

National Council on Substance Abuse  
Annual Report



April 2009 - March 2010

# Introduction

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

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 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. There must be continuous staff training in these areas to allow the NCSA to fulfil its mandate effectively.

In Barbados, drugs play a role in our daily lives from our simple use of caffeine, nicotine and alcohol to prescription and

over-the-counter drugs, and to other dangerous and illegal substances such as marijuana, cocaine, heroin and ecstasy. All drugs impact our body and change the way we think, act and feel.

The United Nations Guiding Principles on Drug Demand Reduction 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;

(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.

# Mission Statement

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To promote sustained action for positive change in the fight against substance abuse and in the facilitation of drug education, prevention and the promotion of drug-free lifestyles

The National Council on Substance Abuse (NCSA) Act 1995 mandates the Council to:

- a. Advise the Minister on measures for the eradication or control of substance abuse
- b. Advise the Minister on measures to prevent the proliferation of illegal narcotic drugs
- c. Devise, undertake and promote programmes and projects aimed at the prevention, elimination or control of substance abuse
- d. Authorize, conduct and facilitate research or surveys on substance abuse
- e. Undertake or facilitate programmes for the treatment and rehabilitation of persons affected by substance abuse
- f. Manage facilities for the treatment and rehabilitation of persons affected by substance abuse
- g. Coordinate or facilitate groups and organizations in the effort to eradicate or control substance abuse

- h. Cooperate with local, regional and international organizations with interests similar to those of the Council
- i. Solicit, receive and manage funds donated by Government, the private sector, private citizens and international organizations for the functions mentioned in paragraphs (a) to (h).

## Core Values

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- Integrity
- Confidentiality
- Mutual Respect & Trust
- Teamwork
- Competence & High Performance
- Equal Opportunity
- Creativity & Innovation
- Responsibility & Accountability
- Open Communication & Information Sharing.

## Logo

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Our logo represents two hands reaching out in support of each other. The open-ended box symbolizes acceptance, warmth and a non-discriminatory and non-judgemental approach towards persons with drug addictions.

# Research & Information

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## **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.

## **Information Gathering**

Demand reduction programmes should be based on a regular conduct of 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.

To this end, the **National Primary School Survey (NPSS)** first conducted in 2006 was repeated. Approximately 50 public and private primary schools throughout the island were selected based on a sample selection method. The findings of the second NPSS survey provided a comparative assessment with the first NPSS conducted in 2006.

**Small Focus Assessment Surveys** which provide snapshots on aspects of the drug phenomenon were also conducted. NCSA must also have the capacity to evaluate some structured prevention programmes to determine value and impact. Evaluations in some cases were conducted by external service providers from UWI and elsewhere.

The continued development of the **Barbados Drug Information Network (BARDIN)** remained a priority for NCSA and for other agencies directly involved in the national anti-drug thrust. BARDIN is an interagency electronic hub for the collection of data and information on drugs

so that a national database can be established for policy makers and for programme planning.

In addition, the Inter American Drug Control Commission (CICAD) has made significant investments in NCSA's research, in training and technical assistance over the past 10 years.

### **The 3<sup>rd</sup> Biennial Meeting of Caribbean National Observatories on Drugs**

The Research and Information Officer attended the 3<sup>rd</sup> Biennial Meeting of Caribbean National Observatories on Drugs, August 4-7, 2009, Roseau, Dominica. This meeting was organized by the OAS/CICAD and the Government of Dominica.

The Caribbean does not have a strong background in drug epidemiology. The workshop therefore provided the opportunity for practitioners (programme and research) from the Caribbean to link research data to programme implementation and wider drug policy. Special emphasis was placed on drug use in secondary schools and determining the best intervention practices targeting secondary school students.

In addition the meeting also revisited the status of National Drug Observatories<sup>1</sup> (NDO's) in the region and the importance of drug information networks. This was

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<sup>1</sup> An NDO acts as a depository for drug information, the dissemination

particularly useful as countries in the Caribbean grapple with the difficulties of defining and implementing a national framework for the collection and dissemination of drug information.

### ***Development of a National Drug Curriculum***

There was some concern as to the lack of involvement of school teachers in the teaching and conduct of drug education in primary and secondary schools. It was generally agreed that there should be a greater role for the Ministries of Education and National Drug Councils in facilitating the implementation of drug curricula<sup>2</sup> in schools.

The involvement of school teachers in the teaching and conduct of drug education programmes was also important for the delivery of the Health and Family Life Education (HFLE) programme. HFLE is a powerful educational programme that provides children and young people with a positive view of health and its benefits to them now and in the future. It is essentially classroom education that seeks to empower children and young people with knowledge and skills for healthy living, preparing them to cope effectively with the many challenges of life<sup>3</sup>.

