



Organization of
American States

Regional Workshop on Drug Information Networks (DINs) Bridgetown, Barbados.

Background: Piloting of CICAD Treatment Centre Intake form

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Introduction to CICAD

- CICAD was created more than 20 years ago and currently serves the 34 member states of the OAS (Organization of American States)
- CICAD's core mission is to strengthen the human and institutional capabilities and harness the collective energy of its member states to reduce the production, trafficking and use and abuse of drugs in the Americas.



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Introduction to the Inter- American Observatory on Drugs

- The 'OIA' was created in 2000
- It is the statistics, information and research unit of CICAD
- It works to varying degrees with all OAS member states
- Its mission is to build a drug information network for the Americas



The OIA's Mission

- To help promote and build a drug information network for the Americas that offers objective, reliable, up-to-date and comparable information so that member states can better understand, design and implement policies and programs to confront the drug phenomenon in all its dimensions.

FUNCTIONS OF THE OID

- Ø TO ASSIST MEMBER STATES TO IMPROVE THEIR CAPACITY TO COLLECT AND ANALYSE DRUG STATISTICS
- Ø TO ASSIST MEMBER STATES IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF DRUG SURVEYS AND OTHER STUDIES
- Ø PROMOTE THE DEVELOPMENT AND ESTABLISHMENT OF NATIONAL DRUG OBSERVATORIES AND THE USE OF STANDARDISED DATA AND METHODOLOGIES

FUNCTIONS OF THE OI

- Ø TO GENERATE DRUG INFORMATION THAT IS OBJECTIVE, RELIABLE, UP-TO-DATE, AND COMPARABLE
- Ø TO HELP MEMBER STATES TO BETTER UNDERSTAND, DESIGN AND IMPLEMENT POLICIES AND PROGRAMS TO DEAL WITH THE ADVERSE CONSEQUENCES OF ILLEGAL DRUGS



Treatment data – What is the situation?

- Most countries have not developed national data collection standards for drug and alcohol treatment data.
- This is not necessarily a bad thing since this is a challenge that can easily be converted into an opportunity.
- On the other hand, all agencies have some form of data collection and/or data management.....probably all are unique.
- In addition, there is no consensus on some basic definitions (e.g. What constitutes drug treatment?)



More generally....

- Drug users are often difficult to reach.
- Treatment facilities provide an opportunity to observe what would otherwise be a 'hidden' problem.



Drug Treatment data – Usefulness

- 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



Treatment data – How do we improve this situation?

- By developing drug information networks
- By standardizing the way that drug treatment data is collected and reported.
- By analyzing this data and converting it into useful information
- By using this information to develop, manage and promote the provision of drug and alcohol treatment services in the region



EULAC Project

- One of the outputs of this project was a template which meets 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
- All that was needed was to adapt it where necessary and then use it.



Then...a series of events

1. An initiative began in Trinidad & Tobago between the NGO treatment centers and the National Drug Council which among other things sought to improve treatment data.
2. They convened a workshop in POS in 2010 in which CICAD participated.
3. During the next 2 years the ideas from this workshop coalesced into a feasible proposal which resulted in a small amount of funding from a donor.



Then...a series of events

4. Then, in the August 2012 meeting of DINs in Antigua & Barbuda, the proposal to implement the pilot was made by CICAD and accepted by Barbados, Jamaica, and Trinidad & Tobago.
5. Representatives from treatment centers and National Drug Commissions from these 3 countries were trained in a workshop in POS, Trinidad & Tobago on October 12, 2012.
6. The Pilot was implemented for a 6 month period starting November 1, 2012 and ending April 30, 2013



Concepts and Definitions

- Unit of measurement:
 - Client Registration: Information is collected at the point in time when the client engages with a treatment service in a single calendar year (Jan 1st to Dec 31st)
 - Treatment Episode: Information is collected for the period from the beginning of treatment to the termination of treatment (discharge)



Drug Treatment

- Drug treatment is considered to be any structured intervention aimed specifically at addressing a person's drug use.
 - Stabilization or reduction of drug use
 - Maintenance or abstinence regimes
 - Behavioral therapy
 - Medical or psychological interventions
- Help with drug related problems (though very important) do not constitute treatment
 - Housing, education etc.



Treatment Centre

- A treatment center is any agency that provides treatment to people with drug problems. Treatment usually takes place at specialized facilities for drug users, but may sometimes occur in generic contexts like a general practitioner.



When does treatment begin?

- This is the first formalized service contact when assessment and/or treatment occurs with the treatment provider and typically involves formal registration of the person into the center.



Who are clients?

- A client is a problem drug user who starts treatment for drug use at a treatment center. This excludes persons in contact with a treatment center on behalf of drug users and persons with problems that relate to their relationship with a drug user



Which drugs are included?

- All drugs of misuse including alcohol, the misuse of prescription drugs, and tobacco



Proposed Pilot

- Select pilot countries (T&T, Jamaica, Barbados)
- Train one (1) person from national observatory (or equivalent) along with one (1) rep from the treatment centers in a one day workshop in ??????????. (Early September 2012)
- Observatory will in turn train persons at the participating treatment centers (by end of September 2012.)
- Apply the form for a period of time (e.g. 3 – 6 months starting October 2012)
- National observatory will collect and enter the data from the forms
- CICAD will provide support for the data analysis (at 3 months and at 6 months)
- Monitor the process to see how well it works in each center as well as at the observatory level
- Publish a report containing the analysis of the data as well as the evaluation of the process
- Adjust the process accordingly and expand to other countries



Thank you for your attention

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