Healthy Caribbean Coalition (HCC)

SIXTH ANNUAL REPORT

January 2014 – December 2014

1. HCC announced the appointment of special advisor: ‘Alcohol Policy Advisor’, Dr. Rohan Maharaj, a Senior Lecturer in Family Medicine at the University of the West Indies and a Fellow of the Caribbean College of Family Physicians. Jan 2014.

   a. Grenada
      i. Met with key stakeholders including the Grenada Cancer Society (AUS DAP Sub-grantees); local NCD NGOs; and the Ministry of Health staff including the Honourable Minister of Health Dr. Clarice Modeste.
   b. Dominica
      i. Met with key stakeholders including the Dominica Cancer Society (AUS DAP Sub-grantees); local NCD NGOs; the Ministry of Health staff; and staff of the Princess Margaret Hospital.
      ii. High-level NCD Advocacy meeting with His Excellency Charles Angelo Savarin, President of the Commonwealth of Dominica.


4. HCC conducted a Courtesy Visit by the Board of Directors to the President of Trinidad, His Excellency the Honourable Anthony Carmona to discuss the role of Caribbean leadership in galvanising political will around NCDs. March 2014.


7. HCC, in partnership with the Barbados Ministry of Health and UWI, launched the CDC Global Standardized Hypertension Treatment Project (GSHTP) Pilot in Barbados. April 2014.

8. HCC member and Director of the Barbados National Registry presented ‘Priority research areas for national policy action on NCDs: Caribbean civil society experience’ at the CMOs Meeting: Caribbean Meeting on Research for Policy Action on Economic Implications of Chronic Non-Communicable Diseases leading up to the 59th Annual CARPHA Health Research Conference in Aruba. April 2014.

9. UWI signs contract with IDRC for project: ‘The CARICOM political declaration on noncommunicable diseases seven years on: an evaluation to accelerate further
10. **multi-sectoral implementation** of which HCC is one of the HCC is one of the participating Institutions. April 2014.

11. HCC member and Director of the Barbados National Registry presented ‘Educating the public and relevant authorities on the importance of cancer/NCD registries: a civil response’ at the NCI Cancer Surveillance for the Caribbean leading up to the 59th Annual CARPHA Health Research Conference in Aruba. April 2014.

12. HCC member, and Director of the Barbados National Registry, attended the 59th Annual CARPHA Health Research Conference in Aruba. May 2014.

   
a. Jamaica
   i. Met with key stakeholders including the Jamaica Cancer Society (AUS DAP Sub-grantees); local NCD NGOs; the dean of the Faculty of Medicine UWI Mona, Professor Horace Fletcher; members of the National NCD Committee; and the Ministry of Health staff including the Honourable Minister of Health Dr. Fenton Ferguson.

b. Belize
   i. Met with key stakeholders including the Belize Cancer Society (AUS DAP Sub-grantees); local NCD NGOs; the Ministry of Health and the Honourable Prime Minister Mr. Dean Barrow.


16. HCC signed an **MOU** with Caribbean Institute on Alcoholism and Other Drug Problems (CARIAD). June 2014.


18. The HCC President and Manager attended the UN NCD CSO Hearing, NYC. June 2014.


   
a. HCC hosts **Cervical Cancer Side Event** in Partnership with the Australian Permanent Mission to the UN, the Barbados and Jamaica Permanent UN Missions to the UN.

21. HCC President invited to be a member of the World Cancer Research Fund International’s new **Policy Advisory Group.** August 2014.

22. HCC **CSO Regional NCD Advocacy Plan** launched. Funded through NCDA/Medtronic grant. August 2014.

23. St. Kitts & Nevis Health Alliance hosted **FBO NCD Meeting** funded through NCDA/Medtronic grant. August 2014.

24. HCC Manager presented at CLAN (Caring & Living as Neighbours) side event: **Empowering Young People to Enjoy Healthy Lives - A Focus on NCDs and Collaborative Action by Civil Society in the Post 2015 Agenda** at the UNDPI NGO Meeting, UN Headquarters, NYC. August 27-29, 2014.