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<sup>2</sup> It was also noted that the drinking of alcoholic beverages and the smoking of cigarettes was prevalent among school teachers which may hinder prevention efforts.

<sup>3</sup> Life Skills are abilities for adaptive and positive behaviour, that enable one to deal effectively with the challenges of everyday life (WHO,1993)

### ***Implications for Drug Education in Barbados***

Guidance Counsellors in secondary schools delivered some drug prevention education formally, and resource persons from the Psychiatric Hospital provided limited training. In addition, drug education was one component of the HFLE programme currently being phased into the primary school curriculum. Officers from the Royal Barbados Police Force (RBPF) also facilitate the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) programme in some primary schools on a very limited scale.

However, drug prevention education offered by the NCSA at the primary, secondary and tertiary levels is not regarded as a primary component in student development. As a result, very limited time is allocated to deal with the subject as part of the school curriculum. It is therefore recommended that a method of integrating drug prevention education into the school curriculum should be developed.

### ***Drug Use***

It was acknowledged that there should be a **National Policy on Alcohol Use** inclusive of legislation on underage drinking. Some attention was also paid to emerging trends of increased alcohol consumption particularly among secondary school-aged females. The influence of cultural norms on drug-using lifestyles was discussed in this context.

Most studies conducted in the region showed non-existence or limited use of stimulants and tranquilisers. However, the absence of a clear definition of stimulants and tranquilisers limited effective reporting of these substances. It was also agreed that particular focus should be placed on identifying the risk and protective factors associated with drug use.

### ***Implications for Drug Prevention in Barbados***

In Barbados, it is important for the existence of the necessary legislative framework which supports drug prevention efforts. Current legislation (The Liquor License Act, 1957; Drug Abuse and Control Act, 1990) should be amended to include severe penalties for selling and offering alcohol to minors. Legislation should also be enacted to establish clear guidelines for advertising alcohol, tobacco and other addictive substances.

### ***Qualitative Research***

Particular attention was given to the need for research which examined the impact of culture on drug use and the acceptance of socially acceptable norms promoting drug use. Some attention was therefore given to the inclusion of qualitative research on investigating the reasons for drug use among secondary school children.

### ***Implications for Drug Research in Barbados***

It is important that the conduct of research in Barbados allow for data collection methods which seek to provide a more in-

depth understanding of the social phenomenon under investigation. The complexity of social phenomena suggests the need for research methodologies which capture the daily and environmental impact on decision-making and on behaviour. Qualitative research designs provide the opportunity to reflect what is happening in the daily lives of people and the environmental context within which decisions are based.

The future direction of NCSA's research would therefore require the use of mixed methodologies. This will help to ensure that drug education programmes can benefit from a broad spectrum of social perspectives.

### ***Drug Evaluation***

Some concern was expressed as to the lack of in-depth evaluations on drug education programmes conducted in secondary schools. It was mentioned that evaluations should move beyond simple pre- and post-tests to include those based on a follow-up of persons participating or exposed to programmes. There were also discussions on the lack of process evaluations. Also noted was the need for closer working relationships between researchers and programme practitioners with regard to programme implementation. This will assist in the development of appropriate evaluation methodology.

### ***Implications for Barbados***

To date, the NCSA has conducted evaluations of its Peer Support programme and the Life Education Centre. These evaluations are however outcomes-based and the findings reflect the objectives of the evaluation. It is important to pursue process evaluations to assess whether the programme is being conducted in the manner in which it was intended.

### **Evaluations**

The Ministry of Health coordinated the **Final Technical Report on Substance Abuse Programmes in Barbados (2009) – PAHO**. NCSA partnered with this research which included an evaluation of the residential treatment centres at Verdun House and Teen Challenge, and the non-residential facility - the Centre for Counselling Addiction Support Alternatives (CASA).

**Internal evaluations** were conducted on several of the NCSA's programmes. Results indicated that overall, children are knowledgeable about issues surrounding HIV/AIDS and drugs.

In addition to the foregoing, the Research Department currently assists with maintaining the **NCSA Website**. This is an ongoing project and the NCSA is quietly building on its resources in order that the information remains relevant.

As noted earlier, CICAD is supportive of the NCSA's programming especially in the area of building capacity in research. The Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM)

is a tool which CICAD utilizes to measure the progress of drug control efforts in all member states of the Organisation of American States (OAS). This round of the MEM commenced on August 27, 2009 with

a stakeholder meeting attended by representatives from the Office of the Attorney-General, Ministry of Home Affairs, Customs and Excise Department, the Barbados Drug Service and the NCSA.

