



FIFTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT OF ACTIVITIES

January 2023 – December 2023

Below is a summary of activities undertaken during the course of 2023.

1. The 39th Virtual Meeting of HCC Board of Directors. *January 9, 2023.*
2. HCC and Healthy Caribbean Youth (HCY) published the **“Our Health, Our Right – A Rights-Based Childhood Obesity Prevention Agenda for the Caribbean”**. *January 11, 2023.*
3. HCC and NCD Alliance launched the **“Noncommunicable Diseases and Mental Health in Small Island Developing States – A Discussion Paper by Civil Society”** developed in collaboration with a group of like-minded civil society representatives from other Small Island Developing States (SIDS) regions. *January 13, 2023.*
4. HCC attended the SIDS High-level Technical Meeting on NCDs and Mental Health, and hosted side events on childhood obesity, breakout sessions on commercial determinants of health, and addressing conflicts of interest along with a civil society briefing co-hosted with the NCD Alliance. *January 17-18, 2023.*
5. HCC Advocacy Officer presented at the World Obesity Day Members Workshop in preparation for World Obesity Day. *January 19, 2023*
6. HCC Published **“NCD Prevention and Control in the Caribbean – Essential Considerations for Equity-Based and Rights-Based Approaches, Policy brief”**. *February, 2023.*
7. Healthy Caribbean Youth (HCY) Quarter 1 Meeting, February 2, 2023
8. HCC Advocacy Officer participated in the **Media Launch for the Handbook on Promoting Wellbeing and Mental Health in Schools**. *February 7, 2023.*
9. There was a re-run of the **“Now More than Ever: Better Labels, Better Choices, Better Health”** campaign originally launched in March 2021, by the HCC in collaboration with the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), UNICEF and the OECS Commission. *February 12, 2023.*
10. HCC with CIBC First Caribbean hosted “FirstCaribbean Wellness in Action- New Year Fitness Kick Off”. *February 16, 2023.*
11. HCC Advocacy Officer presented at NCD Child Young Leaders, “A Guide to Powerful Youth-led Advocacy, Engagement and Leadership”. *February 23, 2023.*
12. Healthy Caribbean Coalition (HCC) published **“The Organisational Wellness Action Planning and Social Impact (OWAPSI) Tool”**. *March, 2023*
13. HCC hosted, **“Childhood Obesity in the Caribbean – How do we care for the 1 in 3?”** Webinar. *March 2, 2023.*
14. Healthy Caribbean Youth (HCY) in partnership with the Jamaica Youth Advocacy Network (JYAN), the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Barbados, the Heart Foundation of Jamaica and its



- youth arm the Jamaica Health Advocates Youth Arm hosted a webinar “– **Different Voices – One Goal – Youth Perspective on Next Steps for Childhood Obesity in SIDS**”. *March 7, 2023.*
15. HCC/HCY in collaboration with HFJ and JHAYA hosted a closed meeting for youth advocates on vaping in the Caribbean; content would have covered commonly used interference and marketing tactics by the tobacco industry. *March 7, 2023.*
 16. The HCC/HCY launched **Caribbean Youth Voices in Health Advocacy Spaces Small Grant**. The grant provides the principal applicant, a **youth (between the ages of 15-35) member of a non governmental not for profit organisation** in a CARICOM Member state¹, an opportunity to work alongside other youth and key stakeholders to execute an advocacy project of their choice focused on promoting healthy food policies in their local territory. The applications were due on March 13th 2023. The Virtual Meeting of PLWNCDs Advisory Committee Meeting. *March 7, 2022*
 17. HCC wrote an Open Letter to The Honourable Kay McConney, Senator Dr. The Most Honourable Jerome Walcott, and Dr. The Honourable Sonia Browne, **congratulating the Implementation of Barbados National School Nutrition Policy**. *March 21, 2023.*
 18. HCC in collaboration with the American University of Antigua, Let’s Unpack It, Mental Health Talk Antigua launched a **UREPORT poll** aiming to explore Caribbean youth’s understanding of non-communicable diseases and climate change. *March 20, 2024.*
 19. The Virtual Meeting of PLWNCDs Advisory Committee Meeting. *March 11, 2023*
 20. HCY hosted “**Looking Back to Move Forward – Caribbean Youth Mental Health**” Webinar. *April 27, 2023.*
 21. Healthy Caribbean Youth (HCY) Quarter 2 Meeting. *April 27, 2023.*
 22. In preparation for the 2023 and onward Strategic Planning HCC Directors met with several HCC Members to have informal conversations. This information will help to better understand HCC’s membership, their work and how HCC can better serve. *May, 2023.*
 23. HCC, along with partners Heart and Stroke Foundation of Barbados, Heart Foundation of Jamaica and Jamaica Youth Advocacy Network launched the **People Over Profits** Campaign. *May 1, 2023.*
 24. HCC Executive Director and Vice President of the Board attended the 76th World Health Assembly supported by NCD Alliance. *May, 2023.*
 25. The Virtual Meeting of PLWNCDs Advisory Committee Meeting. *May 2, 2023*
 26. HCC with CIBC First Caribbean hosted the first fitness session (Abs) under the theme *FirstCaribbean Wellness in Action* with Fitness instructor Keijah Edwards. *May 3, 2023.*
 27. HCC with CIBC First Caribbean hosted a Healthy Cooking Demonstration with food and beverage samples facilitated by Nutritionist Nicole Griffith and Natalie Griffith. *May 9, 2023.*

