

November 3, 2015

RE: Debriefing Note on Presentations and Discussions at the 10th Caribbean Conference on National Health Financing Initiatives (CCNHF1'10) held at The Palms Resort, Providenciales, Turks and Caicos Islands, October 28—30, 2015..

1. Background:--

Heads of Caribbean Social Security Organizations, meeting in Belize City, 2005 decided to establish a Conference or forum for activities to build capacity in designing-managing national health financing initiatives (NHFIs).. Following Conferences in Turks and Caicos Islands (2006); Aruba (2007); Trinidad and Tobago (2008); St. Maarten (2009); Belize (2010), Bermuda (2011); Curacao (2012); Jamaica (2013) and Trinidad and Tobago (2014), the 10th Conference was convened at The Palms Resort in Turks and Caicos Islands from October 28—30, 2015.

2. Objectives:--

The overall objectives of these 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 10th Conference focused attention on Health Financing--Preparing for the Next Decade, 2015-2025. .

3. Host:--

The Conference was hosted by the National Health Insurance Board of Turks and Caicos Islands with support from the Office of the Premier and the HEU, Centre for Health Economics, The University of the West Indies (UWI), St. Augustine Campus, Trinidad and Tobago.

4. Planning Team:--

The Conference planning team included the Chief Executive Officer—Ms Zaneta Burton-- and staff members of the NHIB. They were supported by Dr. Stanley Lalta of the HEU, Centre for Health Economics.

5. Participation:--

The meeting attracted more than 90 full-time participants from 22 countries and 11 organizations. Participants included:--

- Ministers of Health;
- 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. Barbara Ambrister of the NHIB, the Opening Session was attended by more than 100 persons including participants and specially invited guests of the government, public and private sectors from the Turks and Caicos Islands. Following the Trooping of the Flags by the Cadet Corps and singing of the National Anthem by Mrs. Angel Taylor, Pastor Wayde Coleby invoked God's blessings on the Conference's proceedings.

Mr. Drexel Seymour, Chairman of the National Health Insurance Board welcomed participants. This was followed by greetings from Professor Karl Theodore of the HEU, Centre for Health Economics as the host of the 9th Conference; Ms. Antoinette Skelton of the Social Security Board of the Virgin Islands (UK) and Conference Program Coordinator, Dr Stanley Lalta. The Honorable Mr. Washington Misick, Minister of Finance, Trade and Investments brought remarks on behalf of the government of the Turks and Caicos Islands.

The formal address was delivered by The Honorable Dr Rufus Ewing, Premier and Minister of Health, Human Services and Agriculture. He emphasized the importance of health partnerships and getting health financing right as countries prepare for the next decade of health challenges and opportunities. He then formally declared the Conference open.

The Vote of Thanks was offered by Ms. Zaneta Burton, Chief Executive Officer of the National Health Insurance Board.

b) Sessional Thematic Presentations and Feature Papers

These included:--

- Policy Imperatives for Sustainable Health Financing in the Caribbean—Professor Karl Theodore (Director, HEU, Centre for Health Economics);
- Social Health Insurance in Latin America: Preparing to Meet the Challenges of the Next Decade --Dr. Leonel Flores (Director, Centre for Social Security Studies, Mexico);
- National Health Insurance in Turks and Caicos Islands: Performance Assessment and Lessons for the Future—Ms. Zaneta Burton (CEO, National Health Insurance Board);
- Progress and Challenges with Securing Universal Health Access and Coverage—Ms. Claudia Pescetto (PAHO);
- Progress and Challenges with Results-based Financing of NCDs—Dr Daniel Dulitzky (World Bank);
- Lessons from Strengthening Health Outcomes Thru' Private Sector Interaction—Ms. Sharon Nakhimovsky and Ms. Kylie Graf (Abt Associates) and Dr Stanley Lalta (HEU, Centre for Health Economics);
- Efficient Re-insurance Management of Health Claims Portfolios –Mr. Howard Cimring (Morneau Shepell).

c) Panel Discussions

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

- **Panel 1: Special Papers on Caribbean Health Financing: Progress, Pitfalls and Progress:-**
 - Getting Caribbean Health Systems Right for Securing Universal Health Coverage—Mr. Raphael Barrett (Consultant, Jamaica);
 - Optimizing the Roles of Ministries of Health and Social Security Organizations—Dr Ramon Figueroa (Director of Health, Belize) whose paper was presented by Dr George Gough and Ms. Alexis Rosado;
 - Progress and Prospects in the Dutch-speaking Countries—Mr. Rudolfo Croes (Consultant, Aruba).

- **Panel 2: Special Papers on National Health Financing: Planning and Implementation Experience and Preparing for the Next Decade—**
 - * Belize (Dr Natalia Rodriguez, National Health Insurance Plan);
 - * Bermuda (Mr. Calvin White, Health Insurance Department);
 - * Aruba (Dr Lex de Jong, General Health Insurance);
 - * Jamaica (Mr. Everton Anderson, National Health Fund).

