Barbados NCD Commission – Governance, Management and Conflict of Interest

NCD Advocacy, Accountability, and Conflict of Interest
February 17-18th, 2017 I Jolly Beach Resort & Spa, Antigua

Elsa Webster, Barbados Association of Retired Persons, Member of Barbados NCD Commission
DECLARATION OF PORT-OF-SPAIN: UNITING TO STOP THE EPIDEMIC OF CHRONIC NCDs

• Fully convinced that the burdens of NCDs can be reduced by comprehensive and integrated preventive and control strategies at the individual, family, community, national and regional levels and through collaborative programmes, partnerships and policies supported by governments, private sectors, NGOs and our other social, regional and international partners

• Declare that we strongly encourage the establishment of National Commissions on NCDs or analogous bodies to plan and coordinate the comprehensive prevention and control of chronic NCDs
The Commission’s mandate

• Advise Minister of Health on NCD policies and legislation
• Broker involvement of all sectors in program implementation
• Assist in resource mobilization to facilitate implementation of programs
• Recommend relevant research
• Promote collaborations and partnerships
• Monitor regional and international trends
• Facilitate commissioning of audits/evaluation of NCD programs
• Recommend to Minister of Health framework that encourages and promotes behaviour change to prevent NCDs
Governance and management

• Members selected by MOH, appointed by Cabinet of Barbados for a predetermined period of time
• Meetings held monthly
• Meetings minuted, signed and become official record of Ministry of Health
• Decisions taken by consensus or majority vote
• Composition of Commission
Activities of the NCD Commission

• “Barbados Strategic Plan for the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases 2015-2019
• Barbados Childhood Obesity Plan
• National Nutrition Intervention and Improvement Programme
• Hosting of a meeting with faith based organizations (FBOs)
• Theatre in Education: pilot project to introduce the concept of health education through drama
• Technical and administrative oversight and guidance of the Barbados National Registry
Activities of the NCD Commission - Risk Factor Reduction

• Legislation banning smoking in public places and ban on sale of tobacco products to minors
• Draft legislation to adopt the CARICOM Standard on Packaging and Labelling of Tobacco Products
• Global Youth Tobacco Survey
• Supported Ministry of Transport and Works on the introduction of breathalyser testing
• National Task Force on Physical Activity and Exercise, “get women moving” - train community leaders to plan and conduct community based, low cost physical activity programmes
• Increase in taxes on tobacco products, 2013 and 10% tax placed on sugar sweetened beverages, 2015
Community Activities resulting from NCD Commission's work

- BARP "Pinch of Salt" Programme
- BARP Better life Gardening Project
- Health fair – cooking demonstrations for better health – Ratafarian Group – UN Small grants fund
- Cassava Bread
- Spin off entrepreneurship - cottage industries – sugar cake vendors
Conflicting situations

• Challenge for Ministry of Education representative – issue of marketing and promotion of junk food and SSBs in schools

• Members of Commission viewed as representing themselves or organisations/businesses and not the sector

• At none of the meetings is there note made of a declared COI or action taken on same

• Challenges from the beverage industry
A Civil society report on National NCD Commissions– Governance and Management

• COI between sectors of NCD Commissions should be addressed in a transparent manner informed by the recognised and international norms and practices
• Private sector is critical for economic growth
• COI: Socio-economic – private sector critical for regional economic growth; International trade agreements; public private sector partnerships
CSOs face many challenges – financial
Influence of Donor priorities and specific interests may limit availability of funds
Guidelines should provide a framework for engagement with all stakeholders
Industries must be recognized as not only the problem but also the solution in the context of business competitiveness, corporate bottom lines, national economic growth, employment, productivity,