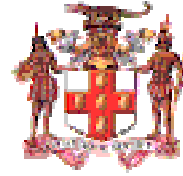




# NATIONAL COUNCIL ON DRUG ABUSE DRUG ABUSE SECRETARIAT

2-6 Melmac Avenue, Kingston 5, Jamaica

*Working for a Drug Free Jamaica*



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For immediate release

## **Minister of Health to launch integrated counseling clinics**

The Minister of Health and Environment, Honourable Rudyard Spencer, will launch Jamaica's first integrated counseling clinics on Tuesday, January 29<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am at the Knutsford Court Hotel in Kingston. The ten community centres will serve substance abusers, persons living with HIV/AIDS, victims of trauma and violence, children with delinquent behaviours and their parents. Arrangements with the National Health Fund (NHF) were concluded recently for the funding of a two-year pilot project costing 11.8 million dollars. Chief Executive Officer of the NHF, Rae Barrett has been invited to attend the launch.

The NCDA is ready to implement the project. According to the agency's Executive Director, Michael Tucker, " These clinics are a critical part of our plan to extend treatment services and to collaborate with other agencies engaged in providing social services. These new partners are important to the way forward for Jamaica." Clinical support for the centres will come from the Department of Community Health and Psychiatry of the University of the West Indies (UWI) and technical support from the NCDA. Further, the funding enables the drug agency to evaluate existing Treatment and Rehabilitation facilities and to establish minimum standards of care.

The community development committee of the National Council on Drug Abuse (NCDA) recognized the need for such services. An estimated five thousand (5000) persons are expected to benefit from the services each year. Jamaica has 187, 000 persons who are addicted to various substances. Each year, five hundred (500) persons are treated in existing residential settings. The clinics are sited in May Pen, Browns Town, Negril, Port Antonio and Spanish Town. Within the corporate area, there are four such centres located on Hope Road, Molyneux Road, the Washington Boulevard and Grants Pen Road..

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