

Heart and Stroke Foundation of Barbados Presidents Report 2009

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

3rd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

HEART & STROKE FOUNDATION OF BARBADOS INC.

Held at the Foundation's headquarters

#3 Railway view, Ladymeade Gardens, Jemmotts Lane, St. Michael, Barbados

On Thursday April 16th 2009

Members of the Board of Directors, Members of the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Barbados, Other Invited Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen – good evening and welcome to the third annual general meeting of the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Barbados. For those coming to these annual meetings for many years, a gentle reminder that this is the third meeting since we added cerebrovascular disease, (i.e. Stroke) to our sphere of interest.

Tonight I am pleased to be in the position to indicate that we continue to play an active and important role in the battle against heart disease and stroke and in this report I shall proceed to outline our successes and those areas where we have not yet met our goals. To outline this I shall do so based on our various subdivisions and programmes.

Firstly I shall look at the Cardiovascular Diseases Prevention and Rehabilitation Programme. This slight change in name was suggested because of the decision to extend the programme to include patients with a stroke (a vascular disease). This programme has had some challenges during the previous year: Dr. Hemant Boolani, the previous Medical Director relocated to the United States in order to advance his professional development and the programme was thus without a medical director for several months. We made several attempts to rectify this problem and after a short hiatus volunteer physicians Dr. Tracey Carmichael, Dr. Winston Batson and others gave of their time and expertise to allow us to restart treadmill testing and thereby the enrolment of new patients into the programme. We have since identified a suitable and appropriate person to assume the role of Medical Director and administrative issues are in the final stages to allow him to finally take up this position. The physician identified is Dr. Harley Moseley III; a specialist in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation and thus by training and experience a suitable and well-qualified person to assume this position. I believe that the CDP&R programme should now only grow from strength to strength.

The CDP&R programme showed growth in the last year. To accommodate our clients, new gym days were introduced on Tuesdays and Thursdays from May 2008. There were one hundred and eighteen admissions to the programme which represents an increase from the previous year. Referrals were received from all physicians currently registered in Barbados and recognized as specialists in either cardiovascular diseases or neurology.

In April 2008 we officially admitted our first stroke patients into the programme and I would like to, at this point, thank Ms. Nicola Yarde – a volunteer physiotherapist for assisting at that point with the exercise prescription and volunteer personal trainers Owen McCollin and Jamie Harrison for their assistance in the programme.

Staff members in the programme were the recipients of training from Pat Comoss who started the process in February 2008 and returned in October 2008 to provide additional training.

For many years admission treadmill testing into the CDP&R was performed on a pro bono basis by Ms Terese Gloumeau of Cardiac Technical Services – this exercise was stopped in February of last year because we at the Heart & Stoke Foundation acquired our own equipment to perform these tests: I would like to thank Ms. Gloumeau for her many years of voluntary service to the Heart and Stroke Foundation – this is the kind of long term voluntarism on which not for profit organizations such as ourselves depend: to often today persons are unwilling to give of their time or expertise unless there is a monetary return involved.

I would like to register our appreciation and thank Lasco (Barbados) Limited and the Barbados Community Fund for their continued support of our Programme.

The ECC programme has also shown growth. Courses were held in Heart Savers, Basic Life Support, Advanced Cardiac Life Support and Paediatric Advanced Life Support and a significant increase in the number of courses held and persons trained was seen.

An in depth analysis of the various Departments of the Foundation are to be found in the Directors and Trustees Report that is included with the Audited Financial Statements.

Since our last AGM a partnership of 4 Caribbean NGOs, The Heart Foundation of Jamaica, Heart & Stroke Foundation of Barbados, Trinidad and Tobago Cancer Society and the Guyana Chest Society received a grant from the Bloomberg Global initiative to ensure the implementation of internationally accepted rotating picture based warning labels on tobacco packages and on 17th June 2008 , Mr. Wayne Hunte joined the staff of the HSFBS , as project Officer, Tobacco control, to implement the Barbados component of this project.