¹ Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Commonwealth of Dominica, Grenada, Republic of Haiti, Montserrat, Federation of St. Kitts and Nevis, St Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Commonwealth of The Bahamas, Barbados, Co-operative Republic of Guyana, Jamaica, Republic of Suriname, Republic of Trinidad and Tobago



28. The HCC was invited to present and as a guest of the Central Bank of Barbados' Caribbean Economic Forum show "Managing the Costs of an Economic Fall-Out From Non-communicable Diseases In the Caribbean. HCC VP Dr. Kenneth Connell represented the HCC. *May 10, 2023.*
29. HCC Communications Officer invited to be a member of the Vital Strategies Food Policy Program PR Taskforce. *May 11, 2023.*
30. The 40th Virtual Meeting of HCC Board of Directors. *May 16, 2023.*
31. HCC with CIBC First Caribbean hosted the second fitness session (Cardio and Strength Training) under the theme *FirstCaribbean Wellness in Action* with Fitness instructor Falicia Goodridge. *May 17, 2023.*
32. HCC Board Member, Laura Tucker Longworth elected to the **Board of Directors of the NCD Alliance** and as HCC Chairman, Sir Trevor, leaves the NCD Board having served two consecutive terms. *May 17, 2023.*
33. HCC Vice President Dr. Kenneth Connell attended the World Heart Federation's World Heart Summit 2023, which was held in Geneva, Switzerland, ahead of the 76th World Health Assembly. *May 19- 21, 2023.*
34. HCC Executive Director and Vice President Dr. Kenneth Connell attended the 76th World Health Assembly. *May 21- 30, 2023.*
 - a. HCC Vice President Dr. Kenneth Connell was a panelist on an **NCD Alliance Side event.**
 - b. HCC Executive Director and Vice President Dr. Kenneth Connell held a number of meetings in partnership with the NCD Alliance Team including with: the Barbados UN Ambassador in Geneva Matthew Wilson; the Jamaica Delegation led by the Honorable Minister of Health Dr. the Hon. Christopher Tufton; and the Delegation from Vanuatu.
35. HCC with the Caribbean Public Health Forum (CPHLF) published the report "**Vaping Among Adolescents and Youth in the Caribbean: Situation, Policy Responses, and Recommended Actions**". *June 9, 2023.*
36. HCC, PAHO and the CPHLF hosted a webinar, "Clearing the Air – Vaping and Youth in The Caribbean" to launch HCC's new report, "Vaping Among Adolescents and Youth in The Caribbean: Situation, Policy Responses, and Recommended Actions". *June 9, 2023.*
37. The Virtual Meeting of PLWNCs Advisory Committee Meeting. *June 6, 2023*
38. HCC with CIBC First Caribbean hosted the second fitness session (Cardio and Strength Training) under the theme *FirstCaribbean Wellness in Action* with Fitness instructor HCC AO, Danielle Walwyn. *June 13, June 27, July 11 2023.*
39. HCC and HCY in partnership with HSF, HFJ/JHAYA, JYAN and the Caribbean Regional Youth Council (CRYC) hosted a virtual youth forum titled the *Caribbean Youth Voices in Health Advocacy Spaces Youth Forum*. *June 8, 2023.*
40. HCC, NCD Alliance and SIDS CSOs released **An NCD Civil Society Response in Support of the 2023 Bridgetown Declaration The Moment for Caring in Small Island Developing States (SIDS) is Now** *June 13, 2023.*



