Effective Substance Abuse Programming for Offenders: Outcomes from a Caribbean workshop

CICAD XXXVI Regular Session

Presented by:
Michael Tucker, Executive Director,
Jamaica National Council on Drug Abuse (NCDA)

Antecedents

Movements towards criminal justice reform in the Caribbean:

• Rising incarceration rates and limited prison capacity
• Increasing crimes related to drug use and drug involvement
• High recidivism of released offenders
• Alternative sentencing policies to address the health and social development needs of young and first-time offenders
• Recognizing the rehabilitative role that the correctional institution must assume
CICAD Focus

CICAD activities addressing substance abuse among offenders:

- CICAD treatment trainings have made a point of including corrections and law enforcement officers
- Support for alternative sentencing in Belize
- MEM Assistance projects to establish treatment programs for offenders: St. Vincent & Grenadines, Peru, Guatemala
- Repeated requests for assistance in this area
- Canadian interest to respond to this need

Offer made by Correctional Service of Canada (CSC) at CICAD XXXV to sponsor workshop

Participant Profile

- 35 High-level corrections/prison administrators, treatment specialists, and drug policy officials from 8 OAS member states and 2 U.K. Overseas Territories

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Barbados</th>
<th>Jamaica</th>
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<td>Belize</td>
<td>St. Kitts and Nevis</td>
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<td>Bermuda (U.K.)</td>
<td>St. Lucia</td>
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<td>Cayman Islands (U.K.)</td>
<td>St. Vincent and the Grenadines</td>
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Workshop sessions:

- Evidence-based offender treatment from CSC
- Caribbean research on substance abuse and offenders
- Existing program models in Canada, Barbados, St. Vincent, and other participating countries
- Mobilizing existing human and community resources to provide a continuum of services
- Group work to identify common challenges

Regional Recommendations:

Corrections Administrators
1. Outdated National Legislation and Prison Policy

Update national framework to mandate:
- Substance abuse programs
- Public health services
- Mental health services
- Education and Job skills development
- Therapeutic jurisprudence and restorative justice philosophies
- Drug court, Alternative sentencing

2. Dedicate Resources and Infrastructure

Set aside:
- Physical space - intake, residential units
- Human resources - designate personnel and train them
3. Re-integration/ Aftercare

**Strengthen support services to ex-inmates:**
- Existing community providers are under-utilized
- Improve referral process post-release
- Coordinate assistance with housing, employment, counseling
- Weakened by insufficient family involvement and support
  - Community must accept the inmates
- Monitor progress of released offenders – Probation/Parole structure important

Regional Recommendations:

Treatment Providers
1. Training

- Identify existing providers and relevant personnel
- Supporting officers + Train to administer substance abuse programs
- Bilateral exchange

2. Public Awareness

**Pervasive stigmatization:**

Public education and sensitization campaigns needed to increase acceptance of ex-offenders and drug treatment clients into jobs, families, social networks.
Regional
Recommendations:

Researchers

1. Research as Policy Tool

- Establish evidence base of impact of incarceration on criminal careers of drug offenders
- Research evidence informs † Policy † Legislation † Programs
- Identify obstacles to alternative forms of disposing of drug offenders
- Post-release monitoring helps measure program effectiveness
2. Standardized Regional Assessment

Needs Assessment of offender substance abuse trends:
- Is the first step in informing program design
- Must develop standard regional indicators for these local needs assessments
- Requires dialogue within the discipline, cross-agency, and with civil society

Regional Recommendations:
Drug Policy Officials
1. Political Sensitization

Educate policymakers and relevant corrections and health ministries about the need for therapeutic services

2. Formal Mechanism for Community & Gov’t. Partnerships

National policies for collaboration between expert service providers & key ministries:

- Health
- Nat’l. Security
- Education
- NGOs/CBOs
- Businesses
- Social Dev.
- Housing
- Family Services
- Faith- based
- Private sector
3. Balanced Supply-Demand Approach

Corrections policies should address both:

- drug supply within the facility
- substance abuse needs of offenders

Results on the National Level

Each country team:

