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INTER-AMERICAN DRUG ABUSE CONTROL COMMISSION

cicad

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**THE HEALTH, ENFORCEMENT AND EDUCATION IN  
PARTNERSHIP (HEP) APPROACH FOR THE CARIBBEAN**

Workshop Summary:  
The Health, Enforcement and Education in Partnership (HEP) Approach  
for the Caribbean

**Fort-de-France, Martinique**  
**March 18-19, 2004**

## **I. BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES**

Canadian experience in community problem-solving on substance abuse issues has demonstrated the strength of collaborating across sectors that may have previously worked alone. Cross-sector collaboration is a problem-solving approach that can be adapted to a wide range of issues and cultures. The Health, Enforcement and Education in Partnership (HEP) program has been gaining ground in Canada for almost a decade, though it was not until last year that the member states of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) first had the opportunity to learn about this model for cooperative multi-sector participation on substance abuse issues. When HEP was presented to the Commission at its thirty-fourth regular session in Montreal in November 2003, Mr. Michel Perron of the Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse (CCSA) explained how HEP has enabled communities to develop more comprehensive responses to new drug trends by not simply balancing a supply-side initiative with a separate demand program – which is often the strategy in the national drug councils and is reinforced by the separate area units of the CICAD Secretariat. Moving beyond this, HEP instead utilizes diverse types of data, citizen inputs, and joint committees to create an integrated approach that at once comprehends the security, public health, and economic development concerns of a given drug situation.

The CCSA Secretariat, as the point agency for the HEP National Steering Committee, offered its expertise for a Caribbean training workshop to expose countries to the HEP model, with generous sponsorship from Foreign Affairs Canada (FAC, formerly DFAIT) and with CICAD administrative assistance. The French Interministerial Anti-Drug Training Center (CIFAD), located in Martinique, graciously agreed to host this event on March 18-19, 2004 to enable a group of addictions professionals, police and education officers and guest drug control representatives from various Caribbean countries to jointly examine HEP approaches for achieving fuller substance abuse policy and program responses in the sub-region. This two-day workshop was designed to provide participants with a sound knowledge of a model for addressing substance abuse issues within any jurisdiction.

## **II. PROCEEDINGS**

### **A. PARTICIPANTS**

Twenty high-ranking law enforcement, education and health officials from the following member states participated in this meeting: Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Haiti, Jamaica, the Federation of St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago, as well as the French territory of Martinique.

### **B. ORGANIZATION OF THE MEETING**

The sessions were designed and facilitated by two trainers selected by the CCSA for their experience with HEP – Michael Boyd, recently retired Toronto Police Chief and former co-chair of the CCSA HEP network, who was involved in the creation of the HEP program initially, and Mona Wynn, CCSA Community Mobilization Coordinator, who has been developing HEP partnerships through site visits to various provinces – as well as CCSA National HEP Policy Coordinator Karen Cumberland.

Sessions profiled the HEP approach to collaborative problem solving, aiming to provide participants with an opportunity to learn the nuts and bolts of collaboration through brief presentations, group discussions and small group

activities.

The content discussed during the workshop was supported through take-home written resources. Workshop participants were given the opportunity to consider the feasibility of the collaborative approach in their own communities and to strategize for overcoming potential local and regional barriers to collaboration.

### C. WORKING SESSIONS

In the opening session, facilitators provided a general overview of the form HEP takes and how it functions within the Canadian institutional and political structure, including example cases from different provinces.

Guest speaker Philippe Damie, Head of the Department of Health and Social Development in Martinique and Martinique's representative to the French National Drug Council (MILDT), provided information on the drug abuse situation in Martinique and his experiences as the local inter-ministerial coordinator for prevention activities.

Small group breakout sessions rehearsed the Problem Identification process in a HEP meeting whereby players identify the drug issues they want to focus on in their jurisdiction. Participants identified challenges and strategies which seemed particularly salient to them in the Caribbean for collaboratively determining to which drug problem(s) a partnership will respond.

The second day opened by examining the full set of players that should be considered when developing collaborative strategies at the national level, followed by exercises where small groups were given case scenarios where collaboration was faltering, based on local roadblocks participants had identified the previous day.

Country teams then briefly presented to share information on collaborative mechanisms finding success in their own jurisdiction.

Trainers then facilitated a discussion to determine steps that could be taken by the group in order to promote the growth of HEP-like practices at the regional level and in member states facing greater challenges for multi-sector collaboration.

## III. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Through this two-day workshop, it was established and agreed by all that each country in attendance has an understanding of the concept of collaboration that HEP promotes and is utilizing it at present in some format. However, all countries expressed an interest in using this opportunity to build on the concept of regional Caribbean collaboration and reinforce processes at home.

