

# The Health Provider

A Publication of the National Family Planning Board

## Editorial

Our ability to bring to your attention the work of the organisation in conjunction with partner agencies, toward the achievement of sexual and reproductive health goals is a privilege. By way of this issue of the Health Provider newsletter we again have a platform to update health care workers, like yourself, on the progress of projects and programmes that are in line with the integration

thrust of the organization and its work such as the **Every Caribbean Woman Every Caribbean Child pilot initiative**; the pilot of the electronic poster in the Western region; the renaming of the National HIV-related Discrimination Reporting and Redress System (NHDRRS).

World AIDS Day was again a success and highlights are provided from the

reading of the proclamation, the church service and the arts, wellness and health fair at Emancipation Park. The success also extended to our involvement in the Midwives Conference and the presentation of research on female sterilization.

Enjoy!

## Seamless integration of FP and SRH mandate

Efforts continued in the reporting period to bring prominence to the integration of the family planning and the STI/HIV/AIDS programmes, providing the population with a comprehensive suite of services. Advocates key to the success of the NFPB's efforts are the Public Health Nurses, Midwives and Registered nurses. Some 41 health care providers in St. James were exposed to the message of dual method use in a capacity building workshop that covered pregnancy prevention, contraceptive methods

and managing the side effects, future trends in contraception and HIV/STI. The integration of the two programmes is best demonstrated by the marriage of a method to prevent pregnancy and another to prevent the spread of sexually transmitted infections or HIV – dual method use.

Additionally, Treatment Site Audits were completed in collaboration with the MOH Treatment Care and Support (TCS) Unit at the Mandeville Comprehensive Health Centre,

Black River Health Centre, Chapelton Hospital and May Pen Health Centre. Aspects of the health centre were checked for consistency between treatment and care guidelines and services being offered to clients. Interviewed were members of the care team - the doctor, lab technician, adherence counsellor, contact investigator and social worker. Patients' dockets were also checked to see if services such as pap smears, prostate check and family planning were offered to them. The outcomes and recommendations from the audit will be

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In response to the need to educate patients at health centres and facilities on their rights and conversely their responsibilities a Client Charter of Rights and Responsibilities e-Poster was developed by the NFPB for display on large screen monitors in select pilot WRHA health centers and facilities. Information on the MOH Complaint Management System was incorporated in the video production and serves to increase the accountability of health care workers .

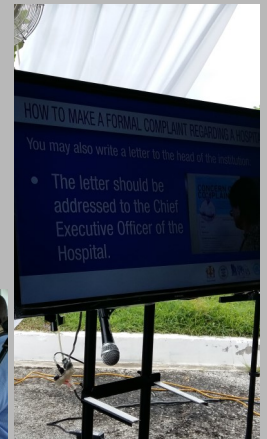
The Cornwall Regional Hospital, Mount Salem, Montego Bay, St. James was the chosen site for the launch ceremony for a digital electronic poster designed to increase awareness of the Client Charter of Rights and Responsibilities of the Western Regional Health Authority. The event was hosted on Thursday October 26 .

In his remarks, Acting Executive Director of the NFPB, Joseph Reynolds said “It is our desire that all persons who access services at the health facilities within the Western Regional Health Authority, are fully aware of their rights and responsibilities, and that there are means for redress in the event that a client’s rights have been violated. As this is a pilot project, it is also our hope that its success will pave the way for role out to the other Regional Health Authorities .

This E-Poster outlines how clients are to be treated in the healthcare setting, their entitlements, responsibilities as clients, and the quality of services they should demand. It was designed to be understood by all and is accessible to all, including persons who are visually or hearing impaired. Clients are expected to, among other responsibilities, provide accurate and correct information, follow instructions given by healthcare workers, conduct themselves in an orderly manner and show respect to health facility staff and other clients at all times.

Financial support for the implementation of the pilot relating to the development of the electronic poster was provided by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

## E-Poster launched in Western Health Region



*The handover of five (5) 39" smart TVs (monitors) to the parish representatives of the Western Region*

It was felt that improved awareness among clients of their rights and responsibilities will auger well for enhanced service provision by gatekeepers. Practical, informative, and educational the electronic format material will cater to both literate and low-literate users of public health facilities.

