system. It was reviewed by ALL participating countries in both English and Spanish and the final product was one of consensus. The data treatment form was piloted in 2012-13.

The following are key areas identified for which standardized data collection would be useful:

- Identifying patterns of drug use
- Indirect indicator of trends in problem drug use (particularly useful as an early warning system)
- Management Purposes
- Policy and Advocacy
- Identifying patterns of service utilization
- Service Evaluation

This project therefore 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). The 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.

Local agencies involved in this project include the Substance Abuse Foundation (SAF); the Inmate Drug Rehabilitation and Counselling (IDRC) Programme at HMP Dodds; the Centre for Counselling Addiction Support Alternatives (CASA); the Psychiatric Hospital and the NCSA Counselling Programme. Country reports are then collated by CICAD and published as regional reports "Characteristics of Persons Seeking Drug Treatment in the Caribbean". The last report was published in 2021.



## Barbados Drug Information Network Report (BARDIN)

The Barbados Drug Information Network (BARDIN) was initially launched on January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2003, through funding from the UNODC, in collaboration with NCSA. In 2008 renewed efforts were made by the Management and Board of NCSA to rekindle and sustain BARDIN in order to “provide all organizations in Barbados that are involved in drug control, with the capacity to better respond to drug abuse patterns, trends and *changes*”.

The objectives are:

- To strengthen the capacity of the Government and technical entities to respond to the changing drug abuse patterns and trends in Barbados
- To provide current epidemiological and other information on substance abuse
- To regularly update this information
- To identify trends in the nature of substance abuse and drug trafficking over time
- To provide relevant information for effective planning, evaluation and management of drug control programmes



The release of the key findings of the 2017 and 2018 BARDIN reports were presented by the Research Assistant and Research and Information Officer during an event held on July 15, 2020. The “Welcome” was delivered by the Deputy Manager, Mr. Troy Wickham; “Brief Remarks” by Hon. Edmund Hinkson, Minister of Home Affairs; and “Closing Remarks” by NCSA Chairman, Mr. Hadford Howell. The event was attended by local

stakeholders and representatives from regional drug councils international partner agencies e.g., OAS/CICAD and UNODC.

Data for the BARDIN 2019 Report was collected and analysed during this period. By the end of the financial year, the draft report was prepared.

The timely preparation of BARDIN Reports continue to be impacted by the late submission of data from contributing agencies - implementation of Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) notwithstanding. The NCSA will continue its efforts to encourage partner agencies to determine how best this challenge can be overcome.

## **Barriers to Treatment: Factors Hindering Women's Use of Treatment Services in Barbados: August 2020 to December 2020**

Research across the region has shown that there is clear gap between what currently exists and research as it relates to women in treatment centres. Therefore, the research department is seeking to explore the factors which hinder women's use of substance abuse treatment services in Barbados. This research will be executed by utilizing a mixed method, rapid assessment study that will target both treatment seekers and treatment providers in an effort to gain a more complete understanding of the treatment barriers facing women.

NCSA continues to strengthen and validate its research and, in this regard, approval for data collection, together with an application for the extension of the ethical approval previously received, were submitted to the University of the West Indies (UWI) Research Ethics Committee (REC) on September 3, 2020. Approval of the extension request was received from the REC on September 18, 2020.

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime provided funding for this qualitative data collection for the project as part of a wider rapid assessment they were conducting in Barbados.

A focus group with treatment clients at Marina House was conducted as well as individual interviews with treatment providers at Marina House, NCSA, CASA and the Drug Rehab Unit at the Psychiatric Hospital.

A consistent finding throughout the previous BARDIN publications (2011-2018) is that more men than women seek treatment for substance abuse (BARDIN,2018). A reason that a lower number of women to men seek treatment for substance abuse may lie in social factors (BARDIN reports 2011-2016). A critical factor hindering women in accessing treatment is their inability to find caretakers for their children and concern over losing custody of their children (Elms, Link, Newman & Brogly, 2018; Stone, 2015; Green, 2006). Knowledge of the difficulties women face in accessing substance abuse treatment creates opportunities to investigate why women are less likely to seek treatment for substance abuse in Barbados than men. In 2020, the NCSA will be researching to investigate the specific barriers to treatment for women in Barbados. The results of this study will inform policy and the delivery of treatment services on the island.

## **Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism: February 18, 2021, to March 31, 2021**

In 1998, the OAS member states agreed to and designed a multilateral evaluation mechanism (MEM) that would make periodic recommendations to OAS member states on improving their capacity to control drug trafficking and abuse and enhance multilateral cooperation. The Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) is the

consulting and advisory body of the OAS on the drug problem, serves as a forum for OAS member states to discuss and find solutions, as well as provides technical assistance to increase their capability to counter the drug problem. CICAD approves the reports drafted by the Governmental Experts Group (GEG) and the recommendations made by the Inter-Governmental Working Group (IWG).



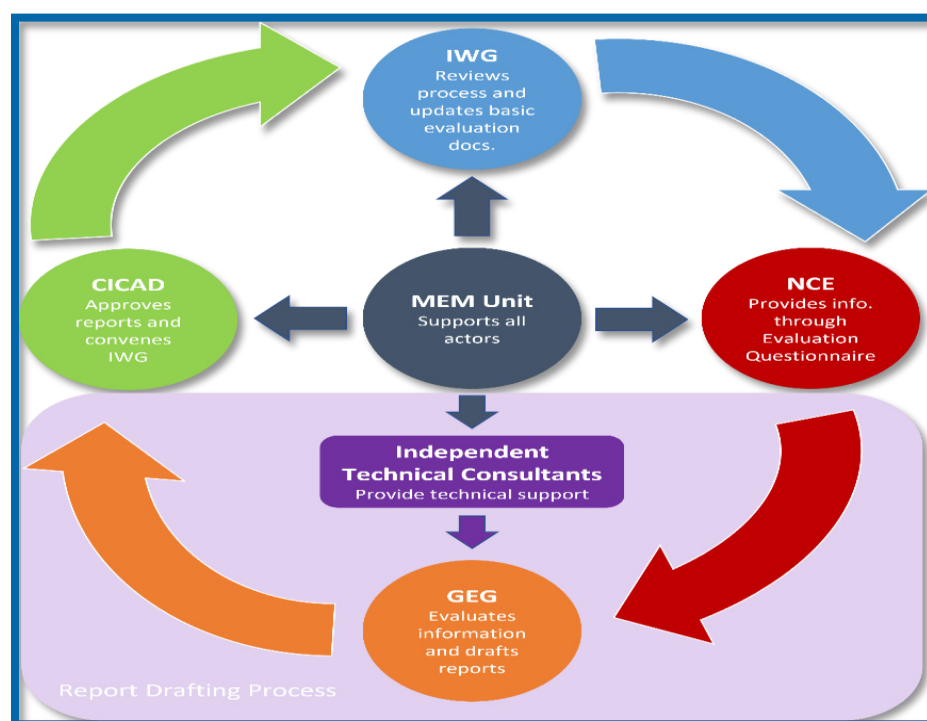
**National Coordinating Entity (NCE):** are appointed by each OAS member state at the beginning of each evaluation round to provide information from their country, which allows for the GEG to carry out the corresponding evaluation. Mrs. Laura Foster, Research Assistant, currently serves as the NCE for Barbados.