## School-Based Prevention

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### **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.

## Primary Schools

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### **Drugs & World – Voices of the Children**

The competition this year is focussed on the topic of alcohol and the participants were invited to present on the following themes:

- Alcohol (Round One)

- “Know the Facts about Alcohol. Make the Choice” (Finals)
- “Children & Alcohol Don't Mix” (Finals)
- Healthy Bodies, Healthy Minds (Finals)

Ten schools were accepted to this year's competition as outlined in Table 1. Now in its fourth year the competition has been



well received in the schools with first round judging scheduled to commence during the week of October 5<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup>.

The finals of the competition and recording were held as scheduled on November 20<sup>th</sup> at the Gordon Corbin Studio and saw the second time finalists Lawrence T Gay Primary School emerging as the winners. Despite preparations to have the finals broadcast on CBC Channel 8 on Independence Day, this did not materialise as the recording was not deemed suitable by senior personnel of the Media Resource Centre (MRC). A follow-up meeting was held with representatives of NCSA and MRC in December and an agreement was reached that:

1. The audio from the competition would be broadcast on the MRC radio station (91.1FM) in 2010
2. A DVD of the competition would be made available to NCSA and the participating schools.
3. The recording of the competition would be reviewed by an audio-visual specialist to determine if any post-production modifications could improve the product and make it suitable for broadcast on television.
4. A follow-up meeting would be held with MRC personnel and NCSA Programme Officers to develop a partnership between the two agencies.

### **Facts & Issues**

Based on the findings of prior evaluations of this programme, it has now been updated to place greater emphasis on drug abuse and to include a component on peer pressure. A training session was held for all facilitators to ensure that everyone was aware of the changes and the reasons why they were made. This eight-week programme for Class 3 students is currently being offered at schools across the island as shown in Table 1.

The Facts & Issues programme came to an end during the week of November 23 2009 with three hundred and sixty three (363) children at nine primary schools successfully completing the programme.

### **Life Education Centre (LEC)**

The LEC recommenced activities on September 14<sup>th</sup> at St Mary's and moved onto Westbury. However, the programme was suspended while at Westbury out of concern for the health and safety of the children, teachers and LEC Staff due to the escalating number of cases of the influenza A (H1N1) virus. The Life Education Centre (LEC) has been identified as a high risk environment due to the nature of its structure, poor ventilation, tactile learning tools and high visitor turnover rate. The LEC recommenced activities on January 19<sup>th</sup> 2010.

**Table 1: NCSA Primary School Programmes**

	<u>Drugs &amp; Decisions</u>	<u>Drugs &amp; My World</u>	<u>Facts &amp; Issues</u>	<u>Life Education Centres</u>	<u>Safe &amp; Unsafe</u>
# of Schools Participating in Programmes	29	48	9	13	49
# of Children Participating in Programmes	715	1,963	366	4,747	2,033

## Secondary Schools

For the reporting period, programmes were done in twenty (20) of the twenty-seven (27) public and private secondary schools. Table 2 below outlines the schools and programmes done in those schools as well as the number of students who participated in the programme.

### **Drugs and Life Skills Education (DELS)**

Topics covered with the various forms this year include:

- Prescription Drugs
- Non Prescription Drugs
- The Dangers of Performance Enhancing Drugs
- Club Drugs
- The Dangers of Binge Drinking
- Decision-Making Skills

DVD's and Pre/Post-tests helped to enhance participation and learning.

### **DANDRA**

Dance instructions continued at Alma Parris Memorial, St. Leonard's Boys' and Grantley Adams Memorial, while Drama and Dance both occurred at Metropolitan High School.

### **Peer Support Programme**

The mission of Peer Support groups is to create a group of students who will be role models for the student body, as well as become an arm of the guidance department bridging the gap between students and staff.

The Peer Support Groups focused on group work, and creating and implementing prevention messages within the schools. Some schools finalized their posters project with substance abuse and HIV/AIDS messages which were mounted in schools

as well as used for schools healthy awareness days. Irving Wilson (the school for the deaf was among these schools).

The topics for the quarter were HIV/AIDS and Substance Abuse. Guidance Counsellors, teachers and facilitators have reported that they have continued to see positive changes in peer-supporters-in-training, a number of whom were selected to be sub-prefects. They have noted that some of the students' confidence levels

have risen and they have also observed them being more assertive in class.

One Guidance Counsellor for example, reported that she has used the peer supporters to represent the school at funerals, seminars, AND the reading of the lesson at Drug Awareness Month 2010 Church Service among other events.

