



GOVERNMENT OF BERMUDA

Department for National Drug Control

Report of the 2020 Annual Meeting of the

BERMUDA DRUG INFORMATION NETWORK (BerDIN)

FACILITATOR

Dr. Kyla Raynor

BerDIN Coordinator &

Senior Research Officer/Policy Analyst, DNDC

VENUE & DATE

Bermuda Underwater
Exploration Institute (BUEI)

6th November, 2020



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Participants at the 2020 Annual Meeting of the Bermuda Drug Information Network (BerDIN), Hamilton Princess.

The 2020 Annual Meeting of the Bermuda Drug Information Network (BerDIN) was held on the 6th of November, 2020 in the Tradewinds Auditorium of the Bermuda Underwater Exploration Institute (BUEI).

Representation

A list of meeting participants is in **Annex I** to this Report.

CALL TO ORDER & WELCOME

Fredericka Brangman, a BerDIN Member who represented the Department of Child and Family Services, called the meeting to order and extended a welcome to the meeting's participants and invited guests.

Housekeeping matters were also conveyed.

OPENING REMARKS

Mrs. Gina Hurst-Maybury, Acting Permanent Secretary (PS) of the Ministry of Legal Affairs, brought Opening Remarks to the meeting and highlighted the 10th year of the BerDIN publication. She noted the vital role of the BerDIN within the health and social service systems to help better understand the trends associated with addiction, prevention, treatment, rehabilitation, and drug

interdiction. PS Hurst-Maybury highlighted some of the challenges ahead and called for continued dialogue that can lead to ensuring a harmonized approach among all agencies present at the meeting is taken when addressing substance treatment for children and families in Bermuda. She concluded her remarks by thanking the DNDC staff for their work and appealing to the audience to make BerDIN remarkable by accomplishing the things it sets out to achieve and wished the Network every success in its deliberations.

Following the Opening Remarks, the meeting was officially declared open by Permanent Secretary Gina Hurst-Maybury.

INTRODUCTION

Participants were reminded of the meeting's objectives by **Mr. Anthony Santucci**, Executive Director, CADA; who also informed the participants of the meeting's objectives: to update the BerDIN members on the current drug situation; to provide a forum for dialogue on drug-related special interest topics; and to enhance the well-being of the BerDIN members through team building activities and wellness presentations.

In the interest of keeping the agenda items as scheduled, participants were then asked to briefly introduce themselves (name and department he/she represented) for the benefit of all persons present at the meeting.

Procedural Matters

The meeting determined its hours of work.

Adoption of Agenda

The Agenda, as adopted by the meeting, is in **Annex II** to this Report.

PRESENTATIONS

Update on the Drug Situation in Bermuda

The meeting received a presentation from **Dr. Kyla Raynor**, BerDIN Coordinator and Senior Research Officer/Policy Analyst of the DNDC, on the current drug situation in Bermuda. Dr. Raynor provided a snapshot of Bermuda's drug situation as presented within the 2020 Annual Report of the BerDIN. The BerDIN's ten-year accomplishments were highlighted as the members were thanked for their continual support. She spoke about the unchanging drug situation with alcohol and marijuana being the drugs of choice; and a conversation was had on the prevalence of marijuana between youth and adults, along with the amount of school suspensions for drug violations.

Information was presented indicating: majority of drug users say their drug of choice is always available; reception inmates at Westgate continue to show positive tests for marijuana, cocaine and opiates; the past year has shown a decrease in the number of persons stopped for drink driving, with people being 1-4 times over the legal limit; and although there were more adults being



referred for treatment over the past year, there were less admissions to treatment facilities; for adolescents there were more clients seen by the Counseling and Lifeskills Services programme and more substance referrals made however, there were no facilities able to treat adolescents for substance use. There were a variable number of persons admitted to either ER or MWI for drug-related cases as their primary diagnosis.

Gaps in data such as with information related to dual diagnosis and the drug availability and drug market for synthetics in Bermuda were a few of the topics discussed. Dr. Raynor concluded her presentation discussing the overall decrease in funding for demand reduction programmes and HM Customs arm of supply reduction.