Mr. Hunte has been very active, and the most recent project conducted by him on behalf of the Foundation was a highly successful “No Tobacco Media Workshop”. Prof. Hassell, our Founding President and one of our Directors made several observations at that workshop which though made in his personal capacity bear repeating this evening since they reflect the policy positions of the Heart & Stroke Foundation. Firstly, Prof Hassell congratulated the Government for increasing the taxes on cigarette products, and the removal of duty free concessions on all tobacco products at ports of entry. He then went on to indicate that there was a need for the Government of Barbados to enact legislation to:

- ban smoking in public places,
- ensure that warning labels on tobacco products meet international standards,
- prohibit cigarette advertising at point of sale, and
- ban sale of tobacco products to minors.

Prof Hassell then highlighted some inappropriate local responses to the clandestine smoking lobby being conducted by the tobacco industry. These have included meetings between senior policy makers and representatives of the tobacco industry, the quoting of inaccurate health information by supporters of the tobacco industry such as “exposure to cigar smoke is not as harmful as exposure to cigarette smoke”, and the treatment of the marketing and sale of tobacco products by the local and Caribbean Standards Bureaus as they would any other product. In my role as President I would like to report to you members of the HSFBS the strong resolve of the leadership of the Foundation to continue efforts at ensuring that citizens, residents and visitors to this country enjoy a smoke free environment.

During the last year the Heart and Stoke Foundation co-hosted a Caribbean Civil Society lead Conference titled “Healthy Caribbean 2008 – a wellness revolution conference”. This was held on the 16-18th October 2008 in Barbados and from all reports was a resounding success. Professor Trevor Hassell was the Conference Coordinator and other major sponsors were the InterAmerican Heart Foundation, Pan American Health Organization, Caribbean Development Bank and from the Government of Barbados the Ministry of Health, National Insurance and Social Security and the National Chronic Non-Communicable Chronic Diseases Commission. Arising from this conference was a second one held on the 6-7th March 2009 – Active Caribbean Workshop 2009. Both conferences resulted in good presentations and a meaningful exchange of information and ideas. Arising from the Healthy Caribbean 2008 conference was a Declaration titled “Caribbean Civil Society Bridgetown Declaration: Tackling the Caribbean Epidemic of Chronic Diseases”. This Declaration and

presentations from both conferences can be viewed at the web site www.healthycaribbean.org.

During the last year we have had some resignations from the board of Directors: Mr. Terrence Mahon resigned in June 2008 and Ms Sonia Connell in January 2009 – both indicated that personal and professional commitments prevented their continuation in the role of a director. Mr. Humphrey Metzgen was brought on to the Board in October 2008 to serve until this AGM. The Nominations Committee has met and proposals for the Board of Directors have been put forward.

At this time I would like to mention two retirements one imminent and the other to occur later this year. Firstly Dr. Rowena Ahyee-Hallsworth will be retiring from the Board this evening and more will be said of this later; I would like however to thank her at this time for the years of exemplary service to the Foundation as a Director as well as the Chair of the Emergency Cardiac Care (ECC) Programme. Secondly, this coming year will see the retirement of Mr. Adrian Randall as the CEO of the Heart and Stroke Foundation. Under his stewardship our organization has grown and matured. I will like to thank him in advance for his stellar contribution to our body and wish him future success, satisfaction and enjoyment of and in his further undertakings. Mr. Randall was of significant assistance during my year as the president of this organization. I believe that he will always have a place here with us and we hope his interaction and contribution to the Foundation that he helped develop will not end at retirement. Some or most of you will have noticed advertisements in the news media for a CEO to replace Mr. Randall at his retirement: this process is near completion and your future new CEO will shortly be announced.

Mr. Randall could not have achieved his successes without the input and assistance from Mrs. Randall in her role as secretary to the Board of Directors. She too will retire in September of this year and I would wish to express to her the gratitude of the Board for her sterling contributions to the programmes and activities of the Heart and Stroke Foundation.

I have been your president for the last one year and I would have had significant challenges were it not for the experience and assistance of both our past presidents especially that of the immediate past president Mr. Drurard Symmonds. I would like to thank you both very much for your guidance, encouragement and support.

Ladies and Gentlemen I bring this report to a close and at this point I would like to thank all our volunteers and staff for their continued efforts and support of the goals of the Heart and Stroke Foundation and for their continued future input.

Thank you

Dr. Stephen Moe



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