Not all schools were able to include peer support in their curriculum for various reasons. However, positive reports have been received from all schools.

**Table 2: Secondary School Programmes**

	ALEXANDRA	ALLEYNE	ALMA PARRIS	ANN HILL	COLERIDGE & PARRY
<b>DELS</b>					2 <sup>nd</sup> Form (73)
<b>DANDRA</b>			Mixed Group (15)		
<b>PEER SUPPORT</b>	Mixed Group (29)	Mixed Group (20)	Mixed Group (25)	No sessions	Mixed Group (9)
	DEIGHTON GRIFFITH	GARRISON	GRANTLEY ADAMS	HARRISON'S COLLEGE	IRVING WILSON
<b>DELS</b>					
<b>DANDRA</b>			Mixed Group (25)		
<b>PEER SUPPORT</b>	Mixed Group (15)	3 <sup>rd</sup> Form (35)	Mixed Group (25)	No Sessions	4 <sup>th</sup> & 5 <sup>th</sup> Forms (32)
	PARKINSON	PRINCESS MARGARET	ST GEORGE	ST LEONARD'S	ST LUCY
<b>DELS</b>	4 <sup>th</sup> Form (33)	1 <sup>st</sup> Form (70)	Mixed Group (140)	2 <sup>nd</sup> Form (70)	

<b>DANDRA</b>				Mixed Group (15)	
<b>PEER SUPPORT</b>	No Sessions	Mixed Group (15)	Mixed Group (12)	Mixed Group (12)	Mixed Group (19)
	<b>LESTER VAUGHAN</b>	<b>ST MICHAEL</b>	<b>ST URSULA'S</b>	<b>CH.CH. FOUNDATION</b>	<b>METROPOLITAN HIGH</b>
<b>DELS</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Form (35)			3 <sup>rd</sup> Form (194)	
<b>DANDRA</b>					Mixed Group (25)
<b>PEER SUPPORT</b>	Mixed Group (15)	Mixed Group (22)	Mixed Group (15)		

### **Edna Nicholls Centre**

Interventions continued at the Edna Nicholls Centre. Sessions facilitated by Ms Makeada Greenidge, Programme Officer, NCSA who was accompanied during Term One by Iesha Edwards (UWI – student intern).

According to the statistics from the Edna Nicholls Centre eighty-seven (87) students attended the Centre during the period September – December 2009 with sixty-two (62) being males and twenty-five (25) females. Nineteen (19) of those students from ages 13 to 15 tested positive for drug use.

The greatest concerns continue to be the number of students being referred to the Centre for violent behaviours (which include fighting with teachers), drug use, and for having and using marijuana at school. As said in previous reports, it can be clearly concluded from the sessions that the

sub-culture of drug users/drug-pushers is having a profound impact on the minds of our youth. The argument from the youth continues to be for the legalization of marijuana and the positive effects of the 'natural herb'. In addition, the slang MOE (Money Over Everything) drives the children to make money through any means (selling snacks and drugs at school).

Due to the low attention span of the majority of the students who attended the Edna Nicholls Centre, it was necessary to develop creative and impactful teaching techniques and methodologies. These included, using art, DVDs, games and drama/role play. From reports, seventeen of the nineteen students that tested positive accepted that they needed help and were referred to CASA.

### **Youth Seminar**

The Emerging Global Leaders of Barbados (EGLB) partnered with NCSA to empower and educate youth on the dangers of drugs. The seminar was a youth-to-youth interaction that targeted 3<sup>rd</sup> formers from nineteen public and private secondary schools across the island.

As reflected in the Barbados' Advocate and Nation, Saturday, 23 January 2010 and in the Hello Magazine, Friday 29 January 2010, the youth seminar can be concluded to be a success with every student and teacher alike verbally commending the day's proceedings. Presentations by Constable Marshall of the Royal Barbados Police Force and the drama team had a great impact on the students and caused some to disclose that they were either using marijuana or in the drug trade. These students were referred to their Guidance Counsellors with the hope that intent follow up will be done to rescue them from the arms of substance abuse.

The testimony given by a young recovering addict further cemented in the minds of the young people the dangers of substance abuse and its impact from a systemic perspective. Students and adults across the room were moved with tears as he disclosed the traumatic events of his. He also encouraged participants to change their lives for the better with God's help. He admonished them that gang life can only have two endings; "prison or six feet under".

The creative session consisted of four categories; Drama, Poster, Step Dance and Music/Jingles. The output from the creative session proved that the participants were positively impacted by the events throughout the day. The participants were able to reflect, through the different media, the dangers of drugs and admonished their fellow students to 'Know the Facts. Make the Choice'.