- Determined Priority Areas for improving offender services
- Elaborated Action Plan and Next steps
## Priority Action Areas:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>COUNTRY</th>
<th>PRIORITY ACTION AREA</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Barbados</td>
<td>Continuation of the Inmate Drug Rehabilitation and Counseling Programme, an outpatient program with initial attendance twice weekly for individual, group, family and case management sessions. Next steps: Establishment of an After-care Secretariat.</td>
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<td>Belize</td>
<td>Use Cognitive-Behavioral model to make services available for the central correctional facility. Next step: Initial assessment through stakeholders meeting.</td>
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<td>Bermuda</td>
<td>Develop a collaborative approach linking residential treatment services to the Westgate Maximum Security facility and the minimum-security farm facility.</td>
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<td>Cayman Islands</td>
<td>Development of a Therapeutic Community at HMP Northward. Next steps: Develop criteria for comprehensive assessment; research instruments and delegate responsibility.</td>
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<td>Grenada</td>
<td>Expand Carlton House treatment program to the prison to cover male and female offenders. Next steps: Stakeholders meeting to decide what steps can be taken towards screening/assessment to identify substance abusers among offenders, both adult and youth. Set up a committee to oversee the process of initiating the provision of treatment services to offenders.</td>
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## Priority Action Areas (cont’d):

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<td>Jamaica</td>
<td>Target adult male offenders in for Minor Offences at the Tower Street Adult Correctional Centre (largest group of incarcerated drug abusers) for 6-month program. Next steps: To conduct a Situational Needs Analysis Survey by March 2005 and develop protocol and assessment tools.</td>
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<td>St. Kitts and Nevis</td>
<td>Target clients at the Prisons and the Juvenile Rehabilitation Centre, for outpatient and residential treatment using bio-psychosocial and cognitive-behavioral models. Next steps: Update mental health legislation and prison policies.</td>
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<td>St. Lucia</td>
<td>Utilize Turning Point, Probation and Parole, social workers, and Community Development Officers to establish programs in Bordelais Correctional Facility, Upton Girls, and Boys training center. Next steps: Needs assessment and develop SA policy for correctional facilities.</td>
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<td>St. Vincent and the Grenadines</td>
<td>Continuation of project already piloted with male inmates ages 16-25 with daily educational, cognitive behavioral, and relapse prevention components on a 9-month cycle. Next steps: Review existing forms/assessment tools, with a view to ensure that they are being used effectively.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trinidad and Tobago</td>
<td>Will focus on Maximum Security Prison (MSP) &amp; Youth Training Centre (YTC), using (1) Cognitive behavioral, (2) the spiritual-based on healing the gap of the masculine soul, and (3) 12 step – Character first models. Next steps: Using needs assessment to validate the choice of programs in-house or outsourced.</td>
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Next steps:

CICAD/OAS

- Disseminate workshop findings in English and Spanish to counterparts in all CICAD member states
- Maintain resource website and e-mail group
- Receive Caribbean proposals for multilateral projects in 2005
- Monitor progress in Caribbean member states
- Assess need in other Latin American member states
Workshop Participants

- Carry out first steps in Priority Action Plan
- Send update of country progress on Jan. 31 to be shared with other participants as periodic check-in
- Develop regional projects to assist country teams to achieve planned advances

Proposed future activities:

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<th>RECOMMENDATIONS:</th>
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<td>Increased use of alternative sentencing and community-based treatment</td>
<td>Model legislation and corrections policies which is updated to included mandates regarding substance abuse, personal development, rehabilitation, reinsertion, and health services provision</td>
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<td>Affordable high-level training for treatment and counseling providers</td>
<td>Specific manuals or guides for training in treatment techniques for offenders, or training courses.</td>
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<td>Training materials and sensitization courses at the national level for corrections administration, prison staff, and Probation and Parole.</td>
<td>Develop training curriculum and manual to sensitize corrections officers, and implement training workshops in participating states. Higher-level policy document to sensitize corrections and security policymakers.</td>
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<td>Greater information on offender drug use and treatment outcome research</td>
<td>Periodic follow-up to monitor progress of workshop participants</td>
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<td>Standardized intake assessment.</td>
<td>Establish resource website and e-mail group.</td>
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<td>Standard needs assessment.</td>
<td>Create model intake process and forms for the Caribbean.</td>
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<td>Develop offender-specific needs assessment research model and guide that could serve as a how-to for participating member states.</td>
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For more information:

Contact the CICAD
Demand Reduction Unit