



**INTER-AMERICAN DRUG ABUSE
CONTROL COMMISSION
CICAD/OAS**



**NATIONAL DRUG ABUSE PREVENTION
UNIT
MINISTRY OF HEALTH
COMMONWEALTH OF DOMINICA**

**3RD BIENNIAL MEETING OF CARIBBEAN NATIONAL OBSERVATORIES
ON DRUGS
AUGUST 4 TO 6, 2009
ROSEAU, DOMINICA**

Introduction

This biennial meeting, organized on this occasion by the OAS/CICAD and the Government of the Commonwealth of Dominica, will bring together practitioners from the Caribbean region to discuss the latest research in the region on drugs. Participants will discuss policy recommendations for the region in light of results of new surveys and other studies as well as recent activities in the region.

This year the main theme will be drug use in the secondary school population and one of the aims will be to develop recommendations on how to improve the approach to the prevention of drug use and to determine the best practices that can be applied in the region.

In addition, the meeting will look at the state of drug observatories in the region and the usefulness of drug information networks.

The main outputs of this meeting will be a set of conclusions, key recommendations, and the outline of a plan of action for addressing the issues that are raised.

PROGRAM

Tuesday, August 4, 2009

Fort Young Hotel, Roseau Dominica

8:00 – 8:30 am

Registration

Conference Room, Fort Young Hotel

8:30 – 9:15 am

Welcome and Introductions

National Anthem of the Commonwealth of Dominica

Prayer

Edmund George – Drug Abuse Prevention Officer

Welcome Remarks

Jacinta Bannis, Director, Drug Abuse Prevention Unit

Remarks

Dr. Joseph Campbell, OAS Representative in Dominica

Remarks

James Mack, Executive Secretary, CICAD

Feature Address

Hon. John Fabien, Minister for Health & the Environment

Vote of Thanks

Leandra Cuffy – Drug Abuse Prevention Officer

9:15 – 10:30 am

Presentation: Official Release and presentation of Main findings and conclusions of Caribbean Comparative report on drug use

Pernell Clarke, Research Specialist, CICAD.

10:30 – 10:45 am

Coffee Break

Marquis Restaurant

10:45 am – 12:30 pm

Reaction to Comparative Study: conclusions and implications for policy

As CICAD continues to develop the member states' ability to collect and analyze data, there should always be a focus on the usefulness and the purpose of this activity. The Caribbean in particular, does not have a strong background in drug epidemiology and it is one of the aims of the OID to address this deficiency. The studies and surveys on which the preceding presentation is based, are not merely academic exercises, but serve ultimately to increase the availability of valid and reliable information on drug use in all of the member states. With this knowledge the policy makers and practitioners in the member states should be more aware of drug use and its associated problems in their own countries. Furthermore, this information should be used to make clear decisions about what to do in response to the

issues raised (policy), develop appropriate responses and interventions (practice), and discover how well these interventions work (evaluation)

Key questions include:

- What are your views on the results of the study?
- Do you think the results accurately reflect the situation regarding drug use among secondary school students?
- What are the next steps?
- How should countries respond to information like this?
- What are countries doing right now to deal with this problem?
- How do you as a policy maker or practitioner in prevention intend to react to this information?

Moderator

Marya Hynes, Specialist, CICAD.

Panelists

Norma Jeffrey Dorsett
Maria Paula Luna,
Simeon Joseph
Leandra Cuffy
Joseph Williams
Patsy Wyllie

Min of Social Transformation, Antigua
Demand Reduction Section, CICAD
Dominica Ministry of Education
Dominica National Drug Prevention Unit
Dominica Police Force
Ministry of Health, St. Vincent & the Grenadines

12:30 – 2:00 pm

Lunch

Waterfront Restaurant

2:00 – 3:30 pm

Presentation of Recent Studies and Surveys

Having seen the results of the comparative study, this session aims to examine more carefully the results of a few individual countries with the aim of arriving at some clear conclusions, key recommendations and some policy proposals.

