



# NCD Advocacy, Accountability, and Conflict of Interest Meeting

February 17-18<sup>th</sup>, 2017 | Jolly Beach Resort & Spa, Antigua

## CONCEPT NOTE & PROGRAMME

**PARTNERS:** Antigua & Barbuda Ministry of Health and the Environment | Antigua & Barbuda Diabetes Association | Antigua & Barbuda Medical Association | American University of Antigua

**SUPPORTERS:** Open Campus, UWI | Peter Moores Foundation | CARPHA | PAHO/WHO | Sagicor Life



The NCD Alliance is led by:



## Background

In September 2013, the Healthy Caribbean Coalition (HCC) was awarded a grant under the NCD Alliance/ Medtronic Philanthropy programme "Strengthening Health Systems, Supporting NCD Action". The programme was aimed at strengthening national and regional civil society NCD advocacy efforts in Brazil, South Africa, and key Caribbean Community Countries (CARICOM) to raise demand and advocate to governments to strengthen health systems through an integrated approach to action on NCDs. The HCC is currently in its fourth year of funding under this programme. The goal of this 4th grant is to *'Improve the capacity for effective, targeted Civil Society led NCD prevention and control in the Caribbean'*. The specific objectives are: 1. To increase evidence-based NCD CSO-led advocacy in the Caribbean and globally; 2. To build civil society capacity around NCD accountability, advocacy and conflict of interest; 3. To strengthen the regional multisectoral NCD response; and 4. To ensure sustainability of project activities and strengthen core operational sustainability of the HCC.

Specific objective 2: *'To build civil society capacity around NCD accountability, advocacy and conflict of interest'*, contains two activities including activity 2.2: *Hold a face-to-face regional meeting of key stakeholders to build NCD advocacy, accountability and COI capacity.*

**Advocacy, Accountability and Conflict of Interest** are priority areas for the HCC further supported by findings from the CSO membership assessment undertaken in 2015. The HCC was represented at a 2015 meeting hosted by the UK Health Forum in Bellagio, Italy, entitled: *'Improving health through better governance – Strengthening the governance of diet and nutrition partnerships for the prevention of chronic diseases'*. The meeting aimed to support efforts to address governance gaps on conflict of interest safeguards for food and nutrition policy; and complemented a parallel WHO expert consultation on assessing and managing conflicts of interest in nutrition. Participation in this meeting, and serving as a member of the *WHO GCM/NCD Working Group on how to realize governments' commitments to engage with the private sector for the prevention and control of NCDs (Working Group 3.1)*, further underscored COI as a key focus area for the HCC - particularly as civil society continues to navigate and lead vital but complex multisectoral partnerships for NCD prevention and control.

The *Advocacy, Accountability and Conflict of Interest* meeting seeks to continue to build advocacy capacity for CSOs within the context of the priority advocacy areas as defined by the *"HCC Strategic Plan 2017-2021: Enabling Caribbean civil society's contribution to national, regional, and global action for NCD prevention and control"* and national, regional and global NCD priorities (findings from the recently completed Port of Spain Evaluation; national NCD policies/plans; regional NCD policies/plans; and global frameworks (GAP, Agenda 2030, etc.). Accountability is a major theme for the HCC and

as a result of the advocacy work in the region for the past 3 years, CSOs are increasingly engaged in national and regional dialogue around accountability and the role they play in holding themselves and partners (public and private) accountable to their commitments. Tools for accountability will be discussed and developed which are consistent with the capacity of the CSOs and their organisational interests. Finally as issues of sustainability, including financial sustainability, continue to challenge CSOs, the need to develop diverse partnerships with the business sector will grow. However very little exists at the organisational level, either nationally, or regionally within the HCC, to govern these multi-sectoral partnerships, especially with the alcohol and food/beverage industries where the rules of engagement (within the Caribbean context) are poorly defined.

The HCC Strategic Plan, 2017-2021, will be released at the meeting. In an effort to improve NCD CSO governance in the Caribbean, delegates will be made aware of challenges of conflict of interest and management of conflicts of interest, aimed at enhancing and achieving long-term sustainability of an effective and transparent multi-sectoral, and whole of society approach to NCD prevention and control.

## Meeting Goals, Objectives & Expected Outcomes

### Goal:

To build civil society capacity around NCD advocacy, accountability and conflict of interest.

### Objectives

1. To **increase knowledge and understanding** around NCD advocacy, accountability and conflict of interest.
2. To **share and discuss CSO experiences** of advocacy, accountability and addressing conflict of interest in the Caribbean.
3. To share a draft **CSO Simple Monitoring Scorecard** for national CSOs to monitor/ track priority childhood obesity related commitments at country level.
4. To share and discuss a regional **CSO Advocacy campaign** to ban sugar sweetened beverages (SSBs) in schools.
5. To begin crafting **HCC COI Policy and Guide** for Caribbean NCD CSOs.
6. To launch the **Healthy Caribbean Coalition Strategic Plan, 2017-2021**.