**National Institutions:** provide the answers to the questionnaire, notes to country, as well as data updates and information through the NCE of their country. In this Round, data was supplied by the Barbados Prison Service; the National Council on Substance Abuse; the Psychiatric Hospital; Substance Abuse Foundation; Centre for Counselling Addiction

Support Alternatives; the Barbados Police Service and the National HIV/AIDS Commission.

**Governmental Expert Group (GEG):** is composed of Experts from the diverse drug-related areas, designated by each participating member state and headed by a General Coordinator and a Deputy General Coordinator. The GEG analyses and assesses the situation in each country, based on the information provided by the OAS member states for the thematic area and prepares the evaluation reports. The thematic national reports seek to outline marked progress, setbacks, and shortcomings, taking into account their material, financial and human capabilities, to provide an objective panorama of the current situation in addressing the drug problem in each country for the corresponding thematic area. CICAD Commissioners consider and approve the draft thematic national reports at their regular sessions.

- Current GEG General Coordination: Colombia
- Current GEG Deputy General Coordination: Barbados (Mrs. Betty Hunte, Manager).



**Inter-Governmental Working Group (IWG):** is composed of all the member states to review and prepares proposals for the next MEM round, evaluating and strengthening the

MEM through continuous updates to both the process and the documents for the evaluation. Barbados is represented by Mrs. Betty Hunte, Manager.

The MEM is currently in its Eighth Round.

To prepare for the duties of NCE, the Research Assistant attended an online training session for NCEs hosted by the MEM Unit of OAS/CICAD of February 18, 2021.

As NCE, the Research Assistant was responsible for coordinating the completion of the 2021 MEM questionnaire which focussed on “Measures of Prevention, Treatment and Support” (formerly called Demand Reduction). This involved preparing and circulating letters to stakeholder agencies, compiling responses received from agencies into a single “country” document, chairing a virtual stakeholder verification meeting on March 12, 2021, updating the “country” questionnaire as needed when new/additional responses were submitted, preparing the Introductory Document to accompany the completed questionnaire, liaising/following-up with stakeholder agencies, and liaising with MEM Unit at OAS/CICAD.

### **Assessment of the Inmate Drug Rehabilitation and Counselling (IDRC) Programme**

The Research and Information Officer, Dr Jonathan Yearwood conducted an evaluation of the IDRC which is implemented at Dodds Prison. The evaluation of the IDRC covered the following areas: Planning, Execution, Effectiveness and Sustainability of the programme.

The IDRC programme performs a significant role in the treatment of drug-dependent offenders. The IDRC programme is well planned and coordinated with clear objectives and appropriate assessment tools to evaluate treatment needs. The IDRC programme benefits from qualified staff and a strong collaboration with stakeholders who provide drug treatment in the community. One of the key strengths of the IDRC programme is its ability to focus on offenders who require more intensive drug treatment and reduce their possible relapse into drug use and crime. During 2019, the IDRC programme achieved significant success in reducing recidivism among participants in the programme. Of the 550 male and female inmates, only 17% returned to prison in 2019, compared to the recidivism rate of 83 per cent of drug users who were not involved in the IDRC programme. Without a doubt, the establishment of the IDRC Programme has been an effective means of reducing recidivism among inmates with drug-related challenges.

Overall, the findings show that the IDRC programme plays a significant role in helping offenders reduce their drug use and lower their recidivism rate. Without drug treatment in prison and the full assistance of the Prison personnel assisting in substance abuse treatment, a high percentage of inmates will relapse to drug use after release and return to crime.

## Situational Analysis of the Drug Situation in Barbados 2017-2018

The Research and Information Officer, Dr Jonathan Yearwood completed a report entitled 'The Situational Analysis of the Drug Situation *in Barbados*'. The report draws from the findings of the Barbados Drug Information Network (BARDIN). It covers the period January 1 to December 31, 2017, and January 1 to December 31, 2018, and includes contributions from the National Council on Substance Abuse, the Edna Nicholls Centre, the Centre for Counselling Addiction Support Alternatives, the Substance Abuse Foundation, the Inmate Drug Rehabilitation and Counselling Programme, the Royal Barbados Police Force and the Barbados Prison Service, Dodds.

### **Demand Reduction**

Marijuana, alcohol, and crack cocaine continue to be the primary drugs motivating the need for substance abuse treatment across the island, with marijuana being most problematic for persons under 40. In contrast, alcohol and crack cocaine are mainly an issue for those over 40.

In Barbados, alcohol has a long-standing history of consumption, and since the 1980s, marijuana is the primary illegal drug used by adults and adolescents. In regard to marijuana, Researchers have found an association between cultural acceptance, decreased levels of perceived harm and cannabis use, both within the adult and adolescent populations (Hasin, 2018; Pacek, Mauro & Martins, 2015; Piontek, Kraus, Bjarnason, Demetrovics, & Ramstedt, 2013). The increasing cultural acceptance and declining levels of perceived harm associated with the use of this drug may also contribute to it being one of the primary substances for which persons seek treatment annually (National Council on Substance Abuse, 2015).

Among adults, alcohol and crack are the leading drugs motivating the need for treatment. Crack cocaine is a highly addictive substance, and due its affordability creates opportunities for the extensive abuse of this drug. In Barbados, crack cocaine continues to be the primary illegal drug motivating treatment. Because researchers have linked crack cocaine to acquisitive crimes, including burglary, robberies and theft (Perez, Benschop, Blanken & Korf, 2015; Kessler et al., 2012), the use of this drug should be of concern to both treatment and crime prevention practitioners.

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. Persons who consume multiple drugs are more difficult to treat as specific mixtures of substances may present a greater need for intensive interventions (Wu et al., 2013).

While marijuana, alcohol and crack cocaine remain dominant, the drug situation diversifies with the appearance of substances such as crystal meth, amphetamines and ecstasy. Drugs such as these are highly addictive, with potentially dangerous side effects

(Steinkellner, Freissmuth, Sitte, & Montgomery, 2011). Therefore, the NCSA must closely monitor these changes to ensure timely and adequate responses.

The emergence of new drugs also creates opportunities for the manufacturing of New Psychoactive Substances (NPS). New psychoactive substances (NPS) are a range of drugs that have been designed to mimic established illicit drugs, such as cannabis, cocaine, MDMA and LSD. Manufacturers of these drugs develop new chemicals to replace those that are banned, which means that the chemical structures of the drugs are constantly changing to try to stay ahead of the law.

In 2018 the NCSA established the Early Warning System (EWS). The EWS is a multidisciplinary network which collects, appraises and rapidly disseminates information on the use of NPS and new ways of using old drugs. This mechanism will ultimately provide policy makers and the general public of the threats NPS pose to public health which will afford them an updated resource to make informed decisions.

### **Drug Supply and Control**

In the area of supply control, the data also show that marijuana continues to command the attention of local law enforcement authorities, accounting for the majority of drug offences and drug seizures during 2017 and 2018. Of the 836 persons incarcerated at Barbados Prison Service (BPS), (20%) were jailed for various drug offences, with drug possession the primary drug offence.

### **Gender Issues and Substance Abuse**

Young males appear to be among those most affected by the drug phenomenon in Barbados. These findings highlight the need for specialised programmes that specifically target males, particularly those under 40.

### **Recommendations for Enhancing the National Response to the Drug Situation**

Below are several suggestions to enhance the national response to the local drug situation.

