

Addressing Youth Violence through Adolescent Friendly Health services

The Trinidad and Tobago Experience

Dr Asha Pemberton

Consultant Paediatrician and Adolescent Medicine Specialist

Ministry of Health

Trinidad and Tobago

The Pillars of Adolescent Friendly Health Services...



The concept is not novel or new

However yet to be universally and sustainably incorporated into the health care systems of Caribbean territories

Similar systems of primary care clinics/health centres/polyclinics...but **NONE** of us have adolescent services as a specific cohort **WITHIN** that system

Examples of Stand-Alone Teen Facilities

TEEN
CLINIC



The literature and guidance exists....

ADOLESCENTS ARE THE GREATEST RESOURCE FOR A SOCIETY TO THRIVE

Investments in adolescents
bring a triple benefit:



HEALTHY FUTURE
GENERATIONS



HEALTHY ADULTS
IN THE FUTURE



HEALTHY
ADOLESCENTS
NOW



**THE GLOBAL
STRATEGY
FOR WOMEN'S,
CHILDREN'S AND
ADOLESCENTS'
HEALTH
(2016-2030)**

**SURVIVE
THRIVE
TRANSFO**



246 million



boys and girls
worldwide
experience
school-related
violence
every year.

The UN Youth Strategy wants to change this.

YOUTH2030
WORKING WITH AND FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



MAKING HEALTH SERVICES ADOLESCENT-FRIENDLY

WHAT HEALTH WORKERS CAN DO

Make adolescents feel welcome
and safe at your health centre

- Be "adolescent competent" - get trained in adolescent health
- Communicate clearly and encourage adolescents to talk openly
- Respect their privacy and confidentiality
- Empower young people to make decisions about their care



WHO/UNAIDS set global standards to improve the quality of
health services for all adolescents.



SAHM 2020 Annual Meeting

MARCH 11-14 | SHERATON SAN DIEGO

Accelerating
progress
toward
the reduction
of adolescent
pregnancy
in Latin America
and the Caribbean



MAKING HEALTH SERVICES ADOLESCENT-FRIENDLY



WHAT GOVERNMENTS CAN DO

Make health services free
or affordable for adolescents



- Count adolescents (aged 10-19 years) as a distinct group in health statistics
- Involve adolescents in the design of health policies and programmes that affect them
- Support training of health professionals in adolescent health
- Ensure laws and policies protect adolescents' rights and dignity

WHO/UNAIDS set global standards to improve the quality of
health services for all adolescents.

MAKING HEALTH SERVICES ADOLESCENT-FRIENDLY



ADOLESCENTS ARE UNIQUE. THEY NEED QUALITY HEALTH SERVICES THAT RECOGNIZE THIS



WHO/UNAIDS set global standards to improve the quality of
health services for all adolescents.



The 1st Caribbean Congress
on

Adolescent and Youth Health

October 15th to 17th 2019

The Hyatt Regency

Port of Spain, Trinidad and
Tobago

CCAYH 2019

- Track 1 Mental Health, Substance Use, **Violence and Injuries**
- Track 2 Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, HIV and STIs
- Track 3 Nutrition, physical activity, Sports and Youth Development
- Track 4 Climate Change and Environment

The Consortium

Caribbean Association for Adolescent Health

Caribbean Institute for Health Research

Caribbean Regional Youth Council

Caribbean Vulnerable Communities Coalition

CARICOM Youth Desk

Commonwealth Youth Council

Dance4Life Barbados

Family Planning Association of Trinidad and Tobago

Healthy Caribbean Coalition (HCC)

The Consortium

- International Association for Adolescent Health
- Lancet Commission on Global Mental Health
- Sustainable Development's Youth Campaign
- NCD Child
- Caribbean Vulnerable Communities Coalition PAHO/WHO
- PANCAP
- Spouses of CARICOM Leaders Action Network (SCLAN)
- UNFPA
- Family Planning Association of Trinidad and Tobago UNICEF

