Caribbean Public Health Agency

Preventing disease
Promoting and protecting health
The Agency

• Merger of five (5) previous regional health institutions
  – Caribbean Environmental Health Institute (CEHI)
  – Caribbean Epidemiology Centre (CAREC)
  – Caribbean Food and Nutrition Institute (CFNI)
  – Caribbean Health Research Council (CHRC)
  – Caribbean Regional Drug Testing Laboratory (CRDTL)

• An institution of the CARICOM Community

• Established by Inter-Governmental Agreement, signed in July 2011 by Heads of State
Its Development

• Heads of Government in 2002 instructed the review of the 5 RHIs to identify ways to improve governance and achieve greater efficiency and synergies.

• A number of consultant reports as well as regional and national stakeholder meetings.

• After reviewing various models, decision to join the five institutions and create a brand new Agency.
  • To also address critical public health services not previously covered e.g. health response to emergencies.
Governance of CARPHA

- **COHSOD of Health Ministers**
  - Main governing body

- **Executive Board**
  - reports to the COHSOD
  - Comprises Ministers (4), CMOs (2), PS (2), CCS, PAHO

- **Technical Advisory Committee**
  - CMOs (6), Caribbean Universities (1), partner public health agencies (3)
Member Countries

• Anguilla,
• Antigua & Barbuda,
• Aruba,
• Bahamas,
• Barbados,
• Belize,
• Bermuda,
• BES Islands (Bonaire, Saba & St. Eustatius),
• British Virgin Islands,
• Cayman Islands,
• Curacao

• Dominica
• Grenada
• Haiti
• Guyana
• Jamaica
• Montserrat
• St. Kitts & Nevis
• St. Maarten
• St. Vincent & the Grenadines
• Suriname
• Trinidad & Tobago
• Turks & Caicos Is
Its Purpose

• To work with countries and other stakeholders to:
  – Improve well-being & socio-economic development
  – More effective coordination of resources
  – Respond to burden of CDs and NCDs
  – Enhance public health response to disease outbreaks, natural disasters and emergencies
  – Reduce economic impact of disease outbreaks

• Increased productivity through healthy workforce

• Healthy regional environment
Our Mission

To provide strategic direction in analysing, defining and responding to public health priorities of CARICOM, in order to prevent disease, promote health and respond to public health emergencies.
Our Functions

• Leadership in public health
• Information, education and communication
• Research, policy development and evaluation
• Laboratory reference and referral services
• Surveillance and health analysis
• Health promotion
• Human resources development and training
• Strategic planning and resource mobilization
• Monitoring relevant global agreements
• Health emergency preparedness and response
Our Priorities

- Non-Communicable Diseases and Obesity
- Infectious diseases, including HIV/AIDS
- International Health Regulations
- Injuries and Violence
- Environmental Health
- Tourism and Health
ORGANOGRAM

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Executive Director

Office of the Executive Director Support

Director, Corporate Services

Director, Surveillance, Disease Prevention and Control

Director, Research, Training and Policy Development

Unit Manager, Environmental Health and Environmental Management

Unit Manager Resource Mobilization and Partnerships

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Unit Manager, Environmental Health and Environmental Management

- Environmental Emergency Response
- Emerging Public Health Threats and Horizon Scanning
- Environmental Health and Environmental Management
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Research at CARPHA

• Policy developed and adopted by the CARPHA Board
• All CHRC functions (and staff) included
  – Advise Governments and other stakeholders on research for health and on M&E matters
  – Strengthen health research and M&E systems
  – Build and strengthen national and regional M&E systems
  – Sharing of Region’s scientific outputs
  – Facilitate the development of evidence-based health policy
  – Facilitate evidence based practice
  – Develop national and regional capacity in health research and M&E

• New functions
  » Research Ethics Committee
Clinical Guidelines

• Process
  – Need identified by CMOs
  – Guidelines Committees comprising regional experts
  – Drafts reviewed by MOH, professional associations
  – Launched and disseminated
  – Follow up?

• Types
  – Pocket editions (DM, Hypertension, Asthma)
  – Patient (Asthma)
Managing Diabetes in Primary Care in the Caribbean
Managing Depression
In Primary Care in the Caribbean
Managing Diabetes in Primary Care in the Caribbean

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Management of CARPHA

• Executive Management Team
  – Executive Director – James Hospedales
  – Deputy Executive Director – Donald Simeon
  – Director of Corporate Services – Jenner Caprice
  – Director of Surveillance – Babatunde Olowokure

• Department Management Team
  – Department managers
CARPHA Headquarters

- Trinidad and Tobago Government has committed to hosting CARPHA
- Structure being designed
- Drug Testing Lab to remain in Jamaica
- Environmental health remains in St Lucia until headquarters built
Current Situation at CARPHA

- Started operations from January 1, 2013 on 4 campuses (in T&T, St Lucia and Jamaica)
- Started to fulfill mandate
  - Provision of services
    - E.g. outbreak investigations
  - Annual Research Conference
    - Over 200 delegates
    - Research to Policy meeting on Childhood Obesity
  - To develop Strategic Plan
- Building partnerships
  - Such as Caribbean Branch of US Cochrane Center, UWI, etc.
Looking Forward

• Many challenges
  – Five institutions into one
  – Staffing and funding constraints, etc.
• Expectations are high
• Great interest by many partners
• Success depends on stakeholders making their contributions
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