**Table 3: Youth Seminar School Attendance**

Alexandra School	B'town Seventh Day Adventist School
Ellerslie Secondary School	Springer Memorial Secondary School
Alma Parris Memorial School	St George Secondary School
Coleridge & Parry School	St James Secondary School
Grantley Adams Memorial School	St Leonard's Boys' School
Deighton Griffith School	St Lucy Secondary School
Industry High School	St Ursula's School
Lester Vaughn School	The Lodge School
Metropolitan High School	Unique High School
Parkinson Memorial School	

# Community-Based Prevention

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## **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 i.e. the Ministry of Social Care, Constituency Empowerment and Urban Development; Ministry of Education and Human Resources; Ministry of Family, Youth, Sports and Environment; National HIV/AIDS Commission; Ministry of Health, National Insurance and Social Security; the Royal Barbados Police Force and the Barbados Defence Force, 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

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 following:

- Ministry of Family, Youth Affairs, Sports and the Environment,
- Community Development Department,
- Juvenile Court,
- Child Care Board,
- PAREDOS,
- Bureau of Gender Affairs, as well as with

- -NGOs, CBOs, the church, service clubs, sports clubs and other social clubs.

Parent Education programmes and NCSA's participation at PTA meetings were maintained and further strengthened through the parent-focused DREAM coalition.

The NCSA's unique residential annual Summer Camp (Project SOFT) provided the necessary development for the important transition from primary to secondary school. The developmental process and further drug education was provided

through the monthly Prevention First Club meetings at NCSA.

Scope is provided for other creative elements at the community level such as through the Children Are People Too programmes, with Values, Influences and Peers with children already at risk in children's homes.

#### **Linkages with Organisations, Communities & Agencies**

- Students of the MSc in Counselling Psychology at UWI

- National HIV/AIDS Commission, Behaviour Change Communication Training Workshop at Almond Bay
- Bayley's Cub Scout Pack at Bayley's Primary School
- HIV/AIDS Research Symposium at The Hilton
- Represented NCSA at the Juvenile Court - District 'A' Juvenile and Domestic Court
- BCC students re: Substance Abuse Course
- Emerging Global Leaders of Barbados (EGLB) Leaders Retreat
- Lodge School's Prefects Training

## **HIV/AIDS Programme Matters**

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#### **Red Wig Sale**

The Red Wig Sale was successfully hosted on December 4<sup>th</sup> 2009. Over 150 members of the public patronised the sale and we received good support from corporate Barbados, despite the current economic climate. The primary recipient of this fund-raising event was CARE Barbados – a support group for people living with HIV; however we were also in a position to lend assistance to Project Life, Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA), the Salvation Army and Family CARE.

#### **STI's, HIV & Drugs Staff & Volunteer Training**

The first phase of the HIV/AIDS & Drugs training took place on January 26<sup>th</sup> 2010. Topics covered at this whole day event are listed below:

- The Truth about Condoms
- The Test – Volunteer Counselling & Testing (VCT)
- Sexually Transmitted Infections
- Stigma & Discrimination

The pre and post evaluations indicated that additional basic training will be required before participants will be adequately prepared for the proposed second phase of training. This additional training was facilitated during the month of February.

# Communications & Public Relations

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During the reporting period, the NCSA utilised several initiatives designed to ensure that its various publics were kept informed current and emerging trends. Some of these included Child Month and World No Tobacco Day. The NCSA was able to use several other events as a platform to remind the public about the harmful effects of drug use. These events were promoted primarily in the NCSA's column "Understanding Substance Abuse" (Barbados Advocate). Readers were provided with vacation safety tips for children, parenting advice and tobacco updates during this period.

Articles on coaching and steroid use also appeared, which complemented the NCSA's television and radio sponsorship of the National Primary School Athletic Championships (NAPSAC). The NCSA's Stop Underage Drinking messages were used for this activity. The services of the Barbados Government Information Service (BGIS) were enlisted to run the Stop Underage Drinking Campaign with limited success. Once again, this raises the pressing need for the NCSA to be in a position to fund such activities on its own.

Events which raised public awareness are listed below:

## **World No Tobacco Day**

After the excitement of Interschool Sports, the NCSA prepared for World No Tobacco Day. Using street drama, the NCSA highlighted the harmful effects of second hand smoke using a giant cigarette to capture people's attention. Ads were also placed in Heat magazine and the Sunday Sun.

## **International Day Against Drug Abuse & Illicit Trafficking**

International Day Against Drug Abuse & Illicit Trafficking was observed on 26 June under the theme "Do Drugs Control Your Life? My Life, My Community, No Place for Drugs."