25. HCC Manager promoted to HCC Executive Director with a renewal of appointment for 3 years. September 2014.
27. HCC Youth Representative from Heart Beat International presented at the Latin American Congress of Pediatrics in Punta Cana, in Dominican Republic funded through the American Academy for Paediatrics. September 2014.
29. HCC Technical Advisor Alcohol Policy attended the CARICOM Caucus of Health Ministers to present an urgent request from Civil Society for the Development of Comprehensive Regional Alcohol Policy. Washington, DC. USA. September 2014.
30. HCC Advocacy Success. In response to the HCC’s urgent request presented at the 2014 CARICOM Caucus of Health Ministers, within the Draft Summary of Conclusions of The Nineteenth Special Meeting of the Council For Human and Social Development (COHSOD) – Health; COHSOD agreed to: make the reduction of alcohol-related harm a public health priority in the Caribbean; revisit the 2011 PAHO/WHO Regional Plan of Action to Reduce Harmful use of Alcohol; commence the development of a regional, culturally-relevant comprehensive policy to reduce the harmful use of alcohol; and committed to taking action to develop and implement alcohol policy in every CARICOM Member State. October 2014.
32. HCC NCD Alliance Health Systems Strengthening Meeting. Funded through NCD Alliance grant. October 22nd, 2014.
33. HCC President and Executive Director attended the PAHO SaltSmart Consortium meeting in Brasilia. Oct 28-29th, 2014.
34. HCC launches Youth4NCDs online network for young people living with and affected by NCDs. October 2014.
36. Establishment of the Trinidad & Tobago Coalition for Tobacco Control (TTCTC) in Trinidad and Tobago in partnership with the Trinidad & Tobago Cancer Society (TTCS) and the Jamaica Coalition for Tobacco Control (JCTC). Funded through NCD Alliance grant. November 13, 2014.
   a. HCC undertakes high-level advocacy re ICN2: Emails sent to CARICOM, CARICOM Ministers of Health, CARICOM CMOS and NCD Focal Points
38. High Level Advocacy. President of the HCC sent a letter to the Honourable Prime Minister of Barbados Fruendel Stuart supporting the IMF recommendations for taxes on soda drinks, tobacco and alcohol products.
   a. HCC launches an Online Poll asking members to vote on the issue of taxation of sweetened beverages.
40. International Federation of the Red Cross (IFRC) and the HCC hold a two-day "IFRC NCDs Think Tank Meeting" in Port-of-Spain. The HCC provided technical support. November 28-29, 2014.
41. HCC President and Executive Director pay courtesy visit to FAO Coordinator Caribbean Subregion Office, Representative Barbados and OECS. November 2014.

42. HCC President and Executive Director attend an FAO multistakeholder meeting entitled: ‘Increased Utilization of Cassava’. November 2014.

43. HCC Director attends UICC World Cancer Congress in Melbourne, Australia supported by the American Cancer Society. December 2014.
   a. Presented on the Meet the Targets Grant (ACS) and the Caribbean Civil Society Cervical Cancer Electronic Petition at the ACS Session: Mobilising Local Action for Global Change: Empowering National Networks to make Cancer a Global Priority.
   b. Panellist at the Cervical Cancer Action meeting: National Cancer Societies at the 2014 World Cancer Congress.
   c. Panellist at the NCD Alliance NCD Café Session: Strengthening the NCD civil society movement: Lessons learnt from local NCD alliances.
   d. Observer at the National Cancer Institutes (NCI) Caribbean Cancer Control Leadership Forum for Pacific Islands.


45. Meeting to explore the establishment of the Barbados Coalition for Tobacco Control (BCTC) in Barbados in partnership with the Heart & Stroke Foundation of Barbados (HSFB) and the Jamaica Coalition for Tobacco Control (JCTC). Funded through NCDA/ Medtronic grant. December 2014.

46. The Jamaica Ministry of Health/ National NCD Committee and the Heart Foundation of Jamaica host a meeting to launch the Jamaica FBO Network/ Committee to address NCDs and promote healthy lifestyles. Funded by the NCDA/Medtronic grant. December 2014.