1. Treatment providers and drug prevention education specialists should offer specialised programmes and interventions that cater to young males' needs.
2. Treatment providers should consider enhancing intake assessments to identify polysubstance use and tailoring treatment approaches to improve outcomes for persons abusing multiple substances.
3. More considerable efforts undertaken to educate medical personnel about the prevalence of polysubstance use in Barbados and the most commonly used combinations.



4. Provision of opportunities to undertake further studies on the impact of cannabis-related legislative changes
5. A greater focus on public education campaigns to achieve the following:
  - a. Increase awareness of the differences between medicinal and recreational marijuana use and the harms associated with recreational marijuana use
  - b. Raise awareness of the upcoming changes to the Liquor License Act. The implementation of the Breathalyzer and the consequences of driving under the influence of alcohol.
6. Drug prevention practitioners should increase education programmes that inform young people about the harms associated with the consumption of marijuana and New Psychoactive Substances (NPS), including the use of the Early Warning System
7. Treatment providers should consider training for persons involved in the treatment of co-occurring disorders.
8. Criminal justice practitioners and drug prevention specialists should further explore opportunities for persons addicted to drugs to find work
9. Researchers in Barbados should conduct studies on the issues relating to women and substance



# 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
- To engage parents where possible

## Primary School

The closure of schools due to the COVID-19 pandemic escalated the need to modify all primary school intervention to suit an online environment and resulted in the development of the Drug Education Through Technology project which has been adjusted for use across all NCSA programmes.

The digital conversion of programmes has been a huge undertaking with many challenges encountered, including identifying and learning new technologies and techniques in conjunction with reformatting resources and approaches which had been created for face-to-face delivery. These challenges have been echoed by prevention specialist at various international online meetings and webinars, including those agencies that have access to a larger pool of human and financial resources when compared to the NCSA. While there were no revised programmes launched during the reporting period, a number of activities are in the finalisation stages.

In spite of the challenges, the pandemic has also provided opportunities to participate in many informative webinars, some of which may not have ordinarily been attended due to the costs associated with travel, or that consideration may not have been given to the inclusion of international parties at what would previously have been a local or regional

event. These webinars have exposed participants to a variety of topics, thereby broadening the knowledge base and the scope for the development of interventions.

### **Life Education Centre**

Having considered the difficulties experienced with the Life Education Centre (LEC), what would be required to upgrade the programme content for future use and communications from CORAM Life (UK), indicating that they were disposing of their mobile units, the Board of Management took the decision not to renew the LEC licence for the upcoming financial year. This termination of the contract brings to a close a programme which has been in operation for the past fifteen years and has delivered drug education to over 48,000 children across the island.

The NCSA commends the service of all who have contributed to the success of this long-standing programme, most notably the LEC Facilitators, members of the Royal Barbados Police Force, Barbados Light & Power, Everson R Elcock Electrical, Flow and all of NCSA Staff and Volunteers who have worked assiduously with this programme over the years.

### **Secondary School**

#### **Drug and Life Skills Awareness Programme**

Guidance Counsellors at secondary schools were contacted regarding the continuation of the Drugs and Life Skills Awareness Programme. However, due to the instruction time lost during the COVID-19 pandemic, several Guidance Counsellors indicated that they were interested in the resumption of the programme but deferred until the school situation stabilized.

Notwithstanding these challenging conditions, the Drugs and Life Skills Programme was facilitated at the Lester Vaughn Secondary School (online platform – Google Classroom). A number of interruptions halted the facilitation of this programme including the Easter vacation break as well as COVID-19 restrictions. Sessions were also delivered to students of the Princess Margaret Secondary School.

In order to ensure that the NCSA could respond to other challenges including health and other national emergencies which might impact face-to-face outreach, a committee was set up to assist in converting the Drugs and Life Skills Awareness Programme from a face-to-face approach to online using the online teaching platform Nearpod. Ms. Jennifer Baptiste, with the assistance of Programme Officer Ms. Paulavette Atkinson commenced the task of developing lesson plans to be facilitated on the Nearpod online platform.

## **Drug Education Sessions at the Edna Nicholls Centre**

Sessions for the period were very disruptive with the national shutdowns related to COVID-19 positive cases at schools and in the community. Thus, weekly sessions were very sporadic during the period.

Of concern however was that:

- a. Several students attending the centre tested positive for marijuana use and
- b. There appears to be a low perception of harm regarding e-cigarette use by students who attended the centre during the period

Owing to these factors, the NCSA focused on drug education impacts of the use of alcohol, marijuana and tobacco with an emphasis on e-cigarettes and vaping.

# 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

As highlighted before, in-person activities were impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. However, where feasible, the NCSA continued these community outreach interventions

## Drug Smart Ambassador Programme

The Drug Smart Ambassador Programme (DSAP) is a product of Barbados' participation in the 2019 Caribbean Youth Forum on Drug Use Prevention, hosted by the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) of the Organization of American States (OAS). DSAP, was conceptualized and implemented by youth representatives, Myles Smith, Rashana Jones and Travis Gardiner, under the guidance of NCSA. The programme was designed to equip and educate young people with skills necessary to walk away from drugs. The implementation phases included:

- Information gathering from focus groups
- Poster development and dissemination – via social media
- Online workshops

The online sessions were attended by students from Lester Vaughn, Princess Margaret and Deighton Griffith Secondary Schools along with representatives from various community-based youth groups.

### **Project Safeguarding Our Future Today (Project SOFT) 23<sup>rd</sup> –29<sup>th</sup> August 2020**

In 2002, in an effort to prevent or delay the onset of drug use or abuse, NCSA pioneered a structured, residential programme for 11-year-old students transitioning to secondary schools. It is well known that children are considered sheltered at primary school so the introduction to the world at secondary school along with the newfound autonomy can become overwhelming. Successive pre-camp assessments have revealed that children are exposed to a number of environmental and psycho-social factors that can be precursors to drug use if not appropriately managed. Therefore, it is imperative to give all children the necessary drug refusal skills to prevent or delay drug use as at this stage of development, and that all children are considered to be at risk to drug use.

Now in its 18<sup>th</sup> year, the scope of this programme has expanded beyond its initial concept, and is now divided into three stages:

- Stage 1 – Residential Camp
- Stage 2 – Prevention First Club (Children)
- Stage 3 – Prevention First Club (Parents)



### **Camp 2020**

The first stage of Project Safeguarding Our Future Today (SOFT) 2020 was held at the Eastern Bible College Camp site in Ruby St. Philip from the 24<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> August. Due to the restraints and concerns surrounding the COVID-19, pandemic, the camp was switched to a day release camp. The forty-one campers were attended to by an in-house staff complement of fourteen adults in the roles of coordinator, director, house mother, camp counsellors, security officers, and caterers.

Throughout the week, the campers participated in sessions on a variety of topics including:

- Drug Use and Abuse
- Drug Refusal Skills
- Adolescent Development
- Boy Talk/Girl Talk
- Nutrition & Healthy Living

The daily inclusion of sporting activities and creative expressions such as dance and drama, gave campers practical examples of healthy alternatives to drug use.



On Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup>, August 2020 campers were honoured by a visit from the Hon. Wilfred Abrahams, Minister of Home Affairs, Information and Public Affairs, and his team. The Minister took time to meet with staff and thoroughly engaged the campers.

