



GOVERNMENT OF BERMUDA

Department for National Drug Control

Report of the 2022 Annual Meeting of the

# BERMUDA DRUG INFORMATION NETWORK (BerDIN)

## **FACILITATOR**

**Dr. Kyla Raynor**

BerDIN Coordinator &  
*Senior Research Officer/Policy Analyst, DNDC*

## **VENUE & DATE**

Tradewinds Auditorium  
Bermuda Underwater  
Exploration Institute (BUEI)  
4<sup>th</sup> November, 2022



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The 2022 Annual Meeting of the Bermuda Drug Information Network (BerDIN) was held on the 4<sup>th</sup> of November, 2022 at the Bermuda Underwater Exploration Institute (BUEI).

## **Representation**

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

## **CALL TO ORDER & WELCOME**

Rentha Francis, a BerDIN Member who represented the Department of Health- Laboratory, 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. Joanne Dean, Director of the Department for National Drug Control, brought Opening Remarks to the meeting. She noted that this year marks the 12<sup>th</sup> publication produced by BerDIN and that the BerDIN has evolved into a central source of drug-related information that serves a critical role in informing policy makers and the public about the drug situation in Bermuda. Mrs. Dean shared that this year's theme, centered on the impacts gender differences have on substance use in our community, will highlight the need for more inclusive treatment intake processes. She ended her opening remarks by stating, "It is my hope that this forum will serve to stimulate your thoughts, and excite your energies to continue this necessary work."

Following the Opening Remarks, the meeting was officially declared open by Director, Joanne Dean.

## **INTRODUCTION**

Participants were reminded of the meeting's objectives by Mr. Calvin Nhan, Financial Crime Analyst, Bermuda Police Services; who also informed the participants of the meeting's objectives: to update the BerDIN members on the current drug situation; and to provide a forum for dialogue on drug-related special interest topics.

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 in the meeting room.

### ***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

The main focus, of the Annual meeting this year, was on how gender impacts substance misuse in our community. The agenda therefore, was comprised of various presentations that sought to provide a background on gender differences and how they impact the use of substances. There were notable issues discussed on how both males and females are impacted by substance use and in turn receive treatment at different rates.

### *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 2022 Annual Report of the BerDIN. The BerDIN's accomplishments were highlighted as the members were thanked for their continual support. Highlights were given specific to gender differences and substance use reported throughout the eleven chapters of the Report. Dr. Raynor also discussed the overall decrease in funding for demand reduction programmes and the interdiction agencies of BPS and HM Customs. She concluded by challenging the members to continue their important work despite the current challenges we are facing.

#### **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.

### *Gender Differences & Substance Use*

The Department for National Drug Control (DNDC) representative, Mrs. Stephanie Tankard, Research Officer, provided the meeting with a presentation that highlighted gender specific data which was collected in the 2019 National School Survey and the 2021 National Household Survey. The presentation also shared the impacts of gender differences on substance use from a global perspective, whilst presenting some suggest solutions to remedy the issues discussed. Mrs. Tankard ended the presentation with a call to action for all participating agencies in the hopes that a more inclusive approach to treatment, in particular, is evaluated and updated going forward.

#### **The Network:**

Noted the information provided in the presentation.

### *Street Value of Illicit Drugs in Bermuda*

The meeting then received a presentation discussing the value of a variety of different illegal drugs being seen in Bermuda from Mr. Roger Saints, Sergeant and Narcotics Expert of the Bermuda Police Service. He noted that the prices he shared were captured from multiple sources, for



example; conversations with persons who sell drugs, seizure reports, and other BPS databases. The drug prices presented were for: cannabis, hash, shatter, crumble, cocaine, crack, heroin, and molly.

**The Network:**

Noted the information provided in the presentation.

***Men are from Somerset, Women are from St. Georges: Gender/Sex Differences in Addiction***

Dr. Shawnee Basden, Clinical Psychologist at the Bermuda Hospitals Board gave a very interesting presentation on the following: gender differences in addiction discussing age as a moderator, gender differences- what we know from animal studies and gender barriers and strengths. Her in-depth presentation gave participants insight into why women react differently to substance use from initiation to treatment versus men. Dr. Basden shared that it is imperative that we as a network look at treatment accessibility and treatment response when it comes to ensuring the best plan is put in place for either gender to get into the recovery stage.

**The Network:**

Noted the information provided in the presentation.

***Does Gender Matter in Substance Abuse Treatment?***

The BerDIN members were provided with a presentation lead by Mrs. Angria Bassett, Programme Manager of the Men's/Women's Treatment Center, which informed the participants of the large amount of research published that discussed the inequalities between men and women in relation to receiving treatment of substance use disorders. Mrs. Bassett then challenged participants to think about the importance of identity and how persons identify themselves impacts how they may respond to treatment.

