



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES

ST. AUGUSTINE, TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO, WEST INDIES

FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

HEU, CENTRE FOR HEALTH ECONOMICS

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November 10th, 2014

RE: Debriefing Note on Presentations and Discussions at the 9th Caribbean Conference on National Health Financing Initiatives (CCNHF19) held at Magdalena Grand Beach and Golf Resort, Tobago, November 4—6, 2014.

1. Background:--

Following the decision of Heads of Caribbean Social Security Organizations in Belize City, 2005 to establish a forum for building capacity in designing-managing national health financing initiatives (NHFIs), the 9th Conference was convened at the Magdalena Grand Beach and Golf Resort in Tobago from November 4—6, 2014. This followed similar Conferences in Turks and Caicos Islands (2006); Aruba (2007); Trinidad and Tobago (2008); St. Maarten (2009); Belize (2010), Bermuda (2011); Curacao (2012) and Jamaica (2013).

2. Objectives:--

The overall objectives of the Conferences are to share knowledge, increase understanding, test ideas, enhance national expertise and deepen regional collaboration in designing and managing national health financing initiatives. In keeping with previous conferences which selected some specific issues for deeper analysis, the 9th Conference focused attention on Results-based Financing of Chronic Diseases and Efficiency Imperatives in Health.

3. Host:--

The Conference was hosted by the HEU, Centre for Health Economics, The University of the West Indies (UWI), St. Augustine Campus, Trinidad and Tobago. Collaborative partners included the Tobago House of Assembly (THA) and the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA).

4. Planning Team:--

The Conference planning team included the Director and staff members of the HEU, Centre for Health Economics and was headed by Dr. Stanley Lalta.

5. Participation:--

The meeting attracted more than 86 full-time participants from 18 countries and 14 organizations. Participants included:--

- senior officers in Caribbean Social Security Organizations;
- senior managers from Ministries of Health;
- senior officers from national/social health financing plans;
- representatives of local and international organizations in financing, health insurance, actuarial science and health services management;
- representatives of universities and health consulting firms;
- representatives of ICT firms.

6. Program Content:--

a) Opening Session

Chaired by Ms. Christine Laptiste of the HEU, the Opening Session was attended by more than 100 persons including participants, as well as specially invited guests of the Tobago House of Assembly and the local community. Following an invocation by Pastor Anthony Roberts, participants were welcomed by Professor Karl Theodore, Director of the HEU, Centre for Health Economics.

Dr. Glennis Andall-Brereton brought greetings on behalf of the Director of CARPHA, Dr. James Hospedales and Assemblyman Mrs. Claudia Groome-Duke, Secretary of the Division of Health and Social Services of the THA addressed participants on her expectations of the Conference.

Mr. Hamid O'Brien expressed best wishes for a successful Conference on behalf of the Honorable Minister of Health of Trinidad and Tobago, Dr. Fuad Khan.

The Honorable Mr. Orville London, Chief Secretary of the THA, in his address welcomed participants to Tobago, emphasized the importance of getting health financing systems right and formally declared the Conference open.

In keeping with the overall theme of the Conferences, Honorable Dr. Ralph Gonsalves, Prime Minister of St. Vincent and the Grenadines delivered the feature address on 'Securing Universal Health Coverage: Social and Political Considerations'. He reminded participants that since the goal was quality affordable care for all, there must be rigorous attention to resource constraints and social values in small countries. He also stressed that the hospital should not be the 'centre-piece of the health system' and the importance of value for money, public expectations and accountability in universal health financing plans.

The Vote of Thanks was delivered by Mr. Errol Simms, Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences, UWI.

b) Sessional Thematic Presentations and Feature Papers

These included:--

- Strengthening Universal Health Coverage to Reduce the Burden of Chronic Diseases—Dr. Karen Sealey (International Health Consultant);
- Re-thinking the Role of Social Health Insurance in Universal Health Coverage—Dr. Christine Lao Pena (World Bank);
- Cost Analysis and Efficiency in Health: Lessons of Experience—Ms. Christine Laptiste and Mrs. Patricia Edwards-Westcott (HEU, Centre for Health Economics);
- Ebola as a Threat to Caribbean Health and Development—Dr. Anton Cumberbatch and Dr. Stanley Lalta (HEU, Centre for Health Economics);
- NCDs: Burden, Interventions and Expected Outcomes—Dr. James Hospedales (CARPHA);
- Results-based Financing of NCDs: Conceptual Framework and Best Practices—Dr. Carmen Carpio and Dr. Carla Pantanali (World Bank);
- Special presentations on Ebola Disease by Dr. James Hospedales (CARPHA) and Dr. Enis Baris (World Bank).

c) Panel Discussions

There were seven (7) Panels discussing the following matters:--

- **Panel 1: Updates from countries with fully functional NHFI's**—Aruba (Dr. Lex De Jong, AZV); Belize (Dr. Natalia Rodriguez, National Health Insurance Plan); Bermuda (Mr. Calvin White, Health Insurance Department); and Jamaica (Mr. Aubrey Blair, National Health Fund).
- **Panel 2: Further updates from countries with fully functional NHFI's**—Curacao (Ms. Janine Constansia-Kook, Ministry of Health); St. Kitts and Nevis (Mr. Elvin Bailey, Social Security Board); Suriname (Ms. Sandra Sijem, Ministry of Health); and Turks and Caicos Islands (Ms. Zaneta Adderley-Burton, National Health Insurance Plan).