A post-camp review meeting revealed that the team was generally satisfied with the location and the food prepared over the week. However, there was an overwhelming acknowledgement that the benefits of the residential programme far outweigh the day release programme.



NCSA continues to actively explore ways to improve on the delivery of this intervention in order to benefit more families.

## **SPORTS – Not Drugs!**

The NCSA Programme Officer continued to deliver drug and life skills education to sportspersons, as part of the restructured SPORTS – Not Drugs! Programme. Three interactive drug education workshops were conducted on July 22<sup>nd</sup>, July 24<sup>th</sup> & July 29<sup>th</sup>, 2020, at the Garfield Sobers Gymnasium, with forty-nine (49) National Sports Council (NSC) coaches and administrators.

Research suggests that all youth and college students should be provided with a programme that can cost-effectively prevent harmful substance use, while increasing their



general physical activity, to promote overall well-being and positive youth development. It is in this context that the NCSA developed and continues to offer its sports-centred drug prevention intervention- Sports Not Drugs!

Later in the year, universal drug education was facilitated face-to-face on October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2020, to sportspersons and patrons in attendance at the Health & Wellness Fair organized by the National Sport Council at the Garfield Sobers Gymnasium. The Programme Officer and Junior Programme Officer co-facilitated the on-site activity, whilst the PR Consultant was pivotal in organizing print and social media coverage of the outreach facilitated by the NCSA at the event.

Efforts to strengthen the established partnership between NCSA and the National Anti-Doping Commission have been ongoing. On December 14<sup>th</sup> the two agencies convened a sensitisation workshop. Athletes, coaches and administrator representing twenty-five local sports federations were in attendance. During the online session, participants were advised of the upcoming changes to the World Anti-Doping Association Code, local sports policies and revisions to the educational standards for sports persons.



## Intervention at The Barbados Fire Service



Substance Abuse & Stress Management Training Fire Recruits



Substance Abuse & Stress Management Training Fire Recruits



Substance Abuse & Stress Management Training Fire Recruits

On September 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> 2020, at the Barbados Fire Academy, Mrs Natalia Corbin-Ifill and Mrs Wendy Greenidge, representatives from the National Council on Substance Abuse, met with the current cohort of recruits for the Barbados Fire Service to conduct awareness training on drugs and stress management. The drug awareness sessions provided an opportunity for open discussion about drugs and their effects, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the drug phenomena from a global perspective and the role that drug use may play in some of the incidents, to which they will be called to respond. In addition, the legal and social impact of drug use on the workplace was also explored.

During the stress management sessions, the recruits were shown how to identify physical and emotional responses to stress such as changes in digestion, bursts of energy, dry mouth and irritability. Over time, unmanaged stress can lead to anxiety, depression and other more serious ailments. The second day of training provided a perfect backdrop for the application of the stress management techniques as it coincided with a major fire and the recruits were able to demonstrate some of the practical stress relieving techniques that they had just learnt in a real-life situation.

Overall, the sessions were beneficial to the Barbados Fire Service and the



National Council on Substance Abuse and signals an opportunity for continued collaboration.

### Community Outreach

With the easing of some COVID-19 restrictions, NCSA Staff took the opportunity to visit bus terminals throughout Bridgetown to distribute drug information and engage members of the general public.



# TREATMENT & REHABILITATION

## The Counselling Service/Treatment

Throughout the period April 1, 2020, to March 31, 2021, in-person counselling visits were curtailed due to restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic. In response, the NCSA took a telehealth approach, in that all aspects of the Counselling Service were provided remotely via telecommunication technologies. In addition, related information was distributed through the NCSA and Barbados Government Information Service (BGIS) traditional and social media networks.

The telehealth approach resulted in the admission of thirty-eight new clients. Thirty-two (32) of these clients were males while 6 were females. For the most part, these clients were seen weekly. Sessions provided by the Counsellor utilized the Cognitive Behavioural Therapy and Motivational Interviewing approaches to help clients address their presenting problems. The new clients ranged in age from 13 to 71 and presented with substance use issues, emotional and behavioural issues. As it relates to substance use, 29 new clients presented with substance use issues. Out of the 29, 28 were males while one was a female. The lone female reported marijuana use. Among the males, 20 were seen for marijuana use issues, 5 were seen for alcohol related issues, two for marijuana and alcohol use and one for ecstasy and marijuana use. During this same reporting period, 15 clients who started counselling in the previous financial year (2019-2020) continued sessions during 2020-2021 while 3 former clients sought the assistance of the counselling department for other issues they were facing at the time.



For the new clients (38) and for this reporting period, 6 clients were referred from the Edna Nicholls Centre; 3 were referred by a parent or family member; 7 were referred by Guidance Counsellors; 10 from the Probation Department or the Court System; 3 from Juvenile Court; 1 was referred by a friend; 3 were self-referred; 1 was referred from a

place of employment; 1 was referred from the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, 1 by a police officer, 1 by a school teacher and 1 from the Juvenile Liaison Scheme.

It should be noted, that from November 2020, the Council resumed the provision of counselling for juveniles referred from Juvenile Court.

To assist with the counselling of clients, 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 5 clients (3 of the new clients and 2 who were admitted during financial year 2019-2020 but rolled over into the reporting financial year. The other volunteer counsellor was assigned 7 clients (4 were new clients admitted in 2020-2021 while 3 were admitted in the 2019-2020 financial year that continued sessions in 2020-2021). For the third volunteer, 3 clients were assigned (2 new clients from the reporting financial year and one from the previous financial year).

# PUBLIC RELATIONS & FUNDRAISING

*“Without publicity there can be no public support, and without public support every nation must decay.” – Benjamin Disraeli*

During the latter half of 2018, the then Board of Directors identified the need to raise the profile of the NCSA as a major strategic activity. The Core Function of the Public Relations and Communications Consultant is to nurture strong networks, increase public awareness of the NCSA’s core functions; and develop an enviable corporate image of the NCSA by executing effective communication and media relations programs.

Since the engagement of the PR Consultant, the Council has received tremendous exposure through heightened marketing of programs, increased sponsorship both in cash and kind, and development of new strategic partners. we have seen evidence of:

- Increased highlighting of the programs and activities of the NCSA
- Development of strategic alliances with the media and other agencies
- Sustained assistance with the design, production and sourcing of educational materials and brochures, annual reports, posters, newsletters
- Advice and direction provided to management on the utilization of emerging advertising and market trends as they relate to the NCSA’s mandate
- Development of creative avenues for communicating anti-drug messages to specific audiences

During this critical period, this function assumed centrality to ensure that the NCSA’s interventions reached their respective audiences

## Outreach via Traditional Media

- **Barbados Government Information Service Feature**  
The Counsellor and the Research Assistant addressed the increase in those seeking counsellor while Research & Information Officer spoke to what research has shown. The audio from this was shared with other media houses and was aired accordingly.
- **Radio**  
NCSA Manager and Dr Brian MacLachlan of the Psychiatric Hospital were guests on one hour “The Better Health” radio show on Starcom. Manager focused on the

NCSA its role and services that it offers and future plans. Dr MacLachlan addressed the issue of treatment for those who abuse substances and what help is available.