Key questions for each country include:

- What is the extent of drug use among the population surveyed?
- What are the main drugs of use?
- What are the nature and pattern of drug use?
- How aware are stakeholders in your country of the results of this survey?
- How effective are prevention programs for school aged students or the general population? Provide a short description of these programs.
- What are your medium and long term plans for improving your prevention programs?

Moderator

Malcolm St. Rose, Drug Abuse Prevention Officer

Speakers

Barbados:	Jonathan Yearwood	Household survey
Belize:	Esner Vellos	Household Survey
Suriname:	Kris Rambali	Household Survey
Guyana:	Joseph Quamina	School Survey
Antigua & Barbuda:	Norma Jeffrey Dorset	School Survey
St. Vincent & the Grenadines:	Patsy Wyllie	School survey
Trinidad & Tobago:	Cheryl St. Louis	School Survey

3:30 – 3:45 pm

Coffee Break

Marquis Restaurant

3:45 – 4:45 pm

Discussion: Survey results and policy implications

The previous session has demonstrated that the Caribbean can no longer be described as data poor when it comes to drugs. The recent studies mean that all of the member states have at least some baseline data on drug use among the secondary school student population and/or the general population. A few countries have multiple studies that allows them to start looking at trends.

The main question therefore is what do we do with this information? How well have we done in making the right decisions, putting the right policies in place, and implementing the 'right' programs for the populations that we serve?

Key questions include:

- Are countries using the most up to date data and information to develop drug related policies and programs? If yes, how is this being done?
- What tools and further assistance should CICAD or other institutions offer to help countries to move to the next step of developing appropriate policies and programs that respond to drug issues?
- What are the weaknesses and other issues that prevent countries from developing their own drug policies and implementing them?
- Are there any models for school prevention, in the region or abroad, that have been evaluated and proven effective and that can be applied and built upon for the Caribbean to adapt and use?
- Do we need more information?
- What are the next steps?

Moderator

Ken-Garfield Douglas

Speakers

Maria Paula Luna
Maria Beatriz Galvis
Ellen Grizzle
Edith Elizee-Tilon
Jacinta Bannis

Demand Reduction Section, CICAD
Institutional Strengthening Section, CICAD
NCDA, Jamaica
Ministry of Education, Suriname
Dominica, Drug Prevention Unit

4:45 PM

Close

7:00 – 10:00 PM

**Reception Hosted by the National Drug
Prevention Unit, Ministry of Health,
Dominica (Dress: Elegantly Casual)**

Wednesday, August 5, 2009

8:30 – 9:30 am

Presentation: What is an Observatory on Drugs?

Pernell Clarke: OID, OAS/CICAD

9:30 – 10:30 am

Presentations: Situational Analysis of Observatories in the Caribbean.

Selected Countries

Grenada
St. Lucia
Dominica
The Bahamas
Suriname
Barbados
Jamaica

10:30 – 10:45 am

Coffee Break

Marquis Restaurant

10:45 – 11:30 am

Discussion: How can we strengthen observatories in the region?

Key Discussion Points

- What are the common elements that define observatories in the Caribbean?
- What approach should we take to improve observatories?
- Is there enough support in the member states for drug observatories?

11:30 am – 12:30 pm

Presentation: Items in the toolbox: Old Methods, new methods, and a look towards the future.

Marya Hynes-Dowell: OID, OAS/CICAD (SIDUC Surveys, Cost Program, New Protocols (University, Prisons, Juvenile, Mortality), Other Tools - CICAD Country Profiles

12:30 – 2:00 pm	Lunch
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Waterfront Restaurant

2:00 – 3:30 pm	Presentation: Items in the toolbox: Old Methods, new methods, and a look towards the future.
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Terrance Fountain, NDC, Bahamas	Treatment Centre data
Linda Truitt, NIJ, USA	Federal Resources for Research on Drugs and Crime.
Judy Snider, Health Canada	Drug Surveillance Systems in Canada
Cheryl Ann St. Louis, NDC	Trinidad Prison Study
Louisa McLaughlin, NDC	Cayman Islands Prison Study

