

Caribbean Public Health Agency

Monthly Bulletin

February 2009

At the beginning of February, discussions were held with representatives of the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) to follow-up on their offer; made at Steering Committee Meeting in Barbados, 16-17 January, 2009 to assist with the baseline costing of the RHI's. Directly as a result of this, a baseline costing of CAREC commenced on the 16th February. The exercise is being executed by TDV Global Inc., whose services have been retained by PHAC.

This baseline costing exercise will entail the collection and analysis of information from CAREC, which includes historical budgetary expenditure, personnel and capabilities, equipment inventory and facilities. The draft final report is expected to be completed and submitted by the 12th March 2009. This process will then be repeated at the other RHI's as a prerequisite for the overall costing of the new functions and structure of CARPHA.

Also in early February The CARICOM Secretariat was formally invited by the Public Health Agency of Canada, to submit a proposal for Grant Funding to support the establishment of CARPHA under their Innovation Strategy—Population Health Fund. Discussions between Dr Edward Greene Assistant Secretary General and the official at PHAC clarified the procedures for the Grant. Consequently, Dr Jerome Walcott, Project Manager, CARPHA prepared the proposal for assistance for strengthening the Project Management Team and for the costing exercise in the sum of approximately CDN\$ 400,000. The proposal explained the need for the Project management team to be strengthened by the inclusion of a variety of consultants; to assist with the costing and the development of an integrated management framework, which will address the legal, personnel and administrative issues that are likely to arise, in the establishment of CARPHA. A copy of the Project Document has been circulated to the members of the Steering Committee and the Advisory Group

Meanwhile the Project Manager has almost completed an updated version of the document “The Establishment of The Caribbean Public Health Agency” based on feed back from the Directors of the RHIs The document will incorporate the decisions and recommendations of the expanded Steering Committee Meeting; held in Barbados in January.

Discussions have been initiated with the Department of Health of the United Kingdom on the possibility of their support for a scoping exercise that would provide a framework for the governance arrangements and for an information, education and communication strategy for the CARPHA transition process.

Preliminary discussions via teleconference took place among The CARICOM Secretariat, CEHI and CCCCC on the complementary and overlapping activities between CEHI and CCCCC with a view to ascertaining how best to rationalize activities between the environment and climate change within CARPHA agenda.

It was also agreed that Ministers of health will take the opportunity of meetings at WHA in Geneva in May 2009 and COHSOD in early June to accelerate the completion of the agenda in time for presentation of the recommended options and overall costs of CARPHA

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