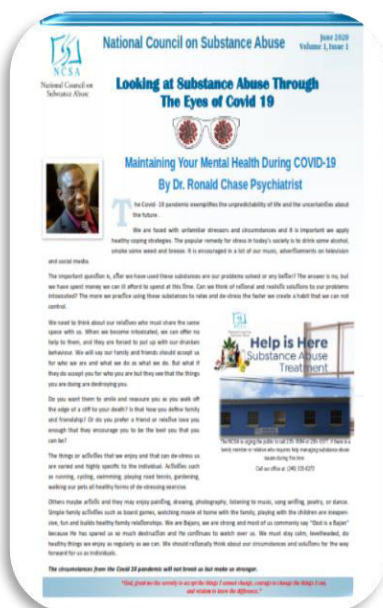
NCSA was also represented on the Williams Newsmakers Show, aired on the Starcom Network, by the Deputy Manager and the Research Assistant. Issues addressed include new drug trends and research findings

- **Newspaper Articles**

NCSA coordinated a series of articles addressing several areas of challenge regarding drug use. Those articles were published in the print media.

- **NCSA Newsletter**

The NCSA continued to produce its quarterly newsletter, including a special edition which focused on mental health. The newsletters were distributed to all public servants through the Ministry of Innovation Science & Smart Technology (MIST). They were also sent to local and regional media houses.

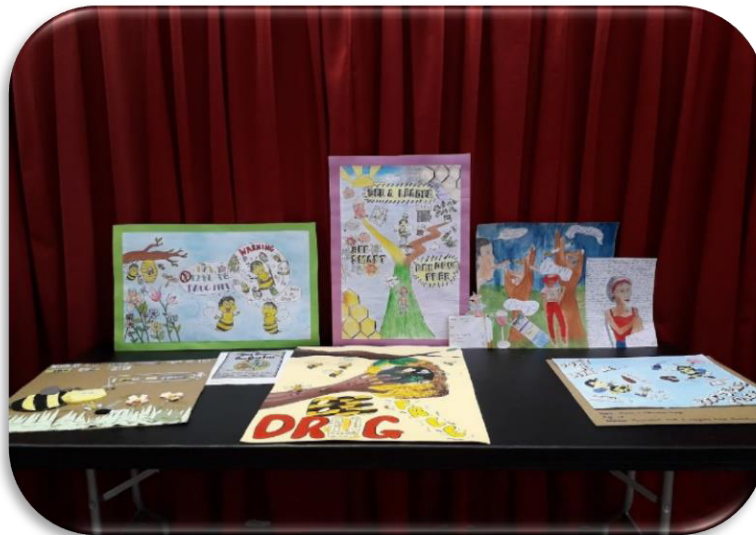




## National Competition

- **Bee Drug Free Art and Writing Contest**

The National Council on Substance Abuse (NCSA) hosted an art and writing competition under the theme: "Bee Drug Free". The competition was held in observance of the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking. The competition was open to children between the ages of eight and 17.



A prize giving ceremony was held on August 12<sup>th</sup>, 2020, at Prince Cave Hall. In his address, the Hon. Wilfred Abrahams, Minister of Home Affairs, Information and Public Affairs commended all who had submitted entries. He also urged all present to avoid drug use, while encouraging parents and teachers to continue supporting our youth.

The competition was well supported by a number of generous sponsors including the Caribbean Development Bank who received a framed poster which is on display at their children's aftercare facility.





## Online Meetings & Webinars

- **Lunchtime with Steve**

NCSA was featured for over an hour on a midday Facebook live session hosted by Stephen Burrow, a Barbadian national living in the United States.



This live Facebook session give the organization a chance to tell the rest of the world more about Substance Abuse in Barbados, the trends, the work of the NCSA, what has worked for us and so much more.

- **Partnership with the Barbados Pharmaceutical Society**

The NCSA and members of the Barbados Pharmaceutical Society engaged in a two-hour discussion via Zoom on July 23rd, 2020. The discussion focused on prescription drugs and how they are used and misused. The NCSA addressed the new trends and the organization's concerns. Over 40 persons attended.

- **Mental Health Seminar**

This seminar was conducted via Zoom, however, we also accommodated twenty in-house guests at this event. A total of 122 people participated. The discussion themed: "Your Mental Health Matters – Lets End the Stigma", was moderated by Carol Toppin. Panellists included: Dr Ronald Chase, Psychologist, Mrs. Natalia Corbin-Ifill, NCSA Counsellor and Mrs. Janelle Chase Mayers, Mental Health Coach.



## Support for National Events and International Days

- **Wear Your Mask Campaign**

Staff were encouraged to wear their mask and to say why they are doing so and why it was important. This social media campaign was published on Instagram and Facebook.



- **Love Not Drugs Campaign**

We focused on “**Love Not Drugs**” as the theme for the month of February. Members of staff produced short video clips around the theme, with a twist as to how people can love themselves without using drugs. These videos were published on NCSA’s social media pages.

- **Breast Cancer Awareness Campaign**

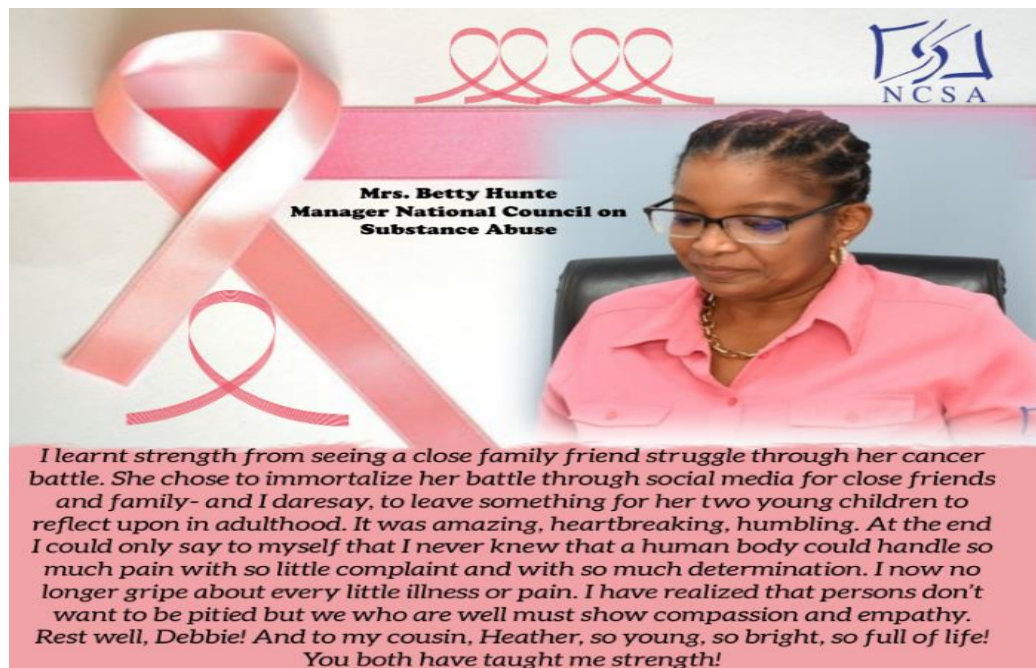


**How Can Mrs. Agnetha Roach Chase Help Someone With Cancer?**

**"From my personal experience as a member of the Barbados Cancer Society, Don't be intrusive let them reach out, be a good listener and only give advice when asked, always share positive thoughts of hope, faith, courage and recovery."**

**National Council on Substance Abuse  
Clerk Typist  
Mrs. Agnetha Roach-Chase**

This social media campaign was held in-house and featured staff bedecked in pink, in support of persons suffering from cancer, and they were asked to say something that would encourage those suffering from this disease. All staff participated, their pictures were published on Instagram and also on Facebook). The content also was shared in the NCSA Newsletter.






