

BARBADOS COUNCIL FOR THE DISABLED

BIENNIAL GENERAL MEETING

2005-2007



Harambee House



HARAMBEE HOUSE

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Mission

Barbados Council for the Disabled is the Non-Governmental umbrella body partnering with all sectors of the community and international agencies to effect change and champion the rights of all persons with disabilities, ensuring their full and effective integration into society.

1. HARAMBEE HOUSE

With the opening of Harambee House in March 2006, the Council finally has a fully functional office and Resource Centre. The resource Centre has been designed specifically for the use of the 19 Organisations affiliated to the Council.

To date, the most utilised room in the Resource Centre is the conference room. On a number of occasions we have hosted two meetings simultaneously, one in the conference room and the other in the reception area. Meetings are facilitated during regular office hours, evenings and weekends. The resource Admin Room has been fitted with its own fully functional computer with the Jaws for Windows Screen Reader and a colour printer. The computer lab has four fully functional computers that are Internet capable with one computer fitted with a CD burner.

With the acquisition of a Risograph and Braille Embosser, Harambee House is fully equipped to handle some of our printing needs and we produce Booklets, Fliers and Handouts. Additionally, our Tiger Embosser makes double-sided Braille copies and is capable of graphical interpretations.

Harambee House offers mail drop-off for member organisations; the facility also offers members designated email addresses with staff available to assist in arranging meetings, seminars and social events.

The National Library Service is presently advising the Council in setting up a catalogue system for our library. In order to facilitate an efficient service, the Council purchased a Database computer program to register books, tapes and other relevant documents

We have been assisted in the provision of the library service by donations of books and tapes from Quinnipiac University, the Canadian Women's Club and Senator Ivan Lynton.

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2. HEALTH

Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR)

In continuation of our CBR programme, the Council, Albert Schweitzer Institute and Quinnipiac University jointly initiated the art of Puppetry as a Public Awareness tool in Barbados.

The Council and the University sourced 6 puppets and scripts that addressed the strengths and challenges of persons with disabilities. In 2006 five Physiotherapy and Occupational therapy students and their professor worked with staff, members and volunteers using the puppets as a medium to raise awareness in primary schools, the Girl Guides and the young kiwanis.

Because puppets are characters, children related with ease to this method of communication. Over the period the Council continued to develop this method

of teaching and raising awareness of disability issues in schools and various public events. Our puppets are popularly called the Harambee Kids.

PHYSIOTHERAPIST

An important element of our CBR programme was the provision of physiotherapy services to our membership. With funds applied for in our subvention the Council was able to employ a part time physiotherapist in 2005. Ms. Yarde provided assessments as well as individual and Group Therapy to members and some individuals unable to attend hospital-based therapy.

In 2007, Dr. Sandie Yeadon a qualified physiotherapist and ex ballet teacher was appointed to replace Ms. Yarde who had resigned to take up a full time position. In her few months with us, Dr Yeadon has managed to increase the membership of the group therapy sessions from five to fifteen persons. She has also continued to assess PWD in their home environment and provide individual exercise programmes.

The provision of the physiotherapy sessions to our members has proved to be very successful. The services will be extended this summer to offer dance therapy to OPOD'S summer camp.

HIV AIDS

In May, 2006 the World Bank sponsored a workshop on HIV/AIDS. The aims and objectives of the workshop were to determine "the Strengths and Challenges within the Community of Persons with Disabilities, as it relates to HIV/AIDS.

Participants explored health promotional issues as well as service delivery to PWD. Issues of sexuality, consultation, resources, counselling service and content of HIV/AIDS training was addressed.

In looking at the way forward, participants concerns and recommendations was sent to the HIV/AIDS Commission and the Ministry of Social Transformation, these included-

- Training courses and counselling services that meet the needs of all disability groups including the particular needs young adults with learning challenges
- Acknowledgement that parents, caregivers and teachers are in the best position to encourage young adults with intellectual challenges to practice safe sex and the provision of training for these groups.
- Implementation of assessment procedures that evaluate both trainers and content of courses for persons with disabilities.
- Avoidance of further stigmatization of persons with disabilities when addressing the subject of Disability and HIV/AIDS.
- Opportunities for professional development and for remunerated employment of persons with disabilities as well as caregivers.