- **Panel 3: Special Policymakers Forum on Caribbean Health Financing Challenges: Perspectives from Policymakers—**
 - * Turks and Caicos Is. (Hon. Dr Rufus Ewing, Premier and Minister of Health);
 - * British Virgin Is. (Hon. Mr. Ronnie Skelton, Minister of Health);
 - * Jamaica (Dr Kevin Harvey, representative of the Hon. Fenton Fergusson, Minister of Health);

* Belize (Dr George Gough, Policy Advisor).

➤ **Panel 4: Efficiency Measures in Managing Overseas Care Referrals –**

- * Turks and Caicos Is (Dr Hamlet Nation, National Health insurance Board);
- * St Maarten (Dr Javier Asin on behalf of Ms Fenna Arnell, Department of Public Health);
- * Aruba (Dr Lex de Jong, AZV);
- * Colombia (Ms Sandra Charry on behalf of Dr Victor Castillo of Fundacion Cardiovascular, FCV);

➤ **Panel 5: Determinants of and Preparations for the Future of Health and Health Financing, 2015—2025—**

- * Epidemiological Trends and the Future Burden of Disease in the Caribbean--Dr James Hospedales of the Caribbean Public Health Agency (with presentation on his behalf by Dr Anton Cumberbatch);
- * Technological Innovations and Drivers of the Future of Health Care--Dr Javier Asin of ACSION Consultants;
- * Socio-economic Determinants of the Future of Health and Health Financing-- HEU, Centre for Health Economics;
- * Future of Health and Medical Care: Service Delivery and Management Modalities-- Mr. James Cercone of SANIGEST Consultants.

➤ **Panel 6: Optimizing Public-Private Partnerships in Health**

- International Best Practices with PPP's in Health--Ms. Carmen Carpio (World Bank);
- PPP's: Performance and Lessons from the Partnered Care Approach--Dr Dr. Conville Brown (Medical Pavilion of Bahamas);
- Case Study: PPP in Hospital Infrastructure and Management in the Turks and Caicos Islands--Mr. John Hyland (InterHealth Canada).

➤ **Panel 7: Expert Review and Commentary on Presentations at Conference—**

- * Mr. Derek Osborne (Consultant Actuary, Morneau Shepell);
- * Ms Etoile Pinder (Consultant, SANIGEST);
- * Mr. Kennedy Roberts (Associate Professor, St George's University);
- * Mr. Charlton McFarlane (Health Economist, Ministry of Health, Jamaica).

d) Overall Progress since First Meeting:--

Dr Stanley Lalta, Program Coordinator, presented a review of activities and progress over the ten (10) Conferences (Turks and Caicos Islands, 2006; Aruba, 2007; Trinidad and Tobago, 2008; St Maarten, 2009; Belize, 2010; Bermuda, 2011; Curacao, 2012; Jamaica, 2013; Trinidad and Tobago, 2014; Turks and Caicos Islands, 2015).

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 Sponsors' Lunctime Sessions, Conference participants were addressed on the first day by Dr Kester Nedd of the JIPA Network and on the second day by Dr Theodore Feldman of Baptist Hospital.

At the Dinner and Cultural Evening on the third night, participants were addressed by the Premier, Hon. Dr Rufus Ewing. In addition, recognition was given to host coordinators for all previous Conferences as well as awards were handed out to individuals and institutions participating or presenting at most Conferences.

7. Decisions:--

The Conference agreed:

- a) To review the approach towards discussions by requesting country/institutional presenters to focus on the 'good, the bad and the ugly sides' of their financing initiatives rather than the 'good' only;
- b) To make provisions for more debate-style sessions dedicated to open and frank brainstorming of solutions to issues and challenges;
- c) To include representatives of Ministries of Finance among those invited to participate in the Conferences;
- d) To give attention to non-NHI mechanisms among health financing-pooling options for Universal Health Coverage and to 'debt-health swaps' and 'indirect resource generation' through focus on social determinants of health;
- e) To accept the offer of the Health Insurance Office of Bonaire to host the 11th Conference.

8. Acknowledgements:--

The Conference thanked the hosts--Office of the Premier as well as the CEO and team of the National Health Insurance Board for their careful attention to details and excellence in all

arrangements for the Conference. Special tribute was also paid to Dr. Stanley Lalta for his dedicated efforts towards coordination and convening of the Conferences over the past ten (10) years.

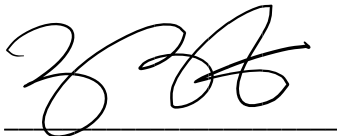
9. Access to Documents:--

Presentations made at the Conference may be accessed by downloads from the Conference website (www.nhficf2015.tc).

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) or to Ms Charmaine Metivier at the HEU, Centre for Health Economics (charmaine.metivier@sta.uwi.edu) or the HEU Office (Phone 1 868 662 9459 or 1 868 645 7351).

Sincerely,



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