

**12th Caribbean Conference on
National Health Financing Initiatives
October 8-10, 201
Paramaribo, Suriname**

Summary of Conference Presentations

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Agenda

- Overall impression of Presentations
- New ideas and initiatives
- Best Practices
- Proposed areas to be examined

Overall impression of Presentations:

- It was evident that the presentations were done with great passion
- Region has been considering HFR for over 30 years – Reform takes time & should not be rushed
- Several countries now have many years of experience since implementation and others can learn from that experience
- Many presentations looked at the current situation but we need to spend more time looking at the implementation of initiatives to address the problems

Overall impression of Presentations:

- Need for improved communication among different sectors
- The importance of using the SDG's as the path that must be taken, especially SDG 3.8
- There must be a greater focus on prevention to ensure less persons use our hospitals
- We must change the paradigm from Sick care to Health care
- Differences in availability of resources among countries must be acknowledged
- Need to build resilience to address the impact of natural disasters
- Bad communication causes 90% of problems

Overall impression of Presentations:

- We should have a champion for the cause of health reform
- The importance of dialogue with our health workers, especially the doctors.
- Health financing reform must be an integral part of more comprehensive health care reform
- Must become more familiar with current programs and initiatives in the region to benefit more from them (PAHO, CARPHA etc)

Overall impression of Presentations:

- NHA is an important activity to provide data on sources, management and use of health resources. Integral part of reform process
- Need to understand the reasons for huge Out of Pocket spending & how to reduce it
- Most money is spent on Hospitals and not enough spent on Prevention

New ideas and initiatives:

- Countries should pay closer attention to mental health issues, especially in children
- We must pay more attention to the use of technology in our Health Financing Reform as the digital the economy advances
- We must take a life course approach in addressing the needs of different segments of the population, taking into consideration their socio economic background
- There is a new regional approach to addressing NCD's in the Caribbean

New ideas and initiatives:

- To reverse the trend of NCD's, we have to focus on primary prevention, (the implementation of Comprehensive School Health Programs), secondary prevention (screening) and tertiary prevention (management & control of those with the disease) with particular focus on those in the 30-70 years age group (PPS 25% of budget)
- The social emotional learning program started in Antigua must be expanded throughout the region. More action, less talk
- Start implementation of Financing Reform and incrementally make improvements

Best Practices:

- The uniqueness of each country must be taken into consideration
- Using Universal Health Access and Coverage as the context of Health Reform, ensuring that we look at the entire population
- Early involvement of all stakeholders, especially communities in genuine consultation
- Have discussion around the Collection of Revenue, Pooling of funds and Purchasing of services

Best Practices:

- A comprehensive, inter-sectoral approach is critical to advancing HFR. Health in All policies
- Primary, secondary and tertiary prevention must be emphasized. NCD's
- OECS PPS has shown the benefits of collaboration and other countries need to be involved
- We should aspire to using more evidence based decision making
- Room for greater collaboration among countries, sharing of specialists/professionals.

Proposed areas to be examined:

- Investing in the Social Determinants of Health is not a luxury, it is essential
- Challenges resulting from partisan political initiatives and the effect on implementation
- Better understand how to navigating through the politics in getting things done
- We must emphasize the Solidarity Principle: We are each other's keeper.
- The need for greater public/private partnerships

Proposed areas to be examined:

- Include a symposium format in CCNHFI to facilitate deeper discussions & develop best practice recommendations
- Rationalization of existing facilities and services delivered in Public Health Sector and strategies to improve the quality of care
- The role of alternative medicine in our health system should be examined
- Greater collaboration among Academic departments & Institutions in region (UWI HPSR)

- The beneficiaries of the broken health system will be reluctant to change it

- We cannot assume that what we know and take for granted is understood by all

- If we do the same old thing, the same old way, then we should expect the same old results