41. HCC Executive Director presented at CARPHA webinar on the role of Diabetes Support Groups in Diabetes Management: Launch of the Diabetes Nutritional Management Toolkit Webinar. *June 13, 2023.*
42. Director of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), Dr Jarbas Barbosa met with the President of the Healthy Caribbean Coalition (HCC) and Executive Director to discuss the work being carried out under a Letter of Agreement with PAHO <https://www.paho.org/en/news/14-6-2023-paho-director-meets-healthy-caribbean-coalition-leadership>. *June 14, 2023.*
43. HCY wrote the article **“A Reflection on World Environment Day 2023: The Story of the Bottle Cap”** for World Environment Day 2023. *June 21, 2023.*
44. HCC’s President, Vice President, Executive Director and Communication Officer attended the **SIDS Ministerial Conference on NCDs and Mental Health**. *June 14-16, 2023.*
45. HCC held meetings with Ministers of Health and senior Ministry of Health policymakers at the Ministerial Conference on SIDS NCDs and Mental Health held in Barbados. *June 14-16, 2023.*
46. HCC President and Executive Director attended the **Launch of the 2023 Bridgetown Declaration on NCDs and Mental Health**. *June 23, 2023.*
47. HCC/HCY in partnership with HSFb, HFJ/JHAYA, JYAN and the Caribbean Regional Youth Council (CRYC) sent a letter to the CARICOM Secretariat ahead of the 45th Regular Meeting of the Conference of the Heads of Government. *June 27, 2023.*
48. HCC/ED Chair of the Caribbean Public Health Law Forum (CPHLF) July - December 2023. *July 2023.*
49. HCC/HCY received funding to begin the mapping of Mental Health and Psychosocial Support services and development of 12 Government Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Directories. *July 2023.*
50. The Healthy Caribbean Coalition (HCC) renewed its longstanding Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Sagicor Life Insurance for one year. *July 1, 2023.*
51. HCC published the report **“Advancing Universal Health Coverage in Caribbean Small Island Developing States – HCC Advocacy Priorities for the 2023 UN High-Level Meeting on Universal Health Coverage”**. *July 2023.*
52. The Virtual Meeting of PLWNCDs Advisory Committee Meeting. *July 4, 2023*
53. HCC with the support of the Pan American Health Organisation (PAHO) and the Global Health Advocacy Incubator (GHAi), hosted a regional meeting: **“Accelerating the removal of ultra-processed products from Caribbean schools”** at Courtyard Marriott Hotel, Bridgetown, Barbados. *July 4- 5, 2023.*
54. HCC with the support of the Pan American Health Organisation (PAHO) hosted a regional meeting: **“Mobilising for 2025 – A Caribbean Civil Society NCD Forum”** which brought together HCC member civil society organisations (CSOs) and key stakeholders to discuss non-communicable disease (NCD) (including mental, neurological and substance use disorders –