## **Outputs**

1. CSOs aware of national, regional and international NCD reporting systems in the region, and the role and mechanisms CSOs can utilise in holding partners accountable for commitments.
2. CSOs aware of effective national and regional NCD advocacy campaigns in the Caribbean, and CSOs aware of issues relating to conflict of interest in the region and better equipped to address conflict of interest in their organisations.
3. Draft CSO Simple Monitoring Scorecard CSOs shared and reviewed.
4. Draft Regional CSO Advocacy campaign to ban sugar sweetened beverages (SSBs) in schools shared and reviewed.
5. Concept for HCC COI Policy and Guide for Caribbean NCD CSOs developed.
6. Healthy Caribbean Coalition Strategic Plan, 2017-2021 launched.

## **Participants & Beneficiaries**

Participants at the meeting will be representatives of: HCC organisational members (health NGOs); HCC associate members (non-health NGOs); Regional NCD Focal Points, Caribbean Academia; Private Sector; HCC Board of Directors; and HCC specialist advisors and volunteers.

## **Supporters & Partners**

This meeting is supported by the NCD Alliance as part of the Expanding Access to Care, Supporting Global, regional and Country level NCD Action Programme in partnership with Medtronic Philanthropy.

National and Regional Partners and supporters include: the Antigua & Barbuda Ministry of Health and the Environment; the Antigua & Barbuda Diabetes Association; the Antigua & Barbuda Medical Association; the American University of Antigua; the Peter Moores Foundation; the Open Campus of the University of the West Indies; CARPHA; and PAHO/WHO.

The on going work of the HCC would not be possible without the kind support of Sagicor Life Inc.

## Meeting Programme

MEETING PROGRAMME   DAY 1   FEBRUARY 17-18, 2017   ANTIGUA & BARBUDA BOUGAINVILLIA ROOM, JOLLY BEACH RESORT & SPA		
TIME	ACTIVITY	SPEAKER
7.30 am – 8.00 am	REGISTRATION	
8.00 am – 10.00 am	SESSION I: Chairman –Trevor Hassell, <i>President HCC</i> <b>ADVOCACY FOR CHANGE</b>	
8.00 am – 8.10 am	Welcome & Objectives	Trevor Hassell, <i>President HCC</i>
8.10 am – 8.40 am	Greetings	Supporters: PAHO/ CARPHA/ UWI OC/ ABDA
8.40 am – 9.00 am	Remarks and Opening of the Meeting	Honourable Molwyn Joseph <i>Minister of Health, Antigua and Barbuda</i>
9.00 am – 9.30 am	Feature Address: The role of civil society as advocates and watchdogs in NCD prevention and control in the Caribbean	George Alleyne <i>Director Emeritus PAHO, Patron HCC</i>
9.30 am – 10.00 am	Questions & Comments Session	Moderated by Chair
<b>10.00 am – 10.30 am</b>	<b>HEALTH BREAK &amp; GROUP PHOTO</b>	
10.30 am – 12.45 pm	SESSION II: Chairman – Rhonda Sealy Thomas, <i>CMO Antigua</i> <b>TOWARDS EFFECTIVE CSO NCD ADVOCACY</b>	
10.30 am – 10.50 am	Determining and Implementing Policy (CARICOM Commitments) at regional and national level in the Caribbean	James Hospedales <i>Director, CARPHA</i>
10.50am - 11.10 am	Overview of national, regional and international NCD reporting systems (CMO reports, PAHO, WHO, POSD Grid, Global Targets, SDGs)	Alafia Samuels <i>Director, Chronic Disease Research Centre (CDRC)</i>
11.10 am - 12.10 pm	Panel: Civil Society Led Advocacy in Action – Catalysing National Policy and Programmes	Moderated by Chair