The Network:

Commended for its comprehensive representation and great work to-date.

Urged to provide any additional data that can strengthen the Network's coverage, especially qualitative data.

Encouraged to have more bilateral or group meetings to facilitate further dialogue and problem resolution.

DNDC's Survey Updates

The Department for National Drug Control (DNDC) representative, Mrs. Stephanie Tankard, Research Officer, provided the meeting with an update on the Department's survey initiatives since the last meeting. She spoke about eight surveys: public amenity, treatment demand, consumer experience, employee experience, stakeholder feedback, AUDIT, the national school survey (NSS) and the marijuana survey (MS). The purpose and methodology of the NSS and MS surveys were presented in detail along with pertinent survey highlights.

The Network:

Noted the information provided in the presentation.

Tapping into Social Media

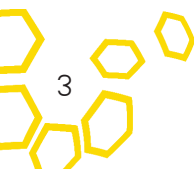
The meeting then heard from Mrs. Kimwana Eve, Community Development Coordinator of the DNDC who provided an overview on the RESCUE initiative which took place in the fall of 2019. The RESCUE initiative allowed the DNDC to obtain information on youth attitudes toward marijuana that will be used as the basis for a national social media campaign.

The Network:

Noted the information provided in the presentation.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

The keynote address was brought by the Clinical Psychologists of the Mid Atlantic Wellness Institute, Dr. Shawnee Basden and Dr. Cherita Rayner. This was the sixth year in succession that the meeting has had a keynote speaker. Dr. Basden and Dr. Rayner were introduced by



BerDIN Member, Ms. Shirmelle Gomes, who represented the Department of Health.

The speakers were honoured to be invited to the BerDIN Annual Meeting. Their presentation focused on the Legalization of Marijuana and Psychosis. The focus of the presentation was on the chemical properties of cannabis, problems associated with cannabis use, psychosis, medical use of cannabis, mental health and cannabis use and concluded with considerations for legalization. An interesting and insightful conversation persisted upon the conclusion of their presentation.

The Network:

Noted the information provided in the presentation.

Marijuana Use and Pregnancy

The meeting then received a presentation on marijuana use and pregnancy from Dr. Thamidela Jayalakshmi, Medical Officer of the Department of Health at the Maternal Health Clinic. She spoke about how marijuana use during pregnancy can be harmful to a baby's health and cause many serious problems, including stillbirth, preterm birth, and growth along with development issues.

Dr. Jayalakshmi went on to highlight that marijuana, whether smoked, eaten in the form of cookies or candies, or vaped, the chemicals (THC) will cross the placenta and reach the brain of the developing fetus where it will disrupt the normal development of the fetus. It was mentioned that children had learning and behavioral problems later in life from marijuana use. Children were known to have deficits in problem-solving skills, memory, visual perception, decreased attention and impulse control as they became teenagers and young adults. She noted that, THC and other chemicals in marijuana can be passed to a baby through breast milk.

Interestingly, Dr. Jayalakshmi mentioned that there is no evidence that marijuana use is helpful in managing morning sickness. Vaping was said to not be safe during pregnancy either. This presentation closed with highlighting that, if a pregnant woman is already using marijuana for medical reasons, it has been recommended to stop as it causes adverse effects on the fetus.

The Network:

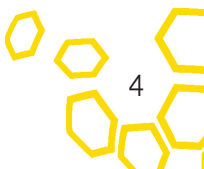
Noted the information provided in the presentation.

The Disagreeable Biological Effects of THC

The BerDIN members were provided with an in-depth presentation lead by Dr. Peter Perinchief, a retired Pediatrician from Edgewood Pediatrics, on the effects of marijuana use in-utero and after birth. His scientific discussion gave a well needed foundation, for the members, on just how the use of cannabis can impact someone from birth to adulthood. This presentation provided the audience with information on the cognitive impairments that are a result of early exposure to marijuana. A lively discussion ensued thereafter.