**The Network:**

Noted the information provided in the presentation.

***Female Resilience in an Outpatient Treatment Environment***

Mrs. Shirley Place who is the Clinical Director of Turning Point, informed the meeting of who the female clients are at Turning Point, by sharing some demographic information, the social circumstances for which the female clients are facing and the type of substances being used. She then went on to discuss the common issues that women face in outpatient treatment. Mrs. Place went on to share a case study of a female client, Virginia, which caused participants to pause and consider all of the things that impact female clients who are attempting to seek treatment. The presentation concluded with Mrs. Place highlighting the resilience in treatment and the implications for treatment.

**The Network:**

Noted the information provided in the presentation.



## ***Substance Use & Youth-Is there a Problem?***

The next presentation was from **Mr. Leslie Grant**, of FOCUS Counseling Services, who presented data from the DNDC's National School Survey which highlighted the current trends in substance use among the youth population in Bermuda. He then proceeded to share information on the young clients that FOCUS has seen recently and some of the mitigating factors that have contributed to their substance use. Mr. Grant concluded his presentation by imploring the community to put a larger, yet more consistent, focus on providing substance use education, prevention and available treatment options with an emphasis on; educating, equipping and empowering.

### **The Network:**

Noted the information provided in the presentation.

## ***Road to Recovery Discussion***

The meeting had the opportunity to hear the testimonies of four past and current clients of FOCUS Counseling Services. These emotional testimonies highlighted the journey each of these men have been on from first using substances to what made them choose recovery and a healthy lifestyle. The clients each concluded their testimonies by thanking FOCUS counseling for all of the support the agency has provided to them along their journey.

### **The Network:**

Noted the information provided in the presentation.

## ***Narcotics Anonymous***

The meeting was given an informational presentation by, **Mr. Michael B.**, Public Relations Officer for Narcotics Anonymous (NA). He shared what NA was, their mission and objectives along with how persons can join a meeting as, in his opinion, they truly do work in relation to assisting in ones sobriety. Mr. B. closed his presentation by giving the meeting insight into his own personal journey and how big of a role NA played in getting and maintaining his sobriety.

### **The Network:**

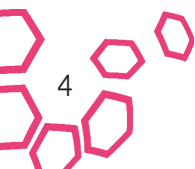
Noted the information provided in the presentation.

## ***Adolescent Substance Use Trends***

The meeting then received a presentation from **Ms. Julita Peniston and Mrs. Fredericka Brangman**, of Child & Family Services. The presentation opened with the pair giving the history of the Bermuda Youth Counselling Services (BYCS), then highlighting the organizational structure and the services they provide. The meeting was then given data on CLS assessment and counseling figures for 2021 and 2022. Ms. Peniston and Mrs. Brangman proceeded to discuss adolescent trends that they have been seeing in terms of youth substance use, a breakdown into the DCFS substance use referral process, supportive resources and the importance of solution based collaborations.

### **The Network:**

Noted the information provided in the presentation.



## **Helping Others While Helping Ourselves**

The Executive Director, Mrs. Latisha Lister-Burgess, from the Employee Assistance Programme (EAP) was invited to give participants a two hour presentation on the importance of helping ourselves while we are helping others. This presentation was well received by participants, as many could relate to the lack of self-care each of them focus as they work, whilst also appreciating the keys to success that were shared to avoid burnout and other issues that can come from the lack of helping ourselves. Mrs. Lister-Burgess concluded by encouraging participants to use the tools she shared and to reach out to EAP if they needed a listening ear.

### **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 concluded with Dr. Raynor thanking everyone for their participation in yet another successful meeting. Dr. Raynor 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, as well as asked to fill out a form on future trainings and preferred communication methods for the future. Refer to **Annex III** for the evaluation and results.

## **CLOSE OF MEETING**

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



# ANNEX I: LIST OF MEETING PARTICIPANTS

## BERDIN MEMBERS & REPRESENTATIVES

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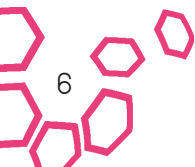
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# Annual Meeting of the BERMUDA DRUG INFORMATION NETWORK (BerDIN)

4<sup>th</sup> November, 2022

Bermuda Underwater Exploration Institute (BUEI)

## 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.

*"It is literally true that you can succeed best and quickest by helping others to succeed."*  
Napolean Hill