***"Dealing with someone who has cancer can be very stressful. I had a personal experience in this regard and had to be a major part of a wider support system. This taught me to be a good listener, and to develop soft skills such as improved tolerance since there were mood swings, anger, sadness, joy, and most of all accepting their reality. I would encourage persons to listen and observe the verbal and nonverbal communication of persons who are affected directly or indirectly by cancer and to provide the necessary care and support for them."***

**Mr. Troy Wickham**  
Deputy Manager - National Council on Substance Abuse

The Armairs Building- Corner of 1st Avenue and Pine Road, Belleville, St. Michael, Barbados  
Tel: +1(246) 535-6272 Fax: +1(246) 535-6279  
Email: [nca.info@barbados.gov.bb](mailto:nca.info@barbados.gov.bb) Website: [nca.gov.bb](http://nca.gov.bb)  
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/NCSABARBADOS/> Twitter: [https://twitter.com/NCSA\\_Barbados](https://twitter.com/NCSA_Barbados)  
Instagram: [ncaabarbados](https://www.instagram.com/ncaabarbados) YouTube: [NCSA Barbados](https://www.youtube.com/NCSA_Barbados)




***"I lost my only daughter to Leukemia at age seven. It was a very stressful experience and at times I was emotionally worn out. I was mum, nurse and caregiver. The bouts of pain and side effects from the treatment were overwhelming. At times I cried silently. Cancer is real and is no respecter of persons. Be there for the person diagnosed with Cancer. Show them love, communicate with them and listen to them more. Most of all, give encouragement from the scriptures. Let them know that God's Grace will always be sufficient and he will give them the strength needed to hold on."***

**I am Ms. Cindy Bennett**  
Receptionist at The National Council on Substance Abuse



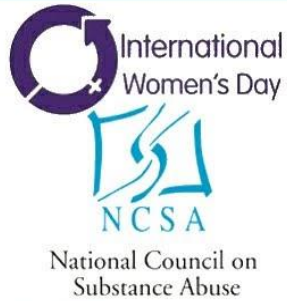
- **World Down Syndrome Day**

World Down Syndrome Day was marked with staff wearing and displaying their socks. The winners were presented with gift vouchers.



- **International Women's Day**

NCSA was featured on all media platforms for International Women's Day. An article and an audio recording were also submitted by NCSA Chairman, Mr Hadford Howell, in recognition of this special day.



## Saluting The Women of The National Council on Substance Abuse On International Women's Day 2021



**Mrs. Betty Hunte**



**Mrs. Gina Fenty**



**Mrs. Laura Foster**



**Ms. Lisa Layne**



**Ms. Cindy Bennett**



**Mrs. Natalia Corbin Iill**



**Mrs. Agnetha Roache Chase**



**Ms. Jennifer Baptiste**



**Ms. Cheryl Osbourne**



**Mrs. Makeada Bourne**



**Ms. Paulavette Atkinson**



**Mrs. Wendy Greenidge**

#CHOOSE TO CHALLENGE

## Fundraising

The impact of the pandemic was felt across all areas including the local private sector. This resulted in, NCSA experiencing some challenges in raising the level of sponsorship to match pre-pandemic levels. Despite all of the setbacks, NCSA received sterling support from some traditional and new partners including individuals and small businesses who demonstrated their generosity vehemently.

• Accra Beach and Spa	• Armstrong Agencies
• Armstrong Health Care	• Arthur Moore Pest Control
• Barbados Alcohol Industry Association	• BICO Ltd
• Caribbean Development Bank	• Carter's General Stores
• Chefette Restaurants Ltd	• Co-Operators General Insurance
• D.E. Computers Unlimited Inc	• Ebrahim & Bibi
• El Bethel Pharmacy	• Fantasy Nails and Beauty Touch
• General Distributors Inc	• Global Produce Corporation
• Hopewell Charity	• Knights Ltd (Rainbow Paper Products)
• Marshall Trading	• Mr & Mrs A Gittens
• Mr. S Austin	• National Conservation Commission
• NCSA Board of Directors	• NCSA Staff
• Outhouse Solutions	• Pan Atlantic Bank & Trust Ltd

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pastor M Nicholls</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Peak Customs Services</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project Recycle Ltd./Jose and Jose</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promotech Inc</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• R M J Agencies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Radio Shack</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Renaissance Designs Inc</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rose &amp; Laflamme Barbados Ltd</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• S Y Adam &amp; Son</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sales Barbados</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Senator Dr Crystal Haynes &amp; The Lady Box Project</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sewing World Department Store</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SignUP Inc</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sports &amp; Games Barbados Ltd</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stansfeld Scott &amp; Co Ltd</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sunny Rose Holdings</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Barbados Defence Force</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Crane Hotel</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Ministry of People Empowerment &amp; Elder Affairs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Royal Barbados Police Force</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Sandy Lane Charitable Trust Inc</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The US Embassy</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• West India Biscuit Company Ltd (WIBISCO)</li> </ul>	



# **LINKAGES WITH ORGANISATIONS, COMMUNITIES & AGENCIES**

The Council continues to recognize the importance of building a range of partnerships- from the long-term strategic level through to those which are for a project specific or a shorter duration. Inter-agency collaborations result in increased access to services and in the case of individuals and/or families who are impacted by drug use, there are often complex needs requiring different types of help provided by a range of agencies.

The NCSA will therefore continue to collaborate with existing partners, even as we seek to forge new relationships, in order to better carry out our mandate.

During the reporting period, the Council engaged with the following: -

- CARICOM Committee on Advertising, Promotion and Sponsorship (Tobacco)
- CICAD Hemispheric Strategy Meetings
- Drug Awareness Training, Barbados Fire Academy
- International Day Against Drug Abuse, Morning Barbados, CBC TV Channel 8
- ISSUP National Chapter Meetings
- Redrafting of the Barbados National Anti-Drug Plan 2020-25
- Submission to the Barbados Economic & Social Report 2019
- Substance Abuse Social Issues, Erdiston Teacher Training College
- The Impact of Drugs and Alcohol on the Academic Success of Students, Barbados Community College
- World AIDS Day, Donation to National HIV/AIDS Food Bank

# CAPACITY BUILDING & INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING

The need for social isolation due to the ongoing pandemic has made it necessary to move the area of development from physical training spaces and face-to-face contact to the internet environment. The coronavirus has been a catalyst for change and has only accelerated the transformation of learning ([LinkedIn Learning Report, 2020](#)). The COVID-19 pandemic has somehow forced the training market to intensively use the video format as the best available alternative to face-to-face meetings. The key advantage of incorporating collaborative technologies into the learning environment is that users are able to have constant accessibility on the training materials (on-demand) from anywhere using various devices ([Fake and Dabbagh, 2020](#)).<sup>3</sup>

This was one of the key advantages for the NCSA emerging from the pandemic. Given the limited opportunities for access to training (pre-pandemic), several officers took full advantage of the opportunities opened via on-line instruction. This will undoubtedly redound to the benefit of the institution.