- prevention and control priorities at Courtyard Marriott Hotel, Bridgetown, Barbados. *July 6- 7, 2023.*
55. Healthy Caribbean Youth (HCY) had their first in person meeting with Barbadian HCY members focused on healthy food policy advocacy. *July 8, 2023.*
 56. The 41st Virtual Meeting of HCC Board of Directors. *July 24, 2023.*
 57. HCC, supported by the NCD Alliance, and with contributions from partners, the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), the Law & Health Research Unit (LHRU), Faculty of Law, UWI Cave Hill Campus and the Global Center for Legal Innovation on Food Environments, developed **“HCC Policy Brief: NCD Prevention and Control in the Caribbean Essential Considerations for Equity-Based and Rights-Based Approaches”**. *July 25, 2023.*
 58. Healthy Caribbean Youth (HCY) Quarter 3 meeting. *July 27 2023.*
 59. HCC held meetings with PAHO colleagues on the status of FOPWL voting across the region. *August to October 2023.*
 60. HCC, HCY, Let’s Unpack It, in collaboration with UNICEF Eastern Caribbean **launched a survey** to help inform the development of a Mental HEalth and Psychosocial Support Survey Directory. *23 August 2024.*
 61. The Virtual Meeting of PLWNCDs Advisory Committee Meeting. *August 1, 2023*
 62. The Virtual Meeting of PLWNCDs Advisory Committee Meeting. *August 8, 2023*
 63. HCC Sponsored the **“Caribbean Media Award for Print Journalism Under the Theme: Healthy Nutrition Food Policy”** at the Caribbean Broadcasting Union’s (CBU) 54th Annual General Assembly in Antigua & Barbuda. Mrs. Sheena Warner-Edwards, Communications Officer, represented HCC. *August 14- 16, 2023.*
 64. Mrs. Laura Tucker-Longworth, member of HCC Board of Directors, attended the PAHO Regional Committee Meeting and COHSOD meeting in Washington DC. *September 24- 29, 2023.*
 65. The Virtual Meeting of PLWNCDs Advisory Committee Meeting. *September 5, 2023*
 66. HCY wrote the article **“When the School Bell Rings- Sounding the Alarm About Conflicts of Interest in Caribbean School Food Environments”** for International Youth Day 2023. *September 14, 2023.*
 67. HCC AO and HCY Member Kerrie Barker participated in, Open Your Eyes, Belize Morning show to discuss the When the School Bell Rings paper.
 68. HCC Executive Director panelist on CARPHA Webinar *NCDs and Partnerships - the Caribbean Story* as part of the UNGA 78. *September 15, 2023.*
 69. The HCC partnered with CARPHA for their annual Caribbean Wellness Day Communication Campaign - Power Through Collective Action: The Care We need At Work; At School; At Home, along with the PAHO and CARICOM.
 70. HCC and its local civil society organisations and allies, orchestrated a regional **Call to Action for the Octagonal Front of Package Warning Labelling** across several CARICOM territories including Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, The Bahamas, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Jamaica, St. Lucia



- and St. Vincent and the Grenadines. Civil Society Organisations in St. Kitts and Nevis and Trinidad and Tobago supported the effort virtually. *September 19, 2023.*
71. HCC in collaboration with PAHO, CARPHA, UNICEF and the OECS Commission launched the **“Octagonal Warning Labels Help Consumers Act on Facts”** Campaign. *September 26, 2023.*
 72. The HCC through a knowledge-share meeting, was invited by the Ministry of Health and Wellness, Barbados and the Pan American Health Organization, Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean to share insights with the PAHO, Guyana and Ministry of Health, Guyana. *September 21, 2023.*
 73. The HCC through the Global Health Advocacy Incubator supported three (3) CSOs in advocacy and communication efforts in Belize, Grenada and Trinidad and Tobago in the development and execution of 5 week unique campaigns around the FOPWL Octagonal Warning Label. *September 12- November 7, 2023*
 74. HCC attended the 45th COHSOD and the PAHO 60th Directing Council both in DC which provided an opportunity to meet with Ministers of Health, Senior officials in CARICOM, CARPHA and PAHO. *September 22 - 29 2013.*
 75. The Virtual Meeting of PLWNCDs Advisory Committee Meeting. *October 3, 2023.*
 76. HCC, in partnership with PAHO, CARPHA, UNICEF and the OECS Commission hosted the webinar **“What Is Happening With Food Labels in CARICOM?”** *October 4, 2023.*
 77. HCC wrote an **Open Letter to the National Standards Bodies of CARICOM** in reference to the CARICOM Member State Voting on the Final Draft CARICOM Regional Standard for Specification for labeling of pre-packaged foods (FDCRS 5). *October 6, 2023.*
 78. HCC ED, participated in CARPHA Front-of-Package Nutrition Labels: Promoting Octagonal Warning Labels in CARICOM to support NCD Focal Points across CARICOM. *9th October, 2023.*
 79. HCC Advocacy Officer supported the development (member of the Advisory Group) and launch of the NCD Alliance Resource, **Policy Report - Selling a Sick Future: How to counter harmful commercial marketing towards children and young people across risk factors for noncommunicable diseases**, authored by NCD Alliance and Children in All Policies 2030 (CAP-2030) during the WHO Global Forum for Adolescents 2023. *October 11, 2023.*
 80. HCC AO presented at Lake Health and Wellbeing From Vision to Impact Event. *October 7, 2023.*
 81. HCC and HSFBS met with the Minister of Health to discuss MOH support for FOPWL. *October 10, 2023.*
 82. *Healthy Caribbean Youth Meeting Quarter 4, October 19, 2023.*
 83. The HCC supported the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Barbados in the launch of their multi-media campaign - “The Right to Information - Give Us Warning Labels”. *October 25, 2023.*
 - a. Sir Trevor Hassell, HCC President delivered opening remarks.
 84. HCC AO provided remarks during the Lake Health and Wellbeing Sweet Talk Symposium, coordinated by Caribbean Youth Voices in Health Advocacy Spaces Small Grant awardee Shyra Wattle. *October 25, 2023*