## FRIDAY, 4<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER

9:00 a.m.	<b>Welcome Remarks</b>	<b>Ms. Rentha Francis</b> <i>Government Analyst</i> Department of Health-Laboratory
9:05 a.m.	<b>Opening Remarks</b>	<b>Mrs. Joanne Dean</b> <i>Director</i> Department for National Drug Control
9:10 a.m.	<b>Introduction of Meeting</b> » Objectives of the Meeting » Introduction of Participants » Adoption of Agenda	<b>Mr. Kalvin Nhan</b> <i>Financial Crimes Analyst</i> Bermuda Police Services
9:20 a.m.	<b>Bermuda Drug Information Network (BerDIN)</b> <b>Update on the Current Drug Situation in Bermuda Government</b> » Discussion	<b>Dr. Kyla Raynor</b> <i>Senior Research Officer/Policy Analyst</i> Department for National Drug Control
9:45 a.m.	<b>Gender Differences and Substance Use</b>	<b>Mrs. Stephanie Tankard</b> <i>Research Officer</i> Department for National Drug Control
10:00 a.m.	<b>Street Value of Illicit Drugs in Bermuda</b>	<b>Mr. Roger Saints</b> <i>Sergeant</i> Bermuda Police Service
10:10 a.m.	<b>BREAK</b>	
10:30 a.m.	<b>Men are from Somerset, Women are from St. Georges: Gender/Sex Differences in Addiction</b>	<b>Dr. Shawnee Basden</b> <i>Clinical Psychologist</i> Bermuda Hospitals Board
11:00 a.m.	<b>Does Gender Matter in Substance Abuse Treatment?</b>	<b>Ms. Angria Bassett</b> <i>Programme Manger</i> Mens/Women's Treatment Center
11:10 a.m.	<b>Female Resilience in an Outpatient Treatment Environment</b>	<b>Ms. Shirley Place</b> <i>Clinical Director</i> Turning Point
11:20 a.m.	<b>Substance Use &amp; Youth – Is there a Problem?</b>	<b>Mr. Leslie Grant</b> <i>Executive Director</i> FOCUS
11:30 a.m.	<b>Road to Recovery Discussion</b> » Supportive Residency » Residential Treatment » Impaired Driving Program	<b>FOCUS Clients</b>
11:45 p.m.	<b>LUNCH BREAK</b>	
1:00 p.m.	<b>Narcotics Anonymous</b>	<b>Mr. Michael B</b> <i>Public Relations Officer</i> Narcotics Anonymous
1:25 p.m.	<b>Adolescent Substance Use Trends</b>	<b>Mrs. Frederika Brangman</b> <b>Ms. Julita Peniston</b> <i>Clinical Social Worker (s)</i> Child & Family Services



1:40 p.m.	<b>Moving Forward</b> » Discussion	<b>Dr. Kyla Raynor &amp; Stephanie Tankard</b> Department for National Drug Control
1:50 p.m.	<b>Helping Others While Helping Ourselves</b>	<b>Mrs. Latisha Lister-Burgess</b> <i>Executive Director</i> Employee Assistance Programme
4:00 p.m.	<b>Summary and Closing Remarks</b>	<b>Dr. Kyla Raynor &amp; Stephanie Tankard</b> Department for National Drug Control
4:10 p.m.	<b>Any Other Business</b>	Membership
4:15 p.m.	<b>Evaluation of Day 1</b> End of Day 1	

## BERDIN MEMBERS & REPRESENTATIVES

### BERMUDA HOSPITALS BOARD:

KING EDWARD VII MEMORIAL HOSPITAL	Ms. Cyrlene Wilson, <i>Statistical Analyst</i>
TURNING POINT SUBSTANCE ABUSE PROGRAMME	Mrs. Shirley Place, <i>Female Resilience in an Outpatient Treatment Environment</i>

### BERMUDA POLICE SERVICE:

FINANCIAL CRIME UNIT	Mr. Kalvin Nhan, <i>Financial Analyst</i>
NARCOTICS	Mr. Joseph Sherwin, <i>Inspector</i> Mr. Nidol Barker, <i>Sergeant</i>
DUI	Mr. Raoul Ming, <i>Inspector</i>

### 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*

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BERMUDA ASSESSMENT AND REFERRAL CENTRE	Ms. Mariko Aguiar, <i>Clinical Supervisor</i>
DRUG TREATMENT COURT	Dr. Renee Lightbourne, <i>Senior Probation Officer</i>

### DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH:

CENTRAL GOVERNMENT LABORATORY	Ms. Rentha Francis, <i>Government Analyst</i>
MATERNAL HEALTH CLINIC	Ms. Ann Marie Moore, <i>Maternal Health Nurse</i>

### DEPARTMENT FOR NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL:

Mrs. Joanne Dean, *Director*  
Dr. Kyla Raynor, *Senior Research Officer/Policy Analyst*  
Mrs. Stephanie Tankard, *Research Officer*  
Mrs. Angria Bassett, *Programme Manager*

