



NATIONAL CIVIL SOCIETY CONSULTATION FOR CHILDHOOD OBESITY PREVENTION

Friday July 20th, 2018 | Barbados Diabetes Foundation

CONCEPT NOTE & PROGRAMME

PARTNERS

Heart and Stroke Foundation of Barbados
Breastfeeding and Child Nutrition Foundation Barbados

Background

Childhood overweight and obesity is an urgent challenge facing the Caribbean where 1 in every 3 children is overweight or obese. Overweight and obesity in childhood are associated with complications such as high blood pressure, early onset of Type 2 diabetes and mental health issues. Further, overweight and obesity tracks in to adulthood predisposing individuals to non-communicable diseases (NCDs) such as cancer, diabetes and heart disease, which are collectively responsible for significant premature morbidity. Globally, regionally and nationally, this issue has been recognised with urgency and WHO/PAHO, CARPHA and regional governments have responded with evidence-based action frameworks to guide a multistakeholder, multisectoral response. CARICOM Heads of Government further underscored their commitment to address this issue at the recently completed Thirty-Ninth Regular Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) held in Jamaica. In the official Communiqué Heads pledged to advocate for *'implementing policies geared to preventing childhood obesity, including for health-promoting school environments and Front of Package (FOP) labelling'* within the context of the 3rd UN High Level Meeting Political Declaration.

The Healthy Caribbean Coalition and our 100+ members across the region, in partnership with the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Barbados and the Breast and Child Nutrition Foundation of Barbados, and with the support of partners including the Global Health Advocacy Initiative, PAHO and the Caribbean Development Bank – have prioritised the engagement of civil society organizations around childhood obesity prevention (COP). In 2017 the HCC launched our [Civil Society Action Plan 2017-2021: Prevention Childhood Obesity in the Caribbean](#) (CSAP). The goal of the CSAP is to *halt the increase in childhood obesity by 2025 and the purpose is improved development and implementation by CARICOM countries of policies, and/or legislation, and/ or regulations to prevent childhood obesity, by 2021*. Guided by this regional CSO framework for action, the HCC and partners will promote and implement targeted community outreach, education and evidence-informed advocacy, aimed at building public awareness and encouraging and supporting policymakers to implement population-wide policy and legislation which creates healthier environments for children.

One of the strategies identified in the CSAP is the strengthening of national and regional coalitions or networks aimed at raising the profile of COP and placing it on the political agenda. In Barbados, COP has been recognised as a national priority by the Ministry of Health as demonstrated by the development of the Barbados Childhood Obesity Prevention Plan (B-CHOP) in 2015. In addition, in 2015, the Government of Barbados implemented a 10% tax on sugar-sweetened beverages. More recently the HSFB and the BCNF have initiated national initiatives aimed at addressing childhood obesity and overweight from very different but important perspectives. The HCC is also implementing a regional Call to Action for COP which has a strong presence in Barbados. There is clearly momentum building in the country and it is critical that the CSO community leverage this energy to create a network of actors united around a shared vision to tackle this problem which threatens to undermine health gains among generations to come.

The HCC, HSFB and the BCNF have come together to host a National CSO Consultation Childhood Obesity Prevention. The consultation seeks to engage a wide cross-section of stakeholders and community leaders ranging from traditional NCD NGOs to non-traditional actors who have initiatives aimed at improving the lives of children. The consultation aims to provide relevant overviews and updates on the current childhood obesity prevention response from the perspective of the public, private and civil society sectors nationally and regionally. It will provide an opportunity for sharing of

experiences and brainstorming of solutions. Finally, participants will explore the formation of a National CSO Childhood Obesity Prevention Network and begin crafting an agenda of collaborative actions for such a network.

Forum Goals, Objectives & Expected Outcomes

Goal

To Create a Childhood Obesity Prevention Network of CSOs Advocating for Healthier Environments for Children and Adolescents.

Objectives

1. To **build awareness** of the **burden and drivers** of childhood obesity and overweight in Barbados and the Caribbean.
2. To **build awareness** of the national, and global regional **responses** to childhood overweight and obesity.
3. To **explore the formation of a National CSO Childhood Obesity Prevention Network**.

Expected Outcomes

1. Greater awareness of burden and drivers of childhood obesity and overweight in Barbados and the Caribbean
2. Greater awareness of the national, and global regional responses to childhood overweight and obesity.
3. Formation of a National CSO Childhood Obesity Prevention Network.

Participants & Beneficiaries

Participants at the meeting will be representatives of: HCC organisational members (health NGOs); HCC associate members (non-health NGOs); non-HCC CSO members in Barbados; Government; Academia; Private Sector; HCC youth advocates; and community advocates.

Sponsors

This meeting is supported through grants from the Global Health Advocacy Initiative and the Caribbean Development Bank.

Partners and Supporters

The Heart and Stroke Foundation of Barbados and the Breastfeeding and Child Nutrition Foundation Barbados.

The Consultation Programme

CHILDHOOD OBESITY PREVENTION CONSULTATION		
Friday, July 20th, 2018 8.00am – 12.00pm Barbados Diabetes Foundation		
8.00 – 8.30	REGISTRATION	
8.30 – 9.00	Welcome and Introductions	<i>Mrs Maisha Hutton, HCC Mrs. Fiona Anthony, HSFB Dr. Alison Bernard, BCNF</i>
9.00 – 9.20	Childhood Obesity and Overweight in Barbados and the Caribbean - Burden/Drivers/Key Policy Options	<i>Prof Alafia Samuels, The George Alleyne Chronic Disease Research Centre</i>
9.20 – 9.30	The HCC Regional CSO Response to Childhood Obesity	<i>Mrs. Maisha Hutton</i>
9.30 – 9.40	The HCC Childhood Obesity Prevention Call to Action	<i>Mrs. Francine Charles, HCC</i>
9.40 – 9.50	The Barbados Childhood Obesity Prevention Programme (BCHOPP)	<i>Dr. Heather Armstrong, Ministry of Health and Wellness</i>
9.50 – 10.00	Moderated Question & Answer	<i>Moderator: Mrs. Maisha Hutton</i>
10.00 - 10.15	HEALTH BREAK & GROUP PHOTO	
10.15 - 10.25	Advocacy for Healthier School Environments in Barbados	<i>Mrs. Fiona Anthony</i>
10.25 - 10.35	BCNF Perspective: How Breastfeeding Contributes to Childhood Obesity Prevention	<i>Dr. Alison Bernard</i>
10.35 - 10.45	Social Media as an Educational and Advocacy Tool	<i>Mrs. Sheena Warner-Edwards, HCC</i>
10.45 - 11.15	Moderated Discussion: Question & Answer and Sharing of local initiatives	<i>Moderator: Mrs. Francine Charles</i>
11.15 - 11.50	Exploring A National CSO Childhood Obesity Prevention Network <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is it needed? • What should be on the agenda? • What would be the priorities/Next steps 	<i>Co-Moderators: Mrs. Fiona Anthony and Dr. Alison Bernard</i>
11.50 - 12.00	CLOSING REMARKS	<i>Mrs Maisha Hutton</i>