GRENADA SUCCESSFULLY PARTICIPATES IN MEM

Grenada has obtained a positive Report in the Sixth Evaluation Round of the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM), published December 2014. The following is the Conclusion, as presented in the Report.

“The MEM Sixth Evaluation Round report reflects the country’s internal reality regarding the implementation of the Hemispheric Drug Strategy (2010) and its Plan of Action (2011-2015) from 2013 to mid-2014. According to the Report, CICAD recognizes that among the 27 common recommendations, Grenada completed fifteen (15), six (6) mostly completed, one (1) partially completed and five (5) did not apply.

In the area of Institutional Strengthening, Grenada has a national drug authority which functions under the Ministry of Education and Human Resource Development. There is a National Anti-drug Strategy. The country has a National Observatory on drugs. Most of the priority drug demand reduction studies (2 of 3) and all priority drug supply reduction information (10 of 10) exist.

In the area of Demand Reduction, Grenada has comprehensive demand reduction programs, which are monitored, evaluated and updated; however, social reinsertion and related recovery support services are not evaluated. There is a comprehensive prevention system. The public health system facilities offer early detection screening of drug use, guidance, brief intervention, and systematically refer persons to treatment. The public health system has a multisectoral approach to provide outpatient and residential treatment, aftercare, rehabilitation and recovery support services. There is no accreditation process for drug treatment centers. Grenada has various types of alternatives offered to incarceration for drug-dependent criminal offenders. The relationships with academic and research institutions and civil society organizations generate information used to develop policies, plans and programs. Training and continuing education for demand reduction personnel include evidence-based approaches and best practices ranging from the certificate to the graduate level.

In the area of Supply Reduction, CICAD decided not to assign any evaluation because Grenada does not have significant areas of illicit crops.

In the area of Control Measures, Grenada has mechanisms to detect and identify laboratories for the illicit manufacturing of synthetic and plant-based drugs and protocols in place to dismantle such laboratories.

With regard to the control of chemical substances and pharmaceutical products, the country has adopted the measures provided in the international conventions, in order to ensure their adequate availability for licit purposes and to prevent their diversion to illicit channels. These measures include: laws and administrative controls on the international and domestic trade, cooperation with authorities from other countries, and the designation of competent authorities to comply with said obligations. Measures have been taken to ensure access and availability of narcotics and psychotropic substances needed for medical and scientific use.

There are formal and informal exchange mechanisms among agencies responsible for the control of drug trafficking and related crimes. (Cont’d on page 3)
The recent publication of the report on the MEM Sixth Evaluation Round on Grenada, is a positive endorsement of the country’s initiatives in the area of drug control. Of the 27 recommendations, 15 were completed, 6 were mostly completed, 1 was partially completed, and 5, which deals with supply reduction, were did not apply. With reference to the five recommendations which ‘did not apply’, CICAD noted that Grenada does not have significant illegal crops (cannabis).

Since 1989, with the establishment of the Drug Control Secretariat, and thereafter the design and implementation of four national anti-drug strategies, Grenada is witnessing significant success in its anti-drug initiatives. The technical and financial assistance provided by various Governments, organizations, and the dedicated work of persons in our Ministries/departments and other local institutions, have contributed immensely to Grenada's success, which is reflected in the MEM Report.

Areas of weaknesses identified in the Report must be addressed. Grenada must be vigilant as new drug trends emerge and related issues, such as financial crime, trafficking in firearms etc. The drug threat may remain for many years; therefore Grenada must respond in a proactive and strategic manner, along with relevant regional and international partners to this issue.

Health Officials from the treatment and rehabilitation institutions in Grenada participated in a local training, on 3 October 2014, on the use of the Regional Standardized Intake Form for drug-related admissions. The Standardized Form was developed by the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD). The use of the Form would strengthening the capacity of Grenada to collect, analyze and report drug-related data.

Components of the training included: Background on the treatment data system; Drug Treatment in Grenada; Current treatment data collection system; Data management (entry, analysis).

Three officers from Grenada participated in a similar regional training in Guyana in February 2014.

Implementation of the Form at the Rathdune Psychiatric Unit commenced in November 2014.

The training was conducted by Mr. Pernell Clarke, Specialist at CICAD, Washington D.C.