Marijuana, Youth and Education

Dr. Llewlyn Simmons of the Department of Education then spoke to the group about the negative impacts that marijuana is having on our youth. He highlighted some examples of these



impacts in the education arena and had an open dialogue with participants about how issues surrounding marijuana and students in the school have been dealt with. There was an emphasis on the notion that there is much work still to do if we, as a collective, are to effect change in our education system around marijuana use.

The Network:

Noted the information provided in the presentation.

Marijuana Seizures

The next presentation was from Mrs. Nadine Kirkos, of the Government Lab, who spoke about new things being observed at the time of chemical analysis of cannabis products. She provided a pictorial presentation of the different forms of marijuana being seen in the lab along with other BHO (butane hash oil) being added to marijuana for consumption which is very potent. Edibles are still a concern amongst our population and with the number of legislative changes that have occurred and are to occur the prevalence of this form of marijuana consumption may increase. Mrs. Kirkos went on to speak about the number of cases they received related to persons who are participating in drugged driving, as can be seen in the samples being tested from persons involved in road traffic accidents. These numbers are concerning and have become a public health crisis that needs to be addressed.

The Network:

Noted the information provided in the presentation.

At Risk Youth and Harm Reduction

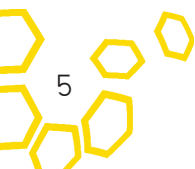
Ms. Kim Jackson of the Mirrors programme talked about the harm reduction approaches available for youth engaging in anti-social behaviours and/or using marijuana. She informed participants about the feedback given from five case studies on marijuana use. Ms. Jackson shared information on what the Mirrors programme does and some of the data they have collected thus far. The presentation closed with a list of ten recommendations for risk reduction among our youth and cannabis or marijuana use.

The Network:

Noted the information provided in the presentation.

Treatment of Marijuana

The last presentation was given by Ms. Rickeesha Binns from Pathways Bermuda. Her insightful and emotional presentation shared her view on the treatment of marijuana in Bermuda from the perspective of a former client as well as a now fully functioning member of our society. She spoke about what Pathways Bermuda is and the importance of giving discreet compassionate care to all. The recap of her personal journey showed how compassionate she is about the treatment process and highlighted the importance of treating the “Total Client” in order to achieve the best outcome.



The Network:

Noted the information provided in the presentation.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1) Bilateral Meetings: there was again the call by Dr. Raynor for there to be more problem solving by collaborating with each other outside of the annual meeting.

CLOSING REMARKS

The meeting ended with Dr. Raynor making brief remarks and thanked the participants for contributing to, what she deemed as, another successful meeting, and was grateful for their invaluable contributions. She encouraged participants to continue the collaboration and bilateral meetings beyond the day's meeting.

EVALUATION OF MEETING

Participants completed a short evaluation of the meeting. Refer to **Annex III** for the evaluation and results.

RAFFLE WINNERS

Congratulations to the following persons who had the opportunity to win a raffle prize at the meeting.

Julita Peniston: Market Place Voucher \$15

Isis Wellman: BUEI

Joanne Dean: Market Place Voucher \$15

Derricka Burns: Market Place Voucher \$15

Duncan Barclay: BUEI

Shirmelle Gomes: Harbourfront Restaurant

Chalsey Trott: Market Place Voucher \$15

Pandora Glasford: Market Place Voucher \$15

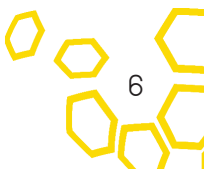
Cyrlene Wilson: Market Place Voucher \$15

Angria Bassett: Market Place Voucher \$15

Kim Jackson: Hamilton Princess

CLOSE OF MEETING

There being no other business, the meeting ended with an exchange of courtesies.



