

The ASSIST Project coordinated the USAID Care and Support for Infants, Mothers, and Families affected by Zika conference in Panama City from April 24th – 26th, 2019. Representatives from various USAID funded projects, Ministries of Health, UNICEF, PAHO, Save the Children, and NGOs from 18 Latin American and Caribbean countries attended to share lessons learned and recommendations for future emergency epidemics, with a focus on best practices relating to improving the quality of both clinical and non-clinical care, developing integrated models of access, bridging gaps between health care facilities and the community, and sustainability.

One key theme of the meeting was best practices around screening and locating infants affected by congenital Zika syndrome and linking them to health services. Dr. Shivon Belle-Jarvis, a pediatrician and focal person in the Antigua and Barbuda Ministry of Health, gave a dynamic presentation on the Antiguan experience with improving the quality of care for Zika affected children and families, which included the roll out of a new software program specifically created for surveillance and better care and support of babies and families potentially affected by Zika. This Zika case management tool – or ZiCaMas – developed by the ASSIST project with funding from USAID, enables health care providers to identify, better track and navigate these babies and their families in the system to receive timely clinical and non-clinical care based on their needs. The software has been

launched and its early benefits already have seen in Antigua and Barbuda. *“This software is awesome because it allows us to not only look at the mothers but also children and... monitor quality of care that is offered in hospitals and health facilities nationwide, whether public or private”* pediatrician and case manager, Dr Shivon Belle-Javis said to local newspaper. The ZiCaMas tool is also being used in Dominica, St Kitts and Nevis, and St Vincent and the Grenadines, which are all receiving short term technical assistance from the ASSIST Project. The tool was co-developed with substantial input from health care providers and Ministry of Health officials from all 4 countries and American Academy of Paediatrics and has the potential to be used regionally to generate comparable data and inform case management and surveillance of Zika and other similar conditions resulting neurodevelopmental disabilities. Indeed, during the Panama meeting, other countries (e.g. Jamaica, Barbados) expressed the interest to adapt and

A & B first to utilize Zika software

By Latishka Thomas

Antigua and Barbuda is the first of four countries in the Caribbean to employ a new case management tool called Zika Mas.

“This software is awesome because it allows us to not only look at the mothers but also the children, and it allows us to monitor the quality of care that is offered, not only in the hospital but also in any health care facility nationwide, whether private or public,” pediatrician Dr Shivon Belle-Jarvis said.

The software reportedly enables medical professionals to look at information over different time periods. “We can look at anything from 2016 coming forward and it also allows us to generate reports not only to the Ministry of Health but also to regional bodies,” Dr. Belle-Jarvis explained.

In addition to the software, Dr. Belle-Jarvis told OBSERVER media that a database provided through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is used to monitor the quality of care for babies who are well, while the software keeps track of the Zika virus and other abnormal-

ties. She said the database also empowers patients so they can acquire information about indicators such as a baby’s head size – which can be affected when mothers contract the disease while pregnant.

Dr. Belle-Jarvis listed a team of three medical personnel who are trained in quality improvement and presently serve as coaches or resource persons for the software and a database.

The team consists of nurse and midwife Joyann Quinn, nurse Coralita Joseph and physician Cascelia Bellot. Dr. Belle-Jarvis is the focal point for the Ministry of Health – a position which involves managing, on behalf of USAID, the overall deployment of the software and database locally.

Late last week, Dr. Belle-Jarvis and her colleague, Nurse Quinn, represented Antigua and Barbuda at the USAID conference in Panama which focused on “Care and Support for Infants, Mothers and Families Affected by Zika – Sharing Lessons Learned and Recommendations for the Future.”

There were 18 countries present.

The pediatrician made a presentation on Antigua’s behalf, focusing on the local experiences of the Zika epidemic from 2016 to present.

According to the doctor, locally, a total of 17 mothers and three babies tested positive for Zika during pregnancy.

“We know that these children will get older, but as we as a nation prepared to deal with these children and their families.” And so we looked at best practices in terms of clinical care and non-clinical care and basically put a framework in place so we can know not only how to respond to

Zika but other epidemics that may arise in the future,” Dr. Belle-Jarvis explained.

Antigua and Barbuda, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Dominica are the four countries that have benefited from projects conducted by USAID with the aim of improving the quality of care for Zika.

A laptop was presented to Antigua & Barbuda to facilitate specific use of the software and for further research. Dr. Belle-Jarvis expressed her hope that the small twin island state will be the source of training or the resource country for this new software.



Pediatrician Dr. Shivon Belle-Jarvis (right) and nurse Joyann Quinn representing Antigua and Barbuda at a USAID conference in Panama from April 24th to 26th 2019.

NOTICE
LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION FORM P7
Rule 15
THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN SUPREME COURT
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA
(Probate)
In the Estate of JULYB CHRISTIAN A.K.A. JULYB ROSETTA CHRISTIAN late of Jennings, St. Mary, Antigua, Deceased
ADVERTISEMENT OF APPLICATION FOR GRANT
FIRST PUBLICATION
TAKE NOTICE that an application has been filed by **KADEA KASHAUN KELINA CADETTE** of Jennings, St. Mary Antigua, for a Grant of Letters of Administration to the Applicant who is the daughter of the deceased, the deceased having died intestate on the 15th day of May, 2017.
 Any person having an objection to the grant of Letters of Administration to the Applicant shall file an objection within fourteen (14) days of the publication of this Notice.
 Dated this 1st day of May, 2019
KADEA KASHAUN KELINA CADETTE

NOTICE
To: Her Worship Licensing Magistrate Magistrate's Court High Street St. John's Antigua.
To: Her Worship Magistrate for District 7 Magistrate's Court High Street St. John's Antigua.
To: The Commissioner of Police Police Headquarters American Road St. John's Antigua.
I, TERRENCE HERNANDES of Fort Road in the Parish Saint John in the State of Antigua and Barbuda **DO HEREBY** give NOTICE that it is my intention to apply at the Head Office of the Liquor Licensing Court to be held at the Magistrate's Court High Street, St. John's Antigua on the 1st day of August, 2019 next arising for a Tavern License in respect of the premises known as **"E. N. A. SPORTS BAR & RESTAURANT"** L.T.D., situated at West Coast Village in the Parish of Saint Mary in the State of Antigua and Barbuda.
 DATED the 4th day of April, 2019
STEARNOY C O BENJAMIN & CO INC.
 Solicitors for **TERRENCE HERNANDES**
 (SCB):

utilize the tool to provide timely, better quality and coordinated care to affected babies and their families.

There were other great tools, resources and experiences shared by participating countries in the Panama meeting developed with USAID support. While it can be celebrated that Zika has waned in the Caribbean and Latin America since the 2016 peak, scientists feel certain the disease will be back. Previous outbreaks of other viruses in the same genetic family as Zika, such as chikungunya, have followed a similar pattern. The ZiCaMas tool is one of the pillars to build capacity of LAC countries that are now better equipped for the monitoring, detection and care essential to containing and treating similar public health emergencies. *“We know that these children will get older, but are we as a national prepared to deal with these children and their families?”* ... with ZiCaMas software, *“we can know not only how to respond to Zika but other epidemics that may arise in the future”* Dr Belle-Javis explained.