## REDRESS SYSTEM REBRANDED



Jamaica Anti –Discrimination System for HIV (JADS) is the new and shorter name for the former National HIV-related Discrimination Reporting and Redress System (NHDRRS). Easy to pronounce and an easily remembered acronym, it is anticipated that there will be increased awareness of JADS among participants in general which should result in increased demand for its services.

This national mechanism is headed by the Jamaican Network of Seropositives and guided by a Steering Committee of governmental, international development partners (IDPs), and civil society organisations (CSOs). During the quarter, the third of four Redress Consultations was held with 116 stakeholders from multi-sector organisations. The consultation, held in collaboration with the Jamaican Network of Seropositives (JN+), was used to launch the rebranded NHDRRS which was overhauled following the identification of a new name and the updating of the System's documentation processes to include the revision of the Complaint Intake Form.

The call for a new name was answered by numerous entrants in a competition that was opened to members of the public, and which culminated on November 10, 2017. The renamed NHDRRS was launched along with a Report and Redress Directory. The initiative was in partnership with the National Family Planning Board, Ministry of Labour & Social Security, Ministry of Health, and Jamaica AIDS Support for Life. It was also sponsored by the AIDS Healthcare Foundation (AHF), NCB Foundation, and Jamaica Teas.



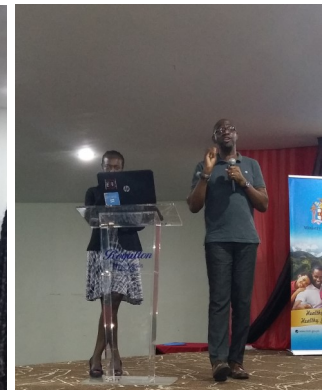
## RESEARCH INTO FEMALE STERILISATION

Key to being positioned as the main advocate or lead for family planning and RH practices is the agency's ability to conduct important and in instances, cutting edge research. An invitation from the Jamaica Midwives' Association resulted in an appearance at the Midwife Conference to share the findings from the NFPB's article, entitled, *The Incidence of Female Sterilization in a Selected Public Hospital in Jamaica*. The key findings were:

- \* In Jamaica, the majority of women who accept sterilization as a long-acting method is of age 31 years on average.
- \* Those who had sterilisation earlier than 30 years were more likely to regret decision.
- \* Sterilisation is mainly accepted by approximately 10% women in Jamaica
- \* Those who received counselling prior, were less likely to regret the sterilisation method.
- \* There has been dissatisfaction with sterilisation was associated with low education level, and being in common law union.
- \* There is common resistant to sterilisation are age, fear of complication, relationship insecurities, and uncertainty about the desire to have children in the future
- \* The average number of live births for women accepting sterilisation was 4.3



## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 2017 ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE HIV PROGRAMME 22-24 NOVEMBER, TRELAWNY, JAMAICA.



Feedback on the performance of the integration process was provided at the Annual Review of the HIV programme held November 22-24, 2017. Under the National Integrated Strategic Plan (NISP) for Sexual and Reproductive Health 2014-2019 each of the technical areas was reviewed by consultant Elizabeth Lloyd. The methodology adopted included key informant interviews, document reviews and reports to the Evaluation Oversight Committee. The next quarter's issue of the Health Provider will provide you with programme recommendations.







# CHOOSE 2:



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(CONTRACEPTIVE INJECTION)

(CONDOM)