3:30 – 3:45 pm	Coffee Break
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Marquis Restaurant

3:45 – 4:45 pm	Drug Information Networks
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The previous 2 sessions focused with some detail on the role and functions of drug observatories as well as the tools that are at their disposal. A critical element of an observatory is the drug information network (DIN). The DIN is a concept that is understood only a by few, and practiced by fewer still, and as such there are not many countries with successful DINs in the region. A DIN is difficult to create and difficult to sustain, but there are some very clear steps that a country can take to create one, and there are some key features of the ones that are successful.

This session seeks to explain the role and functions of a DIN and to review some recent efforts made to create DINs in some member states.

Key questions include:

- What is a drug information network?
- How are these networks developed?
- What value do these networks add?
- How are networks maintained?
- How can we ensure that each member state in the region has a functioning network by the end of 2010?
- What next? A regional network? A regional annual report?

Speakers

Pernell Clarke: OI, OAS/CICAD

- **Brief overview of a DIN**
- **Review of DIN sub-regional project**

Patsy Wylie

St. Vincent & the Grenadines

Sabreena Dupal

St. Lucia

Martha Jarvis

Dominica

Judy Snider

The Canadian Experience with Drug Information Networks

Louisa McLaughlin

The Caymanian Experience with Drug Information Networks

4:45 – 5:15 pm

**Open Discussion: Can we develop DINs
in all member states over the next
18months?**

5:15 pm

Close

Thursday, August 6, 2009

8:30 – 9:45 am

**Presentation: Drug Use Prevention
Among Youth in the region?**

Presentations by delegates of member states on the prevention programs currently being implemented in their countries.

**Dominica
Antigua & Barbuda
St. Lucia
Suriname
Belize
Grenada
Guyana**

Talking Points

- Which agency is responsible for implementing these programs in your country?
- What types of Programs are in place?
- How are they funded?
- How well, in your opinion, are these programs being planned, and implemented?
- Is there an evaluation mechanism in place?
- Do you think they are working?

9:45 – 10:15 am

**Presentations: What is science saying
about prevention and what are the
strategies that work?**

Maria Paula Luna – CICAD Demand Reduction Section

10:15 – 10:45 am

Discussion: Prevention Strategies

Key Discussion Points

- What is the level of consistency in student drug use prevention from country to country across the region?
- How are programs chosen?
- Are they well planned, implemented, and evaluated?
- Are programs based on models that have been proven to work?
- Are the hemispheric guidelines on school based prevention helpful? Are they being used?
- How can this situation be improved?

10:45 – 11:00 am	Coffee Break
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Marquis Restaurant

11:00 am – 12:00 pm	Presentation and Discussion: HFLE Syllabus: An introduction and overview.
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Presentation on Health & Family Life Education Syllabus - Ms. Myrtle Prevost, Dominica Ministry of Education

Key Discussion Points:

- How well is the HFLE Syllabus incorporated into the curriculum of secondary schools
- Is it accepted and taught by all teachers or just specially trained teachers
- Are there gaps in coverage (regarding the content)
- How well developed is the section on drug abuse prevention
- Is there sufficient support for HFLE in the schools?

12:00 pm – 12:30 pm
Open Discussion: CICAD – Member States: Working towards a policy on prevention

Having examined the efforts at prevention in the region, and juxtaposed them against the figures that we are seeing for substance use, we need to decide whether we are satisfied with the situation and if not, how to proceed from here. How well have we done in making the right decisions, putting the right policies in place, and implementing the 'right' programs for the populations that we work with?

The main question therefore is what do we do with this information and how do we do it?

12:30 – 2:00 pm	Lunch
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Waterfront Restaurant

2:00 – 2:30 pm	Review & Closing Session.
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3:30 pm	Group Excursion: Trafalgar Falls and the Sulphur Spa
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