- **Panel 3: Updates from countries planning or restructuring NHHI's**—Virgin Islands (Ms. Kishma Baronville, Social Security Board); Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba (Ms. Elisa Boekhorst, ZVK); and St. Lucia (Ms. Xysta Edmund, Ministry of Health).

- **Panel 4: Case Studies of Results-based Financing of NCDs**—Bahamas (Dr. Delon Brennen, Ministry of Health); Belize (Dr. Ramon Figueroa, Ministry of Health); Dominica (Dr. Charlotte Jeremy-Cuffy, Ministry of Health); and St. Lucia (Ms. Xysta Edmund, Ministry of Health).

- **Panel 5: Financing Agencies and Management of NCDs**—Aruba (Dr. Lex De Jong, AZV); Bermuda (Mr. Calvin White, Health Insurance Department); Cayman Islands (Dr. Elizabeth McLaughlin, Ministry of Health); and Suriname (Ms. Wendy Telgt Emanuelson, Ministry of Health).

- **Panel 6: Efficiency Imperatives in Health Interventions and Financing**—
 - Ms. Merredeth Curie (AZV, Aruba)—Quality First, Savings Later: Policy Effects in Physical Therapy and Medical Referrals in Aruba;
 - Dr. Javier Asin (ACSION Inc.)—Revisiting Value-based Health Care;
 - Dr. Cecil White (University Hospital of the West Indies, Jamaica)—Hospital Efficiency: Challenges and Feasible Solutions;
 - Mr. Howard Cimring (Morneau Shepell Inc.)—Efficiencies in Managing Care for the Elderly: Actuarial and Business Perspectives; and
 - Mr. Granville Gayle (National Health Fund, Jamaica)—Optimising Business Intelligence Applications in Health.

- **Panel 7: Expert Review and Commentary on Presentations at Conference**—Dr. Claudia Pescetto of the Pan American Health Organisation; Ms. Tawanna Wedderburn of the Bermuda Health Council and Mr. Jasper Barnett of the Ministry of Health, Jamaica.

d) Overall Progress since First Meeting:--

This involved a review of activities and progress over the nine (9) Conferences (Turks and Caicos Islands, 2006; Aruba, 2007; Trinidad and Tobago, 2008; St Maarten, 2009; Belize, 2010; Bermuda, 2011; Curacao, 2012; Jamaica, 2013 and Tobago, 2014) by the Program Coordinator, Dr. Stanley Lalta. Based on the perspective of the overall objectives outlined by heads of SSO's in Belize in 2005, Dr Lalta highlighted matters pertaining to participation, key topics covered, expertise identified and issues identified by participants for further consideration.

e) Other Presentations:--

At the Cocktail Reception on the evening of the first day, Conference participants were addressed by Ms. Karen Gopaul, Acting Executive Director of the National Insurance Board of Trinidad and Tobago. At the Dinner and Cultural Evening on the second day, Mr. Martin Franklin, Department of Economics, UWI, read out a prepared statement of expectations and good wishes to participants on behalf of Professor Clement Sankat, Pro Vice Chancellor and Principal of the St. Augustine Campus of The UWI.

f) Closing Session:--

Professor Karl Theodore brought the Conference proceedings to a close by stressing the significance of targeted policy-oriented research and regional collaboration in getting health financing right especially in small countries with limited resources and narrow margins for error. He prodded participants to continue emphasis on universal health coverage solutions with a view to enhancing health and quality of life for all rather than for a few.

7. Decisions:--

The meeting agreed:

- a) To review all papers and country progress since the first Conference with a view to preparing a policy document on approaching and administering health financing initiatives;
- b) To consider issues related to regional procurement of health services and supplies; design of essential health services packages; results of Results-based Financing Initiatives of NCDs and private health insurance coverage in subsequent meetings;
- c) To continue the format since the 3rd meeting with broad-based participation from representatives of Social Security Organisations, Ministries of Health and other local and international organizations;
- d) To give more emphasis to discussions centred on 'solutions' and 'what else can be done' compared to 'issues' and 'what is the status quo'; and
- e) To accept the offer of the Social Security Board of the Virgin Islands (UK) to host the 10th Conference.

8. Acknowledgements:--

The Conference thanked the Tobago House of Assembly, the Caribbean Public Health Agency and the various sponsors (National Insurance Board of Trinidad and Tobago; Ministry of Health of Trinidad and Tobago; Morneau Shepell Inc; 800 MEDSTAR Ltd; Fundación Cardiovascular of Colombia and Jackson Memorial Hospital). Special tribute was paid to Dr. Stanley Lalta and the

dedicated team of officers from the HEU, Centre for Health Economics for their roles in handling all Conference arrangements and participants' expectations.

9. Access to Documents:--

Presentations made at the conference may be accessed by downloads from the Conference website (www.sta.uwi.edu/conferences/14/healthfinancing/).

10. Queries and Recommendations for Future Action:--

Queries on information pertaining to previous conferences and recommendations for future action may be directed to the Program Coordinator, Dr. Stanley Lalta (Stanley.lalta@sta.uwi.edu or stanleylalta@gmail.com).

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Karl Theodore', written over a horizontal dotted line.

Karl Theodore (Professor)
Director