## **Q in the Community**

Q in the Community is a live, outside broadcast that travels to a different venue each week where residents drop in, discuss topical issues, socialise, eat, dance and drink. In keeping with the community aspect of the theme, the NCSA partnered with the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation's "Q in the Community" to call awareness to the day and to involve the average citizen.

The NCSA asked to be included in this activity and on the designated day, took promotional items for distribution to patrons to heighten the Council's profile and to promote the international day. Substance abuse issues were addressed



with the NCSA's Research & Information Officer leading the discussion.

### **"My Life, My Body, No Place for Drugs"**

Visitors to polyclinics across the island are being encouraged to take responsibility for their lives and their health by opting to remain drug-free through the placement of banners at each entrance. The banners which read "My Life, My Body, No Place for Drugs" were erected by the National Council on Substance Abuse (NCSA) as part of its community outreach programmes and to complement the Council's ongoing work within the polyclinics. These colourful banners seek to remind patients to value the life that they have been given by respecting their bodies and to reject drug use. The Sir Winston Scott Polyclinic was formally presented with their banner earlier this year in recognition of International Day Against Drug Abuse & Illicit Trafficking.

### **Minimum Standards of Care**

In light of the need to sensitise the public about the harmful effects of excessive alcohol consumption over the Crop-Over period, the NCSA booked five half hour radio shows between 25 July and 01 August 2009 on HOTT and The One. Starcom Network also featured a news item targeting women which warned them about their vulnerability if too much alcohol was consumed.

The NCSA showed its support for Standards of Care in Drug Treatment when it joined forces with Teen Challenge, the Centre for Counselling Addiction Support Alternatives (CASA) and Verdun House to lobby for minimum standards. The NCSA along with several treatment providers attended a CARICOM-sponsored meeting in Montego Bay, Jamaica dealing with minimum standards on drug treatment at which regional drug councils discussed ways in which they could provide care for clients seeking treatment for drug addiction using a standardized approach. This information was submitted to the media so as to educate the public on drug treatment options.

### **Crop Over**

The NCSA suspended its banner cautioning about drinking and driving on Spring Garden Highway. As the **Crop-Over** festivities culminate on the highway and it is heavily traversed, this location was selected for placement of the banner.

### **Back to School**

The NCSA's visibility was heightened when it addressed the issue of lunch money, monitoring and bullying which in turn lead to a discussion of the topic on Morning Barbados and its inclusion as a news item on television and the newspaper.

The NCSA cautioned parents to think carefully about the amount of lunch money that they gave their children as children who were given large sums of money and

who were not being adequately supervised or monitored were vulnerable to deviant behaviour such as gambling, buying drugs and alcohol and acting as couriers.

While noting that every family situation was different in terms of needs, parents were urged to carefully assess how much money their children needed as a child observed with a lot of money could become a target for theft and bullying.

## Drug Awareness Month 2010

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The NCSA continued its public outreach by placing ads on television, radio and the press. Regarding the latter, articles continued to be submitted to the Barbados Advocate, and below are some of the issues that were addressed:

- Monitoring Children
- Helping Children Choose the Right Friends
- What to do if Your Child is on Drugs
- Setting & Enforcing Family Rules
- FAQs on Alcohol and Alcoholism
- How to Quit Smoking

Corporate Barbados also embraced the month, as there were several advertisements cautioning the public to stay away from drugs. Activities for the month included:

- **Church Service:** Wednesday, 13 January 2010 at 10:00 a.m. at James Street Methodist Church, James Street, Bridgetown. School children and national stakeholders joined the NCSA in worship. Vice President of the Emerging Global Leaders of Barbados (EGLB) and NCSA volunteer Mr. Rommel Waterman addressed the congregation and included a special message for students.
- **Parents' Seminar:** Saturday, 23 January 2010 at 10:00 a.m. at St. Ambrose Primary School, Cyprus Street, Bridgetown. Parents of children attending the school learnt about childhood development and effective parenting skills in the first of a series of Parent Seminars.
- **Courts Quiz:** Aired Monday through Friday during the month of January, viewers were asked drug related

questions and given the answer after a two minute commercial break.

- **BGIS Radio Interviews:** The Manager and the Community Programme Officers were interviewed on the topics of Drug Awareness Month and Effective Parenting respectively.
- **The People's Business:** The NCSA Manager, Board Member Mr. Mark Maynard and the Research & Information Officer NCSA appeared on this show to discuss the drug situation in Barbados and the programmes being implemented to combat this problem.
- **Roadside Banners:** Banners were suspended in Bridgetown and Holetown alerting the public to the theme for Drug Awareness Month 2010
- **Know the Facts Campaign:** This print campaign was a series of colourful

visuals that provided thought-provoking snippets on marijuana and alcohol backed by empirical evidence to back its claims. The advertisements appeared in Heat, the Nation and Attitude magazine. This campaign received praise for its approach in outlining the dangers of marijuana in an editorial printed by the Nation newspaper on 25 January 2010.