85. HCC Director Laura Tucker- Longsworth attended the in-person NCD Alliance Board meeting in London. *October 30, 2023.*
86. HCC Sagicor Life Inc collaboration on PSAs for Men’s Health November or Movember. *November 2023.*
87. HCC ED and AO attended the Bloomberg Philanthropies Food Programme Partners Meeting in NYC. *October 31- November 2, 2023.*
88. The Virtual Meeting of PLWNCDs Advisory Committee Meeting. *November 7, 2023.*
89. HCC with CIBC First Caribbean hosted the “Breast Cancer Awareness: Early Detection is the Best Prevention” Lunch and Learn Webinar. HCC Director Dr. Remy presented at the session. *November 16, 2023.*
90. HCC supported the 18th Annual Caribbean Child Research Conference (theme was "A safer planet for every child. Striving for a world where children's rights are respected, and their voices heard") through the coordination of two panels: *Empowered Voices for Change: Exploring the Right to Healthy School Environments*; and *Our Climate, Our Health, Our Voices - Exploring the Inextricable Links Between Health and Climate Change*. *29-30 November 2023.*
91. HCC hosted the **8th Annual Caribbean Alcohol Reduction Day (CARD 2023)** featuring a hybrid conference held in Trinidad entitled: Alcohol Research – Evidence for Action and led by HCC Alcohol Policy Advisor Professor Rohan Maharaj with the support of Consultant Dr. Stephanie Date. *December 1, 2023.*
92. HCC issues a **statement** on the passing of Dr. Carissa F. Etienne PAHO/WHO Director Emeritus, HCC Roundup. *December 3, 2023.*
93. **NCDs Are Killing the Caribbean - Podcast** *Featuring Executive Director of HCC* hosted by STRIVE. 5 December 2023.
94. Healthy Caribbean Youth (HCY) issued a **statement/note** in recognition of World Human Rights Day – Spotlighting Mental Health. *10 December 2023.*
95. HCC/HCY in partnership with Let’s Unpack It and UNICEF Eastern Caribbean held stakeholder consultations with government technical officers on the draft Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Directories developed. December 2023.

Global and Regional Advisory Roles Played by HCC Personnel and Board Members

1. Ronnie Bissessar
 - a. Board Member of the Inter-American Heart Foundation
 - b. Member of the World Heart Federation Advocacy Working Group
2. Dr. Christine Chin, Co-Chairman, Working Committee of Weight Stigma and Bias of World Obesity Federation (WOF)
3. Maisha Hutton
 - a. Chair of the Caribbean Public Health Law Forum.
 - b. Member of the NCD Child Governing Council.



- c. Member of the World Cancer Research Fund International (WCRF) PAG (Project Advisory Group).
4. Dr. Karen Sealey, Member of the Global Advisory Group, WOF
5. Laura Tucker Longworth Member of the Board of Directors of the NCD.
6. Danielle Walwyn
 - a. Member of the NCD Alliance Advisory Group for the development of a report on marketing of harmful commodities to children.
 - b. Member of the WOF World Obesity Day Committee
 - c. Member of the Working Committee of Weight Stigma and Bias of WOF.

For more information visit our website at www.healthycaribbean.org. or contact us at hcc@healthycaribbean.org.