## PREVENT PREGNANCY AND STIs

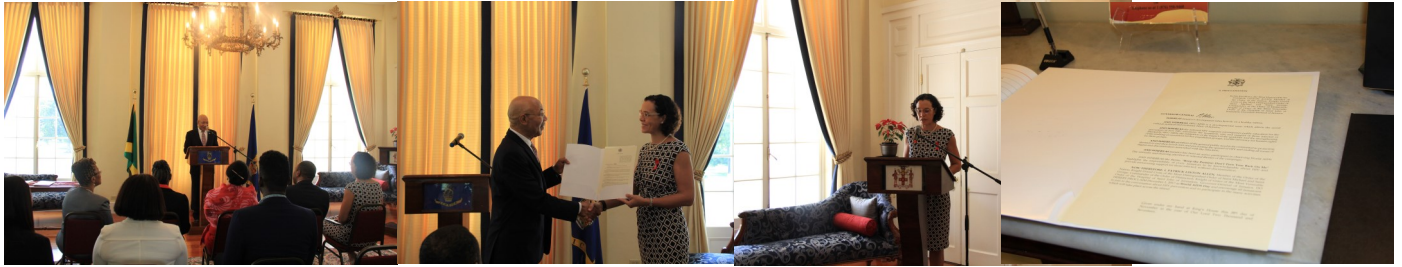


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FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

## WORLD AIDS DAY 2017—THE PROCLAMATION AND THE LAUNCH CEREMONY



- “...the theme “Keep the Promise: Don’t turn your back on me” highlights the responsibility of every Jamaican to be knowledgeable about HIV and provide unwavering support for those affected, without discrimination and encourages Jamaicans to join in the conversation about HIV prevention.”
- HJs Excellency the Most Honourable Sir Patrick Linton Allen, Governor General of Jamaica at the Reading of the Proclamation of World AIDS Day, November 28, 2017.



- “Adolescents and young adults are at the increased risk of HIV due to the many developmental, psychological, social and structural transitions that converge in this period of their lives. In addition adolescent deaths result from HIV continue to rise despite declines in other age groups. As a society, we must do more to stop new HIV infections and untimely HIV related deaths through both primary and secondary prevention and better management approaches.
- Hon. Dr. Christopher Tufton, Minister of Health, World AIDS Day Press Launch, November 16, 2017.

- “At the National Family Planning Board, we recognize the need for our youth to be actively involved in the HIV response and to be knowledgeable and concerned about their own sexual and reproductive health. The statistics show that our young people, especially those within the 15-29 age group, form one of the most vulnerable groups and in recent studies, demonstrated the highest increase in new HIV infections. As a result, each year, we attempt to get the youth more involved in this commemorative day...
- Dr. Dana Morris Dixon, Chairperson, NFPB, World AIDS Day Press Launch, November 16, 2017.



## WORLD AIDS DAY 2017—THE ARTS, HEALTH AND WELLNESS FAIR



With some 29,000 of our brothers and sisters living with HIV, some 15 per cent are still unaware of their status. This represents an improvement on the statistic of only five years ago where 34,000 persons were estimated to be living with HIV, and 50 per cent were unaware. The gains in the local programme are directly contributed to the improvements made in information, education, service provision including access to health care professionals and testing. Not to be understated is the technical and financial assistance provided by international donors over many years.

The media, health care advocates and peers have spread the word and given a voice to the elements that need to be tackled so as to create positive changes in the HIV targets.

***“We have the right to health, Keep the Promise: Don’t turn your back on me”*** was promoted as the theme for World AIDS Day 2017 by the NFPB in collaboration with the AIDS Healthcare Foundation (AHF). In keeping with that right to health, Emancipation Park exploded with health care services—HIV and Syphilis tests, contraceptives, counselling, blood pressure, blood sugar tests and more. This was preceded by a march from Mandela Park in Half-Way-Tree to Emancipation Park.

Promoted as Arts, Health and Wellness in the Park the ten finalists in the World AIDS Day Song and Visual Arts Competitions, as well as performers the Tivoli Dance Troupe, Devin Di Dakta, Kukudoo, Short Boss, Touriss and Jasmine added to the entertainment. partner agencies added to the atmosphere by mounting displays around the park to apprise visitors of their prod-

## Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health

Equipping girls with knowledge and skills to negotiate safer sex makes the difference between illiteracy and literacy; poverty or potential wealth; dependency or independence; and death or life. The better the decision-making made by girls, the better their life chances to be successful, contributing members of society. The reality is that the majority of girls who become pregnant in school are forced to abort their education and are only able to secure low paying jobs.