ANNEX I: LIST OF MEETING PARTICIPANTS

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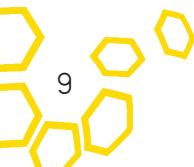
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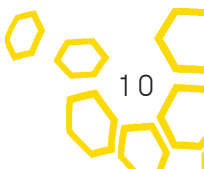
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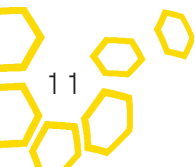
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Annual Meeting of the **BERMUDA DRUG INFORMATION NETWORK** (BerDIN)

6th November, 2020

Bermuda Underwater Exploration Institute

AGENDA

Facilitator: Dr. Kyla Raynor,
BerDIN Coordinator
& Senior Research Officer/Policy Analyst – DNDC

MEETING OBJECTIVES

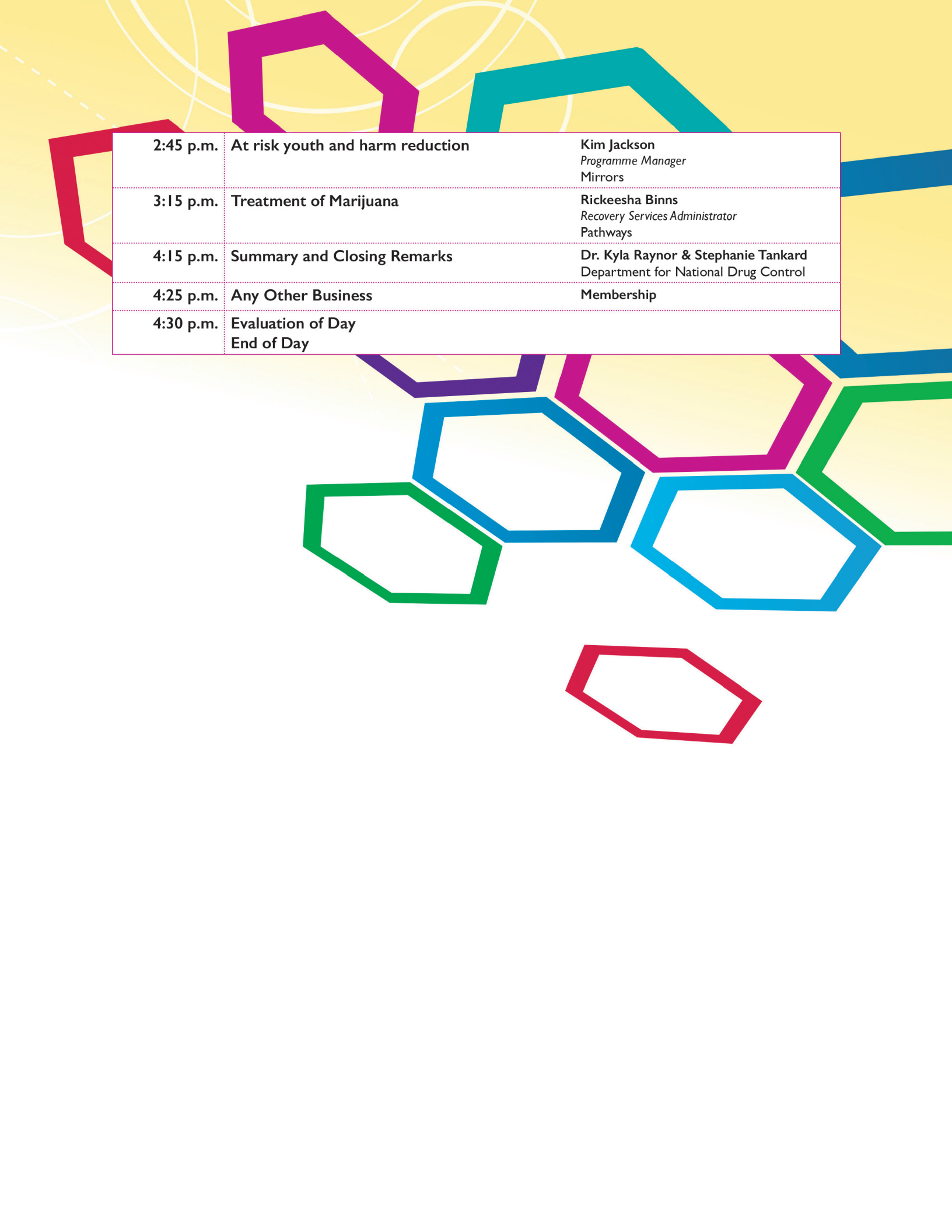
1. To update the BerDIN Members on the current drug situation.
2. To provide a forum for dialogue on drug-related special interest topics.