Participants at Training, 3 October 2014
(Cont’d from page 1)

Also, mechanisms exist for the secure and effective exchange of intelligence information in investigation cases related to this area. There are ongoing training programs for the stakeholders involved in said control. The country has national statistical information in drug trafficking and related crimes. Regulatory updates are done based on the identification of new trends. A regulatory framework exists for the final and secure disposal of seized drugs. There is a national early warning system on new behaviors of criminal organizations.

The country has legislation criminalizing the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, ammunition, explosives and other related materials, with measures to prevent loss or diversion in instances of licit trade. There is a registry of these elements, seized during drug trafficking operations and a national authority responsible for coordinating and monitoring of such. However, the country does not maintain a system of international transit licenses or authorizations for transfers of firearms, ammunition, explosives and other related materials.

There are regulations for the criminalization, prevention and control of money laundering, also for the management of seized and forfeited assets derived from drug trafficking and related crimes and a national agency for the management of such assets. However, the country does not conduct or participate in training programs on this matter.

In the area of International Cooperation, Grenada has ratified the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988, the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime of 2000, the Inter-American Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters of 1992 and has designated central authorities in said conventions. The country does not have legal provisions that enable it to try, on charges of money laundering, persons whose extradition has been denied on the grounds of nationality or territoriality. There are no laws or other legal provisions to provide mutual legal assistance to third party States in investigations, trials, and legal proceedings for drug trafficking or money laundering, nor to permit use of controlled delivery of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances in order to identify persons implicated in the crime of illicit drug trafficking.

CICAD recognizes Grenada for its continued participation and commitment during the Sixth Evaluation Round of the MEM. In accordance with its national situation, the country is encouraged to fully implement the Plan of Action (2011-2015) of CICAD’s Hemispheric Drug Strategy (2010).”

Grenada’s Principal Expert to the MEM is Mr. Dave Alexander, Drug Control Officer. Mr. Alexander is also the General Coordinator of the Governmental Experts Group (GEG). The GEG is composed of Experts and Alternates from the thirty-four member states of the Organization of American States (OAS). The GEG analyzes information provided by member states and prepare the national and hemispheric reports, on the status of implementation of drug control program, in accordance with of the Hemispheric Drug Strategy (2010) of CICAD, in five thematic areas: Institutional Strengthening; Demand Reduction; Supply Reduction; Control Measures, and International Cooperation. The MEM is the tool used by CICAD to evaluate the progress in drug control in its thirty-four (34) member states.

The full text of the Report can be obtained at:
IN THE NEWS

The Drug Control Secretariat participated in two virtual conferences on the development of national policies on alcohol. The first meeting, held 7 October 2014, was convened by the Caribbean Institute on Alcohol and Other Drug Problems (CARIAD) and the Caribbean Alcohol Policy and Action network (CARIBAPAN) on the subject, ‘The Need for a Policy in the Caribbean’. Meanwhile, the Officials of Michigan University and the Drug Control Secretariat discussed follow-up activities on the Draft National Policy on Alcohol, on 9 October. Technical assistance for preparation of the draft Policy was provided by Michigan University and St. George’s University.

Regional Seminar Research

Grenada participated in a three-day regional seminar on the role of Research on Policy and Practice in Drug Abuse Prevention in Trinidad and Tobago, October 29 to 31, 2014.

The seminar sought to build capacity in evidence-based policy and practice by training participants in areas such as to identify, gather and incorporate evidence into their policies, planning, program design and program implementation. Seven countries participated in the seminar. Mrs. Elizabeth Japal (Drug Control Secretariat) and Sergeant Alfred Pierre (Royal Grenada Police Force), attended the seminar, which was sponsored by CICAD and the Government of Trinidad and Tobago.

The Drug Control Secretariat expresses its thanks to the Government and people of Grenada, and all regional and international Institutions for the provision of financial and technical assistance, in the implementation of the National Drug Control Program. Your support would redound to the success of the program, as we endeavor to provide necessary education, training, materials, equipment and other necessary resources in the national effort to address the issue of drugs and related issues.

We thank you.

Governmental Experts Group (GEG) of the Sixth Evaluation Round of the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM), September 2014, Washington D.C.

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