Participants proposed the following actions:

- To continue this work together in the form of CariHEP to (1) offer bilateral and regional assistance to promote HEP-like strategies, determine best practices and common problems faced in implementing multi-sector collaborative strategies domestically, via regular discussion questions posed through an e-mail list serve, communications, and follow-up meetings; (2) host site visits for other CariHEP members to observe existing projects which are successfully employing multiple sectors in a collaborative approach to take back lessons learned to their own countries; (3) to promote a multi-sector collaborative approach through involvement in current Caribbean regional-level drug policymaking efforts;
- That St. Vincent & The Grenadines, St. Lucia, and Belize each identify a pilot project they would like to implement using the HEP model, with CariHEP input and technical assistance, for submission to CCSA, CICAD and other stakeholders.

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## The Health, Education and Enforcement in Partnership (HEP) Approach for the Caribbean: Fort de France, Martinique, March 18-19

A presentation to the 35<sup>th</sup> Regular Session of CICAD,  
April 29<sup>th</sup>, Washington, D.C.

Karen Cumberland, National HEP Policy Coordinator, Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse.

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CICAD, Washington, D.C. April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2004

## Background on the HEP Workshop

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Three groups played a role in making this workshop a success:

- The Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse (CCSA)
- The Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD)
- Participating member countries:
  - Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Haiti, Jamaica, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Martinique, the Federation of St. Kitts and Nevis, and St. Lucia

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CICAD, Washington, D.C. April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2004

## Background on the HEP Workshop



CICAD, Washington, D.C. April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2004

## Original Workshop Objectives:

- The Canadian experience in community problem solving around substance abuse has demonstrated the strength of collaborating across sectors that may previously have worked alone.
- This presents a complete picture of a community's substance abuse problems and solutions.
- Moreover, cross-sector collaboration is a problem-solving approach that can be adapted in a wide range of issues and cultures.
- This two day workshop was designed to provide participants with the rationale for the HEP model and a process for group problem solving through brief presentations, group discussions and small group activities.

CICAD, Washington, D.C. April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2004

## Workshop In Action:



CICAD, Washington, D.C. April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2004

## Workshop Outcome Number 1:

### CariHEP - Bilateral and Regional Collaboration to Promote HEP-like Strategies

- The delegate from the Federation of St. Kitts and Nevis, has volunteered to lead the CariHEP project.
- Each country can propose a Set of Actions for collaboration within a determined time period (suggested April-May-June 2004) including the following:
  - Identification of target issues or areas for improvement, specifying technical or material resources that would assist them in this effort;
- Site visits for CariHEP members to observe existing projects which are successfully employing multiple sectors in a collaborative implementation;
- Create a list serve through which CariHEP members can ask each other questions, share suggestions in response to difficulties, and over time assemble "best practices" and extend the work of the countries that are already collaborating;
- CariHEP group agreed to collaborate with CCSA and Canadian HEP initiatives to share roadblocks and experiences in order to capitalize on differences and commonalities.

CICAD, Washington, D.C. April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2004

## Workshop Outcome Number 2:

### HEP-Caribbean Local Pilot Models:

Specific activities will be developed in identified countries to begin utilizing HEP-like processes to resolve existing drug issues. These will heed HEP techniques, as well as elements of each country's existing strategic plans, the recommendations of the MEM, and the principles of the CARICOM Regional Strategic Framework.

**St. Vincent and the Grenadines** offered to serve as the first pilot site for a Caribbean-appropriate HEP project. The group agreed to use the steps in the first road block exercise of the workshop to develop a HEP St. Vincent and the Grenadines, with technical assistance from the Federation of St. Kitts and Nevis, the Bahamas, CCSA, CICAD, and other CariHEP members.

**St. Lucia** also seeks to serve as a pilot site, and has initiated its CariHEP work with an anti-nicotene collaborative team. Given similar issues and the geographical proximity to St. Vincent and the Grenadines, they plan to productively partner for technical training seminars and other activities.

**Belize** has also asked to be involved, and was encouraged to conceive of a project within the scope of HEP that could be implemented. It will be possible to incorporate other interested countries as well.

CICAD, Washington, D.C. April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2004

## Workshop Outcome Number 3:

### Lessons Learned Meeting

- **Initiate a follow-up meeting to:**
  - Determine what has been accomplished in the initial period and what techniques have been most effective thus far;
  - Identify a formative evaluation method for this process for the CariHEP group, so that the group is able to create a training manual as they go along;
  - Specify next steps in pilot countries and on the regional level (through CARICOM and other organizations such as the Association of Caribbean Commissioners of Police).

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## Workshop Outcome Number 4:

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### Caribbean Regional Strategic Planning for Drug Demand Reduction

- The CariHEP group agreed they have a role to play in promoting a multi-disciplinary and collaborative approach to policies and program strategies being planned on the regional level in the Caribbean.

**By the end of the next quarter (June 31st), it is proposed to have:**

- Elaborated preliminary plans for developing small-scale HEP pilots in St. Vincent and the Grenadines and St. Lucia. Within this they will also propose a way for Canada and the CCSA to continue working with them.
- Elaborated preliminary plans for a pilot activity in Belize which will build on the above experiences.

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CICAD, Washington, D.C. April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2004

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CICAD, Washington, D.C. April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2004