The National Family Planning

Board continued its crusade to improve the life chances of young girls through the promotion of responsible behaviour in its various interventions.— addressing the I'm Glad I'm A Girl Foundation Forum for International Day of the Girl Child on October 11; and students of the Women's Centre of Jamaica Foundation (WCJF). The adolescent population reached in the month comprised 30 emancipated minors at the WCJF in a presentation describing Condom negotiation, Sexual negotiations and GBV, as well as 18 persons

with disabilities at the National Youth Service- Persons with Disability Empowerment Workshop explaining contraceptives and STIs. The population was reached indirectly via a Parenting Workshop for former participants (and their partners) of the UN Women project in St. Thomas. Topics discussed were partner communication, Co-parenting, contraceptive methods, HIV/ AIDS and STIs.







# DO YOU HAVE A CONCERN OR COMPLAINT?



If you are unhappy with a health service provider or the care received at this facility, it is important that you talk about it with the **Complaint Handling Representative** in this facility.



**Your Local Contact is:**

**Title:**

**Email:**

**Telephone:**

## **Things You Should Know:**

- Anyone can lodge a concern or complaint.
- Complaints are handled confidentially.
- A complaint can also be lodged anonymously.
- Complaints will be handled in the shortest possible time.

If you are not satisfied, call or visit the responsible Regional Health Authority or the **Ministry of Health's Investigation & Enforcement Branch** for more information.

communicated in an upcoming meeting with the health centre's staff members.

The latest batch of seventy-four (74) Healthcare Professionals (Public Health Nurses, Midwives and Registered Nurses) in Hanover, Trelawny and St. Ann participated in training sessions that addressed contraceptive methods, dual method use and behaviour change. From April 2017 to date a total of 415 health care workers have been trained, surpassing the year's target of training 390 healthcare workers.

In addition to the training of healthcare workers three (3) parenting workshops were held reaching 95 parents in the communities of Allman Town, Parade Gardens and Rose Gardens.

These communities were selected based on research done by the SDC which found that parents in the aforementioned communities lacked the skill to speak with their children about sexual and reproductive health issues.

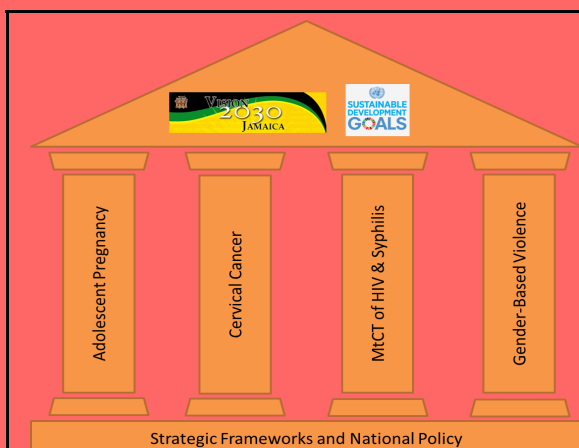
A partnership was forged with the SDC and CDA to identify parents who would benefit most from training. The topics covered in the sessions included; HIV and STIs, contraceptive use, parenting style, discipline and communication. To date, a series of 8 parenting workshop have been held reaching 245 parents .



National Family Planning Board  
5 Sylvan Avenue,  
Kingston 5  
Phone: (876)968-1632  
Fax: (876)968-1626  
Email: dthomas2@jnfpb.org

## Every Caribbean Woman Every Caribbean Child pilot initiative

The Every Caribbean Woman Every Caribbean Child pilot initiative continues among the NFPB (steered by the Director, MER Unit), the Planning Institute of Jamaica, the Honourable Juliet Holness and other key stakeholders of the CARIWAC Steering Committee. Of the four strategic framework and national policy areas indicated in the Figure below, the NFPB was charged to lead on Adolescent Pregnancy.



The following deliverables have been made so far:

- Inception Report
- Work plan
- Guiding Strategy Framework document for CARIWAC
- Draft Systems Framework and Strategy Utilizing the Ecological Model, Life-Course and Settings Approaches