NELSON BASCOME CENTRE FOR SUBSTANCE  
ABUSE TREATMENT

### DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC PROSECUTIONS

Ms. Cindy Clarke, *Director*

### HM CUSTOMS

Mr. Dean Lema, *Principal Customs Officer*  
Ms. Melody Lightbourne, *Senior Customs Officer*

### LIQUOR LICENCE AUTHORITY

Mr. Marc Daniels, *Chairman*

# ANNEX III: PARTICIPANT EVALUATION

2022 ANNUAL MEETING OF THE  
BERMUDA DRUG INFORMATION NETWORK  
(BerDIN)

4<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER, 2022  
TRADEWINDS AUDITORIUM  
BUEI

## PARTICIPANT EVALUATION

Friday, 4<sup>th</sup> November, 2022

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:

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The meeting could be improved by:

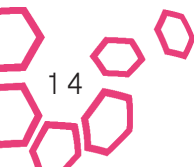
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Other comments or suggestions:

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## PARTICIPANT EVALUATION RESULTS: MEETING

Friday, 4<sup>th</sup> November, 2022

MEETING DESIGN	Scores*				
Items	2022 (n = 30/41)	2020 (n = 31/38)	2019 (n = 38/54)	2018 (n = 42/54)	2017 (n = 45/69)
– Organisation of the Meeting	4.2	4.7	4.5	4.6	4.6
– Content (Current, Relevant, Useful)	4.4	4.8	4.5	4.7	4.7
– Meeting Facilities (Venue, Meals, etc.)	4.4	4.6	4.6	4.2	4.5
– Participant Materials	4.4	4.7	4.5	4.4	4.5
– Quality of the Meeting (Overall Meeting Rating)	4.4	4.9	4.5	4.6	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

\*2021 was presented using percentages as the evaluation process was completed online due to hosting a virtual meeting.

MEETING DESIGN	Score				
Items	2022 (n = 31/38)	2020 (n = 31/38)	2019 (n = 38/54)	2018 (n = 42/54)	2017 (n = 45/69)
– Meeting objectives were accomplished	4.4	4.8	4.5	4.6	4.6
– The information was timely/relevant	4.4	4.9	4.5	4.7	4.7
– Opportunities for participation/involvement	4.4	4.8	4.6	4.2	4.5
– Format/agenda was suitable	4.3	4.8	4.5	4.4	4.5

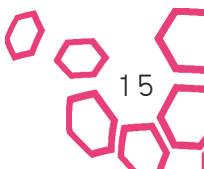
n = number of evaluation forms completed by participants who were present for all or most of the day.  
Scale: 5 = Outstanding, 4 = Above Average, 3 = Average, 2 = Below Average, 1 = Poor

\*2021 was presented using percentages as the evaluation process was completed online due to hosting a virtual meeting.

Length of Meeting: 66.7% (30 respondents) thought it was “About Right”.

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

- Giveaways and networking
- Sharing of recovery group
- Information about youth substance use
- The relevant information of the current trends
- The riveting testimonies of the recovering addicts
- The meetings are relevant
- Presentations- recovering individual inclusion
- Q&A
- Information that is shared from different agencies



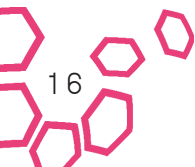
- There was some excellent information presented today
- The presentations. Thank you for having Narcotics Anonymous and FOCUS clients.
- Police and Dr. Basden presentations
- Each presentation- Focus on gender and substance use.
- Topics, Content and Presenters.
- Meeting stakeholders
- DNDC BerDIN Report
- The comradery
- Learning what is happening in other departments
- EAP presentation
- Being presented with statistical data that may not be readily available.
- Knowledgeable presenters. Great subject matter. Relevant.

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

- Hybrid option for content
- New location- like tables better
- Restricted by time
- Hopefully trends can be disseminated in real time so that each agency can adequately prepare as it relates to direct practice.
- We need to move back to Thursday and Friday meetings.
- Less presentations and more interaction
- Staying on schedule so that presentations are not rushed
- It would be nice to hear success stories of women
- Longer length of meeting to engage more discussion
- Inclusion of other partners (e.g. MOED)

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

- Thank you for consistency. The issues being addressed need youth voices at these forums.
- Continue to bring relevant information to the team
- I think it would be good if we could meet twice a year. Things/trends are changing very rapidly. Awesome Day!
- Any thoughts on going to two days?
- I really enjoyed and really miss, from previous meetings, the Day 2 self-care activities and networking.
- Well done to all the presenters and it was a great opportunity to network.
- We appreciate you!
- Excellent overall meeting!
- Great job!
- Parking Problem
- Too many presentations in too short time
- The meeting is always informative and enjoyable. Thank you!
- Share presentations
- The agenda was too ambitious for the timeframe. All presenters and subjects were good, just a lot for one day.







## 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.*