WEBINARS	
PERIOD	COURSE
April 2, 2020	CARICOM Webinar: Clinical Management of COVID-19 & Psychosocial Support for Caregivers
June 9, 2020	Pear Deck Remote Learning Webinar
June 10, 2020	Pear Deck Webinar: Essential Tools for Remote Learning with Pear Deck

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<sup>3</sup> Changes in the approach to employee development in organizations as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic  
Author: Katarzyna Mikołajczyk; Publication: European Journal of Training and Development; Publisher: Emerald Publishing Limited; Date: 06/06/2022

June 11, 2020	Pear Deck Webinar: Pear Deck 101
June 11, 2020	Prevention Plus Wellness -Alcohol, Vaping, Marijuana & Opioid Use Programmes
June 16, 2020	CICAD Webinar: COVID-19 & Alcohol Use
June 16, 2020	Centre on Crime & Community Resilience Webinar: Creating A Monitoring & Evaluation Plan
June 18, 2020	Prevention Plus Wellness - Creating A Public Health Substance Use Plan
July 1, 2020	CICAD Early Warning System Roundtable/Webinar: Operation of A National Early Warning System
July 7, 2020	Regional Dialogue: Good Practices and Lessons Learned on Drug Policy and Development in the Americas
July 8, 2020	Operation of a National Early Warning System
July 8, 2020	Drug research in the context of COVID-19" OI/CICAD
July 22, 2020	Opioids in the Americas: how to identify and respond to emerging epidemics
August 20, 2020	USAID/ Centre on Crime and Community Resilience (CCR) Of North-eastern University Webinar: Process Evaluation: A Tool for Learning and Measuring Success
September 16, 2020	CICAD Webinar: Introduction to Training Tools on Early Warning Systems
September 21, 2020	UNODC and WHO - International Standards on Drug Use Prevention
October 14, 2020	School Based Prevention Programmes for Adolescents: Unplugged as an Example
October 28, 2020	Scientific Evidence on the Health and Social Implications of Marijuana Use

November 3, 2020	Is school-based drug prevention possible during the COVID-19 pandemic?
November 4, 2020	Role of Legislators and Traditional health Practitioners in Drug Demand Reduction
November 11, 2020	Family skills for Prevention of Substance Use, Mental Health and Violence and for Development, including under COVID-19
November 13 – 15, 2020	Nearpod Camp Engage, Fall
November 19, 2020	VII International Conference on Novel Psychoactive Substances
November 26, 2020	ISSUP Ukraine Launch
January 27, 2021	Nearpod For Beginners
February 4 – 7, 2021	Nearpod Camp Engage, Winter
February 11, 2021	Prevention of Drug Use and other Risky Behaviours in Youth: Data-Based Planning for Effective Prevention
February 17, 2021	Marijuana, Vaping (E-Cigarette) & Opioid Prevention Plus Wellness: One-Session Programmes for Youth Online & In-Person.
February 18, 2021	CICAD: Virtual Workshop for The National Coordinating Entities (NCEs) of the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (Mem) Eighth Round
February 23, 2021	“The Impact of Parental Substance Use on Children and Young People” - Substance Use and Associated Behaviours (SUAB) Research Group Webinar
February 25, 2021	“UTC Academic Adaptation & the Shift to Online Training” - International Consortium of Universities for Drug Demand Reduction (ICUDDR) Webinar
March 1 – 28, 2021	Introduction to Microsoft Outlook Course

March 4, 2021	“Who's Doing What? The Epidemiology of Adolescent Substance Use”
March 8, 2021	Triple P Parenting Programme Webinar
March 8, 2021	Preventing and Treating Substance Use Disorders: A Focus on Females Across the Life Course
March 11, 2021	Reporting on Substance Abuse, a discussion on developing media guidelines
March 17, 2021	Kahoot! EDU Meet Up Spring Edition – Webinar
March 23, 2021	“Reducing Alcohol Harm in Older Adults: Lessons from Drinkwise/Drinkwell”, Substance Use and Associated Behaviours Research Centre Webinar
March 25, 2021	CICAD Early Warning System Roundtable/Webinar: Quantification of psychoactive substances from wastewater: a tool to support early warning systems on drugs

# **NCSA BOARD OF MANAGEMENT 2020-21**

- Mr Hadford Howell – Chairman
- Rev Dr Beverly Lashley – Deputy Chairman
- Ms Deborah Payne – Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, Information & Public Affairs
- Assistant Commissioner (Ag) Euklyn Thompson – Member
- Dr Ronald Chase – Member
- Mr Cleviston Hunte – Member
- Mr Desmond Sands – Member
- Mr Kevon Henry – Member
- Mr Mark Maynard – Member
- Mrs Andrea King-Patrick – Member
- Mrs Juanita Brathwaite-Wharton – Member
- Mrs Sophia Parris – Member
- Mrs Tracy Barker-Linton – Member
- Ms. Alison Gotip – Member
- Ms Jacquelyn Clarke – Board Secretary

# NCSA STAFF



Mrs Betty Hunte, Manager



Mr Troy Wickham, Deputy Manager



Programme Team

**Front (l-r):** Ms. Paulavette Atkinson, Programme Officer; Mr. Troy Wickham, Deputy Manager and Ms. Jennifer Baptiste Junior Programme Officer

**Back (l-r):** Mrs. Wendy Greenidge, Drug Education Officer; Mrs. Laura Foster, Research Assistant; Mrs. Natalia Corbin Ifill, Counsellor and Mrs. Makeada Bourne Community Programme Officer





### Research Team

Dr Jonathan Yearwood, Research & Information Officer  
and Mrs. Laura Foster, Research Assistant

### IT Team

Mr Timothy Ifill,  
Technician II



### Administration Team

**Front (l-r):** Ms. Lisa Layne Secretary; Mr. James Ifill Driver; Mrs. Gina Fenty  
Administrative Officer

**Back (l-r):** Mrs. Cheryl Osbourne Office Assistant; Ms. Cindy Bennett Receptionist and  
Mrs. Agnetha Roach-Chase, Clerk Typist



### **ACCOUNTS TEAM**

Front (l-r): Mr. Stephen Bishop Assistant Accountant and  
Mr. Curtis Edwards Accountant





**REPORT ON THE AUDIT OF THE ACCOUNTS OF  
THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>st</sup> MARCH, 2021**

**REPORT ON THE AUDIT OF THE ACCOUNTS OF  
THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>st</sup> MARCH 2021**

## **NATIONAL COUNCIL OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE**

Index to the Financial Statements

**For the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021**

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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 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021, 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 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021 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 misstatements of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers the internal controls relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design

procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal controls. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

**Leigh Trotman**  
**Auditor General**

*Leigh Trotman*

**Barbados Audit Office**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Floor**  
**Weymouth Corporate Centre**  
**Roebuck Street**  
**St. Michael**

**30<sup>th</sup> August 2022**



**National Council on Substance Abuse**  
**Balance Sheet**  
**As of March 31, 2021**

(Expressed in Barbados dollars)

	2021	2020
	\$	\$
<b>Assets:</b>		
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Cash	156,606	16,744
Prepaid Expenses	61,478	7,303
Loans receivable - Current (note 4)	2,947	1,952
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>221,031</b>	<b>25,999</b>
<b>Long-Term Assets</b>		
Loans receivable - Non-Current (note 4)	-	-
Property, plant and equipment (note 5)	70,152	72,454
<b>Total Long-Term Assets</b>	<b>70,152</b>	<b>72,454</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>291,183</b>	<b>98,453</b>
<b>Liabilities and Funds:</b>		
<b>Current liabilities</b>		
Trade and other payables (note 6)	58,613	171,132
<b>Funds</b>	<b>232,570</b>	<b>(72,679)</b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Funds</b>	<b>291,183</b>	<b>98,453</b>