- **NCSA Newsletters:** National prominence was attained when, for the first time, the NCSA disseminated its newsletter to the wider public. This was achieved by negotiating special rates with the Nation and Advocate newspapers to insert the newsletter into their publications. Should this idea be pursued again, the format of the newsletter would have to focus on issues relevant to the public as was done in the January 2010 edition.

# **National Council on Substance Abuse**

Financial Statements

**March 31, 2010**

(expressed in Barbados dollars)



## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Members of  
The Board of the National Council on Substance Abuse

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the **National Council on Substance Abuse**, which comprise the balance sheet as of March 31, 2010, the statements of income and expenditure, changes in fund balances and cash flows for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes.

### *Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements*

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with the International Financial Reporting Standards for Small and Medium-sized Entities (IFRS for SMEs) 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*

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing. Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.



*Opinion*

In our opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the **National Council on Substance Abuse** as of March 31, 2010, and its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with the International Financial Reporting Standards for Small and Medium-sized Entities (IFRS for SMEs).

*PricewaterhouseCoopers SRL*

June 25, 2014  
Bridgetown, Barbados

# National Council on Substance Abuse

## Balance Sheet

As of March 31, 2010

(expressed in Barbados dollars)

	2010 \$	2009 \$
<b>Assets</b>		
<b>Current assets</b>		
Cash	547,121	142,055
Loans receivable (note 4)	59,603	75,906
Property, plant and equipment (note 5)	143,287	231,351
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>750,011</b>	<b>449,312</b>
<b>Liabilities and Funds</b>		
<b>Current liabilities</b>		
Trade and other payables (note 6)	33,578	29,910
<b>Funds</b>	<b>716,433</b>	<b>419,402</b>
<b>Total liabilities and funds</b>	<b>750,011</b>	<b>449,312</b>

Approved on behalf of the Council on June 25, 2014



Chairman



Member

# National Council on Substance Abuse

## Statement of Changes in Fund Balances

For the year ended March 31, 2010

(expressed in Barbados dollars)

	Accumulated surplus \$	UNDCP Fund \$	Total \$
Balance at March 31, 2008	282,658	(5,297)	277,361
Excess of income over expenditure for the year	142,041	—	142,041
Balance at March 31, 2009	424,699	(5,297)	419,402
Excess of income over expenditure for the year	297,031	—	297,031
Balance at March 31, 2010	721,730	(5,297)	716,433



# National Council on Substance Abuse

## Statement of Income and Expenditure

For the year ended March 31, 2010

(expressed in Barbados dollars)

	2010 \$	2009 \$
<b>Income</b>		
Government of Barbados grant (note 2(d))	1,946,792	2,062,269
Other income (note 8)	236,381	285,315
Reduction in provision for doubtful debt	—	14,072
Proceeds from sale of vehicle	25,000	—
<b>Total income</b>	<b>2,208,173</b>	<b>2,361,656</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
NCSA Secretariat	969,094	937,940
School prevention	378,726	417,641
Research and co-ordination	104,863	177,392
Community prevention	308,018	356,060
Treatment and rehabilitation	55,575	188,743
Depreciation (note 5)	94,866	141,839
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>1,911,142</b>	<b>2,219,615</b>
<b>Excess of income over expenditure for the year</b>	<b>297,031</b>	<b>142,041</b>

# National Council on Substance Abuse

## Statement of Cash Flows

For the year ended March 31, 2010

(expressed in Barbados dollars)

	2010 \$	2009 \$
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>		
Excess of income over expenditure for the year	297,031	142,041
Adjustments for:		
Gain on sale of vehicle	(25,000)	—
Depreciation	94,866	141,839
Excess of income over expenditure before working capital changes	366,897	283,880
Decrease/(increase) in loans receivable	16,303	(50,019)
Increase/(decrease) in accounts payable and accrued liabilities	3,668	(92,537)
Net cash generated from operating activities	386,868	141,324
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>		
Proceeds from sale of vehicle	25,000	—
Purchase of plant and equipment	(6,802)	(38,978)
Net cash generated from/(used in) investing activities	18,198	(38,978)
<b>Increase in cash during year</b>	405,066	102,346
<b>Cash - beginning of year</b>	142,055	39,709
<b>Cash - end of year</b>	547,121	142,055

# National Council on Substance Abuse

Notes to Financial Statements

March 31, 2010

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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 first set of financial statements prepared by the company in accordance with the 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 applied 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 Standard 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 areas 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.