*"Cooperation is the thorough conviction that nobody can get there unless everybody gets there."
– Virginia Burden*



FRIDAY, 6TH NOVEMBER

8:30 a.m.	CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST	
9:00 a.m.	Welcome Remarks	Fredericka Brangman <i>Clinical Social Worker</i> Department of Child and Family Services
9:05 a.m.	Opening Remarks	Gina Hurst-Maybury <i>Permanent Secretary (Acting)</i> Ministry of Legal Affairs
9:15 a.m.	GROUP PHOTO	
9:25 a.m.	Introduction of Meeting » Objectives of the Meeting » Introduction of Participants » Adoption of Agenda	Dr. Ernest Peets <i>Clinical Manager</i> Turning Point
9:30 a.m.	Bermuda Drug Information Network (BerDIN) Update on the Current Drug Situation in Bermuda Government » Discussion	Dr. Kyla Raynor <i>Senior Research Officer/Policy Analyst</i> Department for National Drug Control
9:50 a.m.	DNDC's Newest Survey Initiatives » Discussion	Stephanie Tankard <i>Research Officer</i> Department for National Drug Control
10:15 a.m.	Tapping into Social Media	Kimwana Eve <i>Community Development Coordinator</i> Department for National Drug Control
10:30 a.m.	BREAK	
10:45 a.m.	Introduction of Keynote Speaker	Shirmelle Gomes <i>Surveillance Officer</i> Department of Health
10:50 a.m.	Legalization of Marijuana and Psychosis	Dr. Shawnee Basden <i>Clinical Psychologist</i> Dr. Cherita Rayner <i>Clinical Psychologist</i> Mid-Atlantic Wellness Institute
12:00 p.m.	LUNCH	
12:45 p.m.	Marijuana use and pregnancy	Dr. Thamidela Jayalakshmi <i>Medical Officer</i> Department of Health
1:15 p.m.	The Disagreeable Biological Effects of THC	Dr. Peter Perinchief <i>Pediatrician (Retired)</i> Edgewood Pediatrics
1:45 p.m.	Marijuana, youth and education	Dr. Llewellyn Simmons <i>Director of Academics</i> Department of Education
2:15 p.m.	Marijuana Seizures	Nadine Kirkos <i>Government Analyst</i> Central Government Lab
2:30 p.m.	BREAK	



2:45 p.m.	At risk youth and harm reduction	Kim Jackson <i>Programme Manager</i> Mirrors
3:15 p.m.	Treatment of Marijuana	Rickeesha Binns <i>Recovery Services Administrator</i> Pathways
4:15 p.m.	Summary and Closing Remarks	Dr. Kyla Raynor & Stephanie Tankard Department for National Drug Control
4:25 p.m.	Any Other Business	Membership
4:30 p.m.	Evaluation of Day End of Day	

BERDIN MEMBERS, ASSOCIATES, & REPRESENTATIVES

BERMUDA HOSPITALS BOARD:

KING EDWARD VII MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

Ms. Cyrlene Wilson, *Statistical Analyst*
Ms. Donna Williams, *Health Information Management Services Supervisor*

TURNING POINT SUBSTANCE ABUSE PROGRAMME

Mrs. Shirley Place, *Programme Director*
Dr. Ernest Peets, *Clinical Manager*

BERMUDA POLICE SERVICE:

FINANCIAL CRIME UNIT

Ms. Rhonda Pitt, *Detective Constable*

NARCOTICS

Mr. Sherwin Joseph, *Inspector*
Mr. Nidol Barker, *Sergeant*

DUI

Mr. Raoul Ming, *Sergeant*

BERMUDA PROFESSIONAL COUNSELLING SERVICES Ms. Fiona Elkinson, *Programme Director*

BERMUDA SPORT ANTI-DOPING AUTHORITY Ms. Deborah Hunter, *Chief Executive Officer*
Mr. Duncan Barclay, *Results, Compliance & Investigations Manager*

CADA Mr. Anthony Santucci, *Programme Director*

COUNSELLING AND LIFE SKILLS SERVICES Dr. Zina Zuill, *Supervisor-Counsellors*
Mrs. Fredericka Brangman, *Counsellor*

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS:

WESTGATE CORRECTIONAL FACILITY

Ms. Julee Smith, *Senior Case Worker*

RIGHT LIVING HOUSE

Mrs. Theresa DeRoza, *Programme Director*

DEPARTMENT OF COURT SERVICES:

BERMUDA ASSESSMENT AND REFERRAL CENTRE Ms. Mariko Aguiar, *Clinical Supervisor*

DRUG TREATMENT COURT Dr. Zina Woolridge, *Case Management Unit Manager*

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH:

CENTRAL GOVERNMENT LABORATORY Ms. Nadine Kirkos, *Senior Government Analyst*

MATERNAL HEALTH CLINIC Ms. Ann Marie Moore, *Maternal Health Nurse*

DEPARTMENT FOR NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL: Mrs. Joanne Dean, *Director*
Dr. Kyla Raynor, *Senior Research Officer/Policy Analyst*
Mrs. Stephanie Tankard, *Research Officer*

NELSON BASCOME CENTRE FOR SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT Mrs. Angria Bassett, *Programme Manager*

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Ms. Melody Lightbourne, *Senior Customs Officer*

LIQUOR LICENCE AUTHORITY Mr. Kenneth Scott, *Administrator*

ANNEX III: PARTICIPANT EVALUATION

2020 ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
BERMUDA DRUG INFORMATION NETWORK
(BerDIN)

6th NOVEMBER, 2020
TRADEWINDS AUDITORIUM
BUEI

PARTICIPANT EVALUATION

Friday, 6th November, 2020

Please take a few minutes to fill out this form. Your anonymous responses will be used to improve the planning of this meeting in the future. **THANK YOU!**

MEETING DESIGN

Please rate the meeting on the following aspects:	Outstanding	Above Average	Average	Below Average	Poor
- Organisation of the meeting	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
- Content (current, relevant, useful)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
- Meeting facilities (venue, meals, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
- Participant materials	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
- Quality of the meeting (overall meeting rating)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

MEETING RESULTS

Please rate the meeting on the following aspects:	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree/Nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
- Meeting objectives were accomplished	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
- The information was timely/relevant	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
- Opportunities for participation/involvement	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
- Format/agenda was suitable	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Length of meeting:

Too Long

About Right

Too Short

The best aspect(s) of this meeting was:

The meeting could be improved by:

Other comments or suggestions:



PARTICIPANT EVALUATION RESULTS: MEETING

Friday, 6th November, 2020

MEETING DESIGN	Score				
Items	2020 (n = 31/38)	2019 (n = 38/54)	2018 (n = 42/54)	2017 (n = 45/69)	2016 (n = 36/43)
- Organisation of the Meeting	4.7	4.5	4.6	4.6	4.6
- Content (Current, Relevant, Useful)	4.8	4.5	4.7	4.7	4.4
- Meeting Facilities (Venue, Meals, etc.)	4.6	4.6	4.2	4.5	4.5
- Participant Materials (Report, Bag, etc.)	4.7	4.5	4.4	4.5	4.6
- Quality of the Meeting (Overall Meeting Rating)	4.9	4.5	4.6	4.6	4.5

n = number of evaluation forms completed by participants who were present for all or most of the day.
Scale: 5 = Outstanding, 4 = Above Average, 3 = Average, 2 = Below Average, 1 = Poor