**National Council on Substance Abuse**  
**Statement of Income and Expenditure**  
**For the year ended March 31, 2021**

(Expressed in Barbados dollars)

	2021	2020
	\$	\$
<b>Income</b>		
Government of Barbados grant (note 2(a) i)	2,216,123	1,999,046
Other Income	11,572	23,997
Reduction in provision for doubtful debt	-	-
Proceeds from sale of vehicle	-	-
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>2,227,695</b>	<b>2,023,043</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
NCSA Secretariat	1,827,065	2,033,045
Research & Coordination	6,764	19,698
School Prevention	3,380	65,406
Treatment & Rehabilitation	6,898	5,859
Community Prevention	32,838	132,277
Depreciation (note 5)	45,502	50,547
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>1,922,446</b>	<b>2,306,832</b>
<b>Excess of income over expenditure</b>	<b>305,249</b>	<b>(283,789)</b>

**National Council on Substance Abuse**  
**Statement of Cash Flows**  
**For the year ended March 31, 2021**

(Expressed in Barbados dollars)

	2021	2020
	\$	\$
<b>Cash flows from operating activities:</b>		
Excess of income over expenditure for the year	305,249	(283,789)
Adjustment for:		
Gain on sale of vehicle		
Depreciation	45,502	50,547
Excess of income over expenditure before working capital changes	350,751	(233,242)
Decrease/(increase) in prepaid expenses	(54,175)	16,241
Decrease/(increase) in loans receivable	(995)	501
Increase/(decrease) in accounts payable and accrued liabilities	(112,519)	159,451
<b>Net cash generated from operating activities</b>	<b>183,062</b>	<b>(57,049)</b>
<b>Cash flows from investing activities:</b>		
Adjustment for Fixed Assets	-	29,291
Purchase of plant and equipment	(43,200)	(46,925)
<b>Net cash generated from investing activities</b>	<b>(43,200)</b>	<b>(17,634)</b>
<b>Increase/(decrease) in cash during year</b>	<b>139,862</b>	<b>(74,683)</b>
<b>Cash - beginning of year</b>	<b>16,744</b>	<b>91,426</b>
<b>Cash - end of year</b>	<b>156,606</b>	<b>16,744</b>

**National Council on Substance Abuse**  
**Statement of Changes in Fund Balances**  
**For the year ended March 31, 2021**

(Expressed in Barbados dollars)

	Accumulated surplus	UNDCP Fund	Total
	\$	\$	\$
<b>Balance at March 31,2019</b>	187,116	(5,297)	181,819
Excess of income over expenditure for the year	(283,789)	-	(283,789)
Adjustment for Fixed Assets	29,291		
<b>Balance at March 31,2020</b>	(67,382)	(5,297)	(101,970)
Excess of income over expenditure for the year	305,249		305,249
Adjustment for Fixed Assets	-		
<b>Balance at March 31,2021</b>	<b>237,867</b>	<b>(5,297)</b>	<b>232,570</b>



**National Council on Substance Abuse**  
**Notes to Financial Statements**  
**For the year ended March 31, 2021**

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**(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 applied 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, 2021**  
(Expressed in Barbados dollars)

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**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 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.



**National Council on Substance Abuse**  
**Notes to Financial Statements**  
**For the year ended March 31, 2021**  
(Expressed in Barbados dollars)

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**4. Loans receivable**

	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
Loans receivable	<b>2,947</b>	<b>1,952</b>
	<b>2,947</b>	<b>1,952</b>

**National Council on Substance Abuse**  
**Notes to Financial Statements**  
**For the year ended March 31, 2021**  
(Expressed in Barbados dollars)

**5 Property, plant and equipment**

**<sup>i)</sup> Purchased Assets**

	<b>Motor vehicles</b>	<b>Furniture, fixtures and fittings</b>	<b>Computer and office equipment</b>	<b>Books and Research Materials</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>Year ended March 31, 2020</b>					
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)
<b>Closing net book amount</b>	<b>14,634</b>	<b>10,099</b>	<b>47,723</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>72,456</b>
<b>At March 31, 2020</b>					
Cost	409,556	179,974	651,368	-	1,240,898
Accumulated depreciation	(394,922)	(169,875)	(603,645)	-	(1,168,442)
<b>Net book amount</b>	<b>40,488</b>	<b>10,099</b>	<b>47,723</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>72,456</b>
<b>Year ended March 31, 2021</b>					
Opening net book amount	14,634	10,099	47,723	-	72,456
Additions	-	-	43,200	-	43,200
Deletions	-	-	(4,050)	-	(4,050)
Depreciation charge	(14,634)	(1,638)	(29,231)	-	(45,503)
<b>Closing net book amount</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>8,461</b>	<b>61,692</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>70,153</b>
<b>At March 31, 2021</b>					
Cost	409,556	179,974	690,518	-	1,280,048
Accumulated depreciation	(409,556)	(171,513)	(628,826)	-	(1,209,895)
<b>Net book amount</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>8,461</b>	<b>61,692</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>70,153</b>
<b>Total purchased and contributed assets</b>					
<b>Net book value at March 31, 2021</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>8,461</b>	<b>61,692</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>70,153</b>
<b>Net book value at March 31, 2020</b>	<b>14,634</b>	<b>10,099</b>	<b>47,723</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>72,456</b>

**National Council on Substance Abuse**  
**Notes to Financial Statements**  
**For the year ended March 31, 2021**  
 (Expressed in Barbados dollars)

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**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>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
	\$	\$
Trade payables	58,613	171,132
Accrued liabilities	-	-
	<u>58,613</u>	<u>171,132</u>

**7. Other income**

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
	\$	\$
Overseas Conferences	.	.
Community Outreach	11,430	11,394
Project SOFT	.	10,800
Research	.	.
Other	142	1,803
	<u>11,572</u>	<u>23,997</u>

**National Council on Substance Abuse**  
**Notes to Financial Statements**  
**For the year ended March 31, 2021**  
(Expressed in Barbados dollars)

**8. Expenditure**

Description	NCSA Secretariat \$	Community Prevention \$	School Prevention \$	Research and Coordination \$	Treatment and Rehabilitation \$
Project Personnel					
National project staff	1,223,771	-	-	-	-
Operating Expenses					
Operating Expenses - NCSA	9,072	-	-	-	-
Training	-	-	-	-	-
Life Education Centre	-	-	3,155	-	-
Other Communities	-	3,443	-	-	-
HIV/AIDS expenses	-	-	-	6,764	-
Research projects	-	-	-	-	-
Project SOFT	-	29,395	-	-	-
Operating Expenses - Schools	-	-	225	-	-
Utilities	91,789	-	-	-	-
Treatment & Rehabilitation	-	-	-	-	6,898
Miscellaneous					
Professional fees	123,360	-	-	-	-
Supplies and Stationery	11,691	-	-	-	-
Maintenance	367,382	-	-	-	-
Peer Counselling workshops	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,827,065</b>	<b>32,838</b>	<b>3,380</b>	<b>6,764</b>	<b>6,898</b>



**National Council on Substance Abuse**  
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 **[ncsabarbados](#)**