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. JCTC</li> <li>2. Dominica Diabetes Association</li> <li>3. Trinidad and Tobago Cancer Society</li> <li>4. Heart &amp; Stroke Foundation of Barbados</li> <li>5. Jamaica Cancer Society</li> </ol>	<p>Barbara McGaw Marvlyn Birmingham Nicole Jordan</p> <p>Fiona Anthony</p> <p>Lincoln Robinson</p>
12.10 pm - 12.20 pm	Regional CSO NCD Advocacy in action: CSO Advocacy campaign to ban SSBs in schools.	Maisha Hutton, <i>Executive Director HCC</i>
12.20 pm - 12.45 pm	Questions & Comments	Moderated by Chair
<b>12.45 pm – 2.00 pm</b>	<b>LUNCH</b>	
2.00 pm – 3.30 pm	SESSION III: Chairman – Karen Sealey, <i>HCC Director</i> <b>ACCOUNTABILITY</b>	
2.00 pm – 3:00 pm	Panel: The Role of Stakeholders in Monitoring NCD Commitments <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Government</li> <li>2. PAHO</li> <li>3. CARPHA</li> <li>4. UWI</li> <li>5. Civil society</li> </ol>	<p>Moderated by Chair</p> <p>Hazel Laws Tomo Kanda James Hospedales Alafia Samuels Ronnie Bissessar</p>
3.00 pm – 3.30 pm	Draft Simple CSO Childhood Obesity monitoring score card	Presentation Maisha Hutton and Group Activity
<b>3.30 pm – 3.45 pm</b>	<b>HEALTH BREAK</b>	
3.45 pm – 5.00 pm	SESSION IV: Chairman – Dr. Victor Coombs, <i>HCC Director</i> <b>CONFLICT OF INTEREST</b>	
3.45 pm – 4.05 pm	Managing Conflict of Interest to improve Governance in the multi-sectoral response to NCDs	Jeff Collin, Professor of Global Health Policy, <i>University of Edinburgh</i>
4.05 pm – 4.25 pm	Raising awareness of challenges of Conflict of Interest in the Caribbean	Derrick Aarons, Consultant Bioethicist, <i>CARPHA Ethicist</i>
4.25 pm – 4.45 pm	Questions & Comments Session	Moderated by Chair
4.45 pm – 5.00 pm	Wrap up and Prep for Day 2	Curt Bodkyn, <i>SCI</i>
<b>5.00 pm</b>	<b>DAY 1 CLOSES</b>	

**MEETING PROGRAMME | DAY 2 | FEBRUARY 17-18, 2017 | ANTIGUA & BARBUDA**  
BOUGAINVILLIA ROOM, JOLLY BEACH RESORT & SPA

TIME	ACTIVITY	SPEAKER
8.30 am – 11.00 am	SESSION V: Chairman – Corrine Sinqee Brown, <i>SCI</i> <b>CONFLICT OF INTEREST</b>	
8.30 am – 8.45 am	Review of Day 1 and Preview of Day 2	Vincent Atkins, <i>HCC</i>
8.45 am – 9.15 am	Jointly managed presentation	Jeff Collin & Derrick Aarons
9.15 am – 10.30 am	Panel Presentation: Experiences and challenges in addressing COI - examples from the region. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. JCTC – Tobacco Industry</li> <li>2. Barbados National NCD Commission</li> <li>3. Alcohol Industry</li> <li>4. NGOs and government subventions</li> <li>5. Academia and COI</li> <li>6. PAHO and COI</li> </ol>	Moderated by Chair  Barbara McGaw Elsa Webster  Rohan Maharaj Joy St. John  Alafia Samuels Tomo Kanda
10.30 am – 11.00 am	Elements of a draft HCC COI Policy and COI Guide for Caribbean NCD CSOs	Jeff Collin and Derrick Aarons
<b>11.00 am – 11.30 am</b>	<b>HEALTH BREAK</b>	
11.30 am – 1.00 pm	SESSION VI: Chairman - Marvlyn Birmingham, <i>President DOMDA</i> <b>THE NEXT FIVE YEARS</b>	
11.30 am – 11.45 am	Presentation of findings of Independent High Level External Evaluation of HCC	Karen Sealey, <i>Director HCC</i>
11.45 am – 12.00 pm	Presentation of HCC 2017-2021 Strategic Plan	Beverley Barnett <i>Independent Consultant, HCC</i>
12.00 pm – 12.25 pm	HCC Updates: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Governance, Board of Directors, Technical Advisory Group</li> <li>2. By-Laws</li> <li>3. Projects and Programmes for 2017-2018</li> </ol>	Trevor Hassell/ Maisha Hutton, <i>HCC</i>
12.25 pm – 12.40 pm	Questions & Comments	Moderated by Chair

12.40 pm – 12.55 pm	Closing Remarks: My vision for the civil society NCD movement in the Caribbean	George Alleyne, <i>Director Emeritus PAHO, Patron HCC</i>
12.55 pm - 1.00 pm	Wrap up, Evaluation and Close	Homer Bloomfield
1.00 pm – 2.30 pm	<b>LUNCH &amp; MEETING CLOSE</b>	
2.30 pm – 5.30 pm	Meeting of the HCC Board of Directors	By Invitation