

## **Caribbean Public Health Agency**

### **Monthly Bulletin<sup>1</sup>**

**No. 10: December 2009**



The convening of the 6<sup>th</sup> CARPHA Steering Committee in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, was the main activity for the period since the publication of the last Bulletin. In that period, the draft preliminary report on the costing and transition plan for CARPHA was also completed.

#### **Highlights of 6<sup>th</sup> CARPHA Steering Committee Meeting**

The 6<sup>th</sup> CARPHA Steering Committee Meeting was convened in Trinidad and Tobago, on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> of December. The main objective of this Meeting was to review and discuss the draft preliminary report on the costing and transition plan for CARPHA. In this regard, the Consultants from TDV International Inc. made a presentation on the Context and Objectives, Assumptions, Cost Estimates, Transition Strategy and the way forward for CARPHA.

Issues were raised with respect to the proposed staffing, in relation to what currently exists within the RHI's. Of equal concern were queries related to the process for transitioning activities from the RHI's to CARPHA; in particular the prioritisation of activities within the new structure, staff relocation and the proposed timelines. The costing methodology was also discussed, as well as the need for additional work in presenting the costs for three CARPHA scenarios; as previously promised. After these matters were discussed, the Meeting supported the proposed implementation phases of CARPHA, including transition, establishment, consolidation and collocation.

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<sup>1</sup> This and previous bulletins may be found on the CARICOM and PAHO websites: [www.caricom.org](http://www.caricom.org) and [www.paho.org](http://www.paho.org)



Finally, it was agreed that the consultants would prepare a revised document, incorporating recommendations from the meeting, as well as additional information which is to be provided by the RHI Directors. This document is expected to be ready by the 15<sup>th</sup> December 2009; it will then be circulated to the members of the Steering Committee, Special Advisory Group and other stakeholders for comments; which are expected to be submitted by the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2010. A Final document will then be prepared for a Special COHSOD to be held 22<sup>nd</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> January 2010.

The Members of the Steering Committee were also given an update on the implementation of the social marketing strategy, and of progress being made in preparation for the proposed donors meeting



### **Presentation by Minister Narace**

Minister Narace, the Minister of Health of Trinidad and Tobago, made a special presentation on CARPHA; at the recently held Steering Committee meeting. In attendance for his presentation were Minister Ramsammy and Ministers Inniss, Waterberg, Peters; who were invited by the CARICOM Secretariat to attend, as members of the Bureau of Health Ministers.

Minister Narace stated categorically that the Government of his country would mobilize the funds for the construction of CARPHA's Headquarters. This would be done in conjunction with the construction of that country's National Public Health Laboratory. He indicated that a site for CARPHA had been identified and that it would be constructed in three modules; administrative, laboratory and technical services. It was made clear that the Government of Trinidad and Tobago would provide accommodation for the administrative team during the Transition Period.

### **Social marketing Strategy**

Mr. Christopher Lawrence has been recruited by the CARICOM Secretariat, to develop a CARPHA website; as agreed to at the Ministerial Caucus in September this year and mentioned in the last Bulletin. In addition with the continued assistance of the UK Department of Health, an individual from the UK Social Marketing Centre has been identified to work with the Project Manager, in implementing the Social marketing strategy commencing in January 2010.



### **Partners Engagement Plan**

An introductory outline document on CARPHA titled “Investing in Health for Sustainable Development in CARICOM”; has been sent to the donor agencies, which were previously identified and endorsed at the 5<sup>th</sup> Steering Committee meeting. They have been informed of our intention to hold a Partners’ Meeting next year, and more detailed documents will be sent to them once the details of the costing have been finalized.

Since the final costing report will not be ready until the latter part of January, it was agreed at the last Steering Committee meeting, that the partners meeting should now take place in March 2010 and not February as previously planned.

### **Upcoming Activities**

- Special COHSOD, to discuss Final costing and Transition Plan reports, will be held in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago 22<sup>nd</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> January 2010.
- CARPHA steering Committee and Special Advisory Group Meeting 21 January, 2010

On behalf of the CARPHA Project management Team, I wish you a Blessed Christmas and Best Wishes for 2010.

Dr. Jerome X. Walcott  
Project Manager CARPHA