### 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 the assets over their expected useful lives as follows:

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

# National Council on Substance Abuse

Notes to Financial Statements

March 31, 2010

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(expressed in Barbados dollars)

## 2 Significant accounting policies ...continued

### d) Revenue recognition

#### a) Grants

- i) Revenue grants are not recognised until there is 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.
- ii) 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.

#### b) 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.

## 4 Loans receivable

	2010 \$	2009 \$
Loans receivable	66,883	83,186
Less: Provision for doubtful debt	(7,280)	(7,280)
	<u>59,603</u>	<u>75,906</u>

Included in loans receivable is an amount of \$14,632 (2009 - \$18,132) relating to payroll cost incurred by a previous employee during a study leave period, prior to March 31, 2000. The original loan of \$47,402 is being repaid in equal monthly instalments of \$300. A provision of \$7,280 has been made against this loan.

# National Council on Substance Abuse

Notes to Financial Statements

March 31, 2010

(expressed in Barbados dollars)

## 5 Property, plant and equipment

### i) Purchased Assets

	Motor vehicles \$	Furniture, fixtures and fittings \$	Computer and office equipment \$	Total \$
<b>Year ended March 31, 2009</b>				
Opening net book amount	263,617	23,408	47,187	334,212
Additions	—	5,220	33,758	38,978
Depreciation charge	(83,294)	(16,360)	(42,185)	(141,839)
Closing net book amount	180,323	12,268	38,760	231,351
<b>At March 31, 2009</b>				
Cost	562,828	163,597	501,225	1,227,650
Accumulated depreciation	(382,505)	(151,329)	(462,465)	(996,299)
Net book amount	180,323	12,268	38,760	231,351
<b>Year ended March 31, 2010</b>				
Opening net book amount	180,323	12,268	38,760	231,351
Additions	—	—	6,802	6,802
Depreciation charge	(83,284)	7,143	(18,725)	(94,866)
Closing net book amount	97,039	19,411	26,837	143,289
<b>At March 31, 2010</b>				
Cost	416,478	163,597	508,027	1,088,102
Accumulated depreciation	(319,439)	(144,186)	(481,190)	(944,815)
Net book amount	97,039	19,411	26,837	143,287
<b>Total purchased and contributed assets</b>				
Net book value at March 31, 2010	97,039	19,411	26,837	143,287
Net book value at March 31, 2009	180,323	12,268	38,760	231,351

# National Council on Substance Abuse

Notes to Financial Statements

March 31, 2010

(expressed in Barbados dollars)

## 6 Trade and other payables

	2010 \$	2009 \$
Trade payables	10,803	20,217
Accrued liabilities	22,775	9,693
	<u>33,578</u>	<u>29,910</u>

## 7 Taxation

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

## 8 Other income

	2010 \$	2009 \$
HIV/AIDS funds	200,000	130,000
LEC	17,000	51,600
Project SOFT	18,750	34,000
UNESCO research	—	48,000
Under-Age drinking	—	20,000
DFAF	—	1,120
Other	631	595
	<u>236,381</u>	<u>285,315</u>

# National Council on Substance Abuse

Notes to Financial Statements

March 31, 2010

(expressed in Barbados dollars)

## 9 Expenditure

Description	NCSA Secretariat \$	School Prevention \$	Research and Coordination \$	Community Prevention \$	Treatment and Rehabilitation \$
<b>Project Personnel</b>					
National project staff	541,306	177,725	47,273	97,892	—
<b>Operating Expenses</b>					
Operating expenses					—
- NCSA	22,866	—	—	—	—
Training	27,062	2,708	7,393	6,935	—
Life Education Centre	—	28,878	—	—	—
Other communities	—	—	—	55,309	—
HIV/AIDS expenses	—	69,701	—	84,680	—
Research projects	—	—	14,413	—	—
Project SOFT	—	—	—	28,345	—
Video - Schools	—	34,860	—	—	—
Utilities	38,246	—	—	—	—
Treatment and rehabilitation	—	—	—	—	55,575
<b>Miscellaneous</b>					
Professional fees	162,407	48,000	35,784	34,857	—
Supplies and stationery	70,970	—	—	—	—
Maintenance	106,237	—	—	—	—
Peer counselling workshop	—	16,854	—	—	—
<b>Total</b>	<b>969,094</b>	<b>378,726</b>	<b>104,863</b>	<b>308,018</b>	<b>55,575</b>