This will be the **1st** ever
**Caribbean Regional
Meeting of the IAAH**

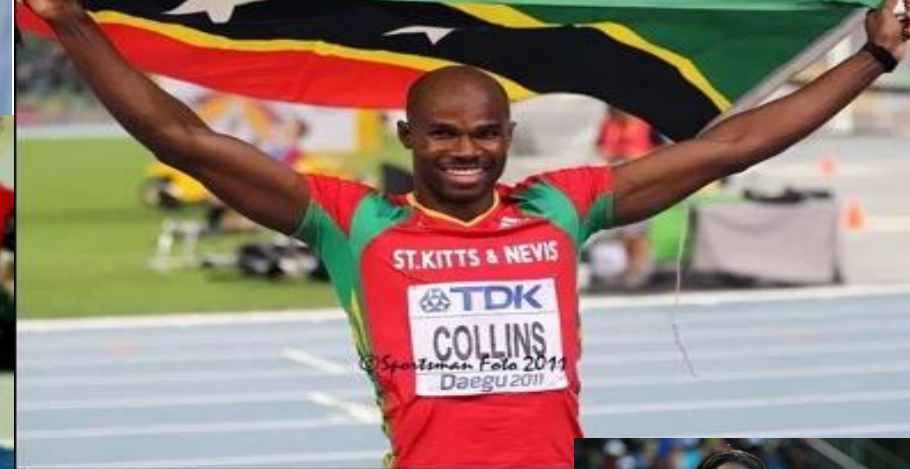


The International Association for Adolescent Health is a multidisciplinary, non-government organization which aims to improve the health, development and wellbeing of 10-24-year-old adolescents and young adults, in every region of the world.

Since its inception in **1987**, IAAH has been committed to evidence-informed practices and policies, and to ensuring that young voices inform our work.

IAAH and its Regional Associations

- Host World Congress Meetings
- Regional Congress Meetings
- Focused Subject Meetings
- Alliances with similar themed/objective meetings
- Since the 1980s.....



I KNOW that we will catch
up...

Outputs

- Regional conversation, dialogue and on-the-ground practical plan of action as to what is happening, our shared experiences and how we can translate the knowledge into action, in our reality
- Produce documents related to adolescent health as whole and we all acknowledge that VIOLENCE in its many presentations, forms, experiences and influences, affects the lives of Caribbean adolescents and young people

The Trinidad and Tobago Experience

Specific to Strengthening the Capacity of the Health System to Respond to Youth Violence...

1. Core Education of Health Care Workers in Development
2. Continued Health Care Education of Workers in the Field
3. Roles and Responsibilities of allied agencies and partners

EuTEACH 2019 (European Training in Effective Adolescent Care & Health)



« Outstanding and innovative! »

« The best academic program
I've attended in years »

« A great
opportunity to
exchange
experiences and
learn a lot from
other participants »

« A unique and
instructive
program »

Strength of Adolescent Friendly Services for Violence (and overall)



**SHOW UP
EVERYDAY**

Start Up. Scale Up. Show Up.

Improving Adolescent Friendly Services:

UNFPA project exploring where adolescents seek medical services in Trinidad and Tobago

Suspect, largely public primary health care system and General Practitioners

Medical Board Review >87% physicians educated by our regional University, UWI.

Education in Adolescent Health minimal/non existent at the undergraduate level

A proposal



UWI

- Engaged our Faculty Dean at the FMS who agrees
- Writing a proposal to present to Academic Board
- Cross Campus Committee
- Board of Undergraduate studies

Start Up

- Adolescent Health Modules in our undergraduate curriculum.
- Approach to adolescents, adolescent friendly environments
- HEEADSSS interviewing (which includes assessments related to violence exposure, activity, environments and safety)
- Reinforce that violence is a HEALTH concern
- Solidify the role of healthcare workers in this domain

Simultaneously



Scale Up

- Support capacity of existing primary care services
- Introduce “Teen Clinic” “Adolescent Services” within existing frameworks
- Psychosocial screening, identification, services including violence

To date, in Trinidad and Tobago

- Engaged the CMO and MOH
- Written **another** proposal to do workshops within our health center/primary care clinic settings
- Engaged directly a few physicians with interest
- *(proudly, 4 are presenting at the CCAYH!!)*
- Pre and post assessment
- View to create a Teen Team of champions in facilities
- Kept support of EuTEACH colleagues, who have done similar in other regions

Infusing Adolescent Health

- Both Trinidad/Tobago and Jamaica
- Adolescent Specialist in Tertiary settings
- Both UWI affiliated
- Teach and insist that every teen has a HEADSSS psychosocial history as part of their basic assessment. (Teen Vital Sign).
- Final 'S' is safety: questions around exposure, engagement and experiences of violence
- Referrals, support, management offered
- Progress

We will get there.....

- The 1 minute pitch to Ministers of Health
- Create “Social Health” Teams
- Existing dichotomy between health, child protective services in some areas, and a “turf war”
- To the Minister of Health, as a priority, there is need for creation and management of a services charged with prevention, identification and management of violence and sociobehavioural determinants that impact the health of children, adolescents and young adults....

*Thank
you!*

Dr. Asha Pemberton

Consultant Paediatrician and Adolescent
Medicine Specialist

Trinidad and Tobago

azpgaskin@gmail.com