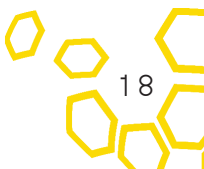
MEETING DESIGN	Score				
Items	2020 (n = 31/38)	2019 (n = 38/54)	2018 (n = 42/54)	2017 (n = 45/69)	2016 (n = 36/43)
- Meeting objectives were accomplished	4.8	4.5	4.6	4.6	4.6
- The information was timely/relevant	4.9	4.5	4.7	4.7	4.4
- Opportunities for participation/involvement	4.8	4.6	4.2	4.5	4.5
- Format/agenda was suitable	4.8	4.5	4.4	4.5	4.6

n = number of evaluation forms completed by participants who were present for all or most of the day.
Scale: 5 = Outstanding, 4 = Above Average, 3 = Average, 2 = Below Average, 1 = Poor

Length of Meeting: 92% (35 respondents) thought it was "About Right".

The best aspect(s) of this meeting was (open-ended verbatim responses):

- Hearing about the health aspects of marijuana.
- Always well organized
- All presentations were really informative and interesting this year. My favorite thus far.
- Doctors in physical health to present the connection.
- Dr. Perinchief did an awesome job.
- Varied presentations highlighting cannabis and its impacts.
- Good mixture of presenters
- The speakers who used themselves as an example in their presentation
- Collaboration- information- current state- presenters-excellent forum



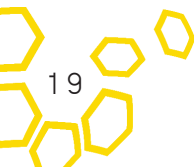
- Good time keeping and Q & A
- Discussions
- Dr. Jayalakshmi
- To hear from medical/mental health professional about marijuana.
- Stephanie's survey data
- Kimwana's presentation regarding the RESCUE programme
- WOW! All of the presentations were outstanding.
- Good format and the door prizes were a good idea and fun.
- The presentations were relevant and well-done.
- Neuroscientific information, impact of marijuana on mental health.
- Everything. I thoroughly enjoy attending and look forward to next year.
- Social distancing
- Quality of speeches, wealth of information provided, and the opportunity to exchange ideas/meet with other agencies.
- Information to give the potential for amazing changes to help the community.

The meeting could be improved by (open-ended verbatim responses):

- Room temperature
- Have more presentations on another day
- Problem solving to agree on a priority to advance collectively
- Having some more honest dialogue about problem/solutions amongst agencies
- Maybe too many presentations in one day. Want to give each presenter full attention. Persons left before or during last presentations.
- I prefer the two day platform but I do understand the change of times which prevented that this year.
- Have an action plan component where agreements can be set. I reference the key areas cited that you like to collect data going forward.

Other comments or suggestions (open-ended verbatim responses):

- Presenters introducing speakers should familiarize themselves before hand when reading curriculum vitae's.
- Very informative
- I always enjoy attending the meetings
- Thank you for having the meeting despite COVID regulations and restrictions
- Dietary options
- NDC to provide information to agencies about what might be helpful to know about substance use problems.
- There has been excellent information that has been shared. I would like to see all stakeholders (agencies) be more involved in the discussion and implementation of the cannabis reform as it will affect our service delivery and related provisions.
- Is there an opportunity to meet again to discuss our plan to address this topic?
- Well done to DNDC (Dr. Raynor, Stephanie and Mrs. Dean) for pulling the meeting together despite the COVID-19 challenge!
- It's a shame we only do this annually. Also, encourage more follow up/ actions for proactive action in interested areas.
- Kudo's for maintaining/ keeping the level of excellence in the time of COVID.
- The NDC team have once again excelled in holding the annual meeting in very trying times. Well done!
- Great job team! Really enjoyed the presentations and discussions this year. Looking forward to the 2020 alcohol data (consumption and sales).





BERDIN'S MISSION

The BerDIN is committed to providing the evidence that allows for discussions and decisions to be informed by sound, centrally available, local data, on a wide range of issues that increase understanding of the complex, dynamic; and evolving nature of the Island's drug problem.