- Persons with disabilities in the design and delivery of HIV/AIDS training, as well as the provision of counselling services.
- The provision for trained counsellors who are also skilled interpreters
- The use of caregivers as interpreters for communication purposes has serious implications for confidentiality.

HIV AIDS and Children Research Project

Ms. Esther Clarke, a volunteer, from England contacted the Council through our website. She was a recently qualified Oxford Graduate seeking to gain experience on disability issues in the Caribbean.

Ms. Clarke fully participated in the Council's activities and played an active role in the CBR programme. She also undertook a short piece of research entitled "What do children with learning disabilities in Barbados know about HIV/AIDS and Abuse"

The Family planning association has published her findings. Copies of the report will be available in our library and sent to PAHO, UNICEF the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health, HIV/AIDS Commission and the Ministry of Social Transformation.

3. FUNDRAISING

OPA!

The 2006 annual OPA Golf Tournament, a fundraising event, has continued to be a success. The golf tournament and dinner enters its fifth year, with this year's event taking place on Sunday July 1st.

It has always been the request of the donors that the funds derived be utilized in the transportation of children with disabilities. However, this year at the request of OPA the proceeds will be shared with the newly opened Sunshine Early Stimulation Centre.

The Council appreciates the relationship developed over the years with the management, staff and donors of OPA Restaurant and will continue to work with them in creating equal opportunities for all children with disabilities.

BARBADOS COMMUNITY FOUNDATION (BCF)

The Barbados Community Foundation a well-established organization, has continued to support the Council's goals. The Board is greatly appreciative of the support and recognition the BCF has given us. In 2006, the Foundation generously committed \$12,500.000, to ensure our transportation for children with disabilities is sustained.

Brian Lara Foundation

The Council benefited from an inaugural event staged by Brian Lara, in Barbados to raise funds for charitable organizations, we received a sizeable

donation of \$10,000.000, which was allocated for the purchase of an accessible bus.

Royal Westmoreland

A cricket bat was autographed by Brian Lara, Sachin Tendulkar and Steve Waugh and was auctioned at an event held by the Royal Westmoreland. The auction raised \$8,000.00 for our replacement bus.

The Council acknowledges the tremendous support from Johnny Tudor in securing \$18,000 from the two events.

KIWANIS Silver Dollars for Children

This ambitious event held in September 2005 almost achieved its double goals. Though the mile of silver dollars was not reached, the seven charities still benefited tremendously with each receiving \$7,000.00.

Members of the Autism Association, OPOD, and NUSB, the MS Society, staff and some members of the Board, were on hand throughout the day encouraging the public to contribute their dollars to the initiative. All of the funds were disbursed to the member organizations that address the needs of children with disabilities.

With the Kiwanis requesting that the money raised in the 2006 initiative be used in a tangible way, the funds have been allocated to the purchase of the replacement bus, which will be used for the transportation of children with disabilities to and from school.

Bank of Nova Scotia

Once again staff at the Bank of Nova Scotia has worked hard in their fundraising efforts and has generously donated the sum of \$16,800.00 and \$4,000.00 within the last two years to the bus fund.

Airlines Association

For the past six years the Airlines Association has supported the Council's activities through a Covenant. Their contributions have been extremely beneficial to the quality of service provided by the Council to our members.

Studio Studio

In November/December 2006 Studio Studio photography studios chose the Council as the recipient of their 2nd annual "Du Fuh Du" Christmas promotion. Mr. Carl Blenman and his wife Mrs. Paulette Blenman took personal responsibility for the project. It entailed customers purchasing a package of photographs at a cost of \$50.00

Belle Holder from morning Barbados and the print media supported the promotion. The initiative raised \$18,900.00 for our bus fund.

4. EDUCATION

UNIFEM – “Vulnerability of the Disabled Woman”

In the latter part of 2005, the Council was successful in our submission to UNIFEM of a project proposal, the “Vulnerability of the Disabled Woman”.

The project had three major components, **an information booklet and CD** on Abuse, **self defence classes** and a **Panel discussion**

The CD was beautifully read by Dr. Alison Leacock and was produced by Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation. The Booklet and CD was designed to provide up-to-date, easy-to-read information on abuse. It features tips on identifying abusive relationships as well as available services. The booklet has been incorporated into the curriculum of the Learning Centre. We will be working with the Ministry of education to introduce the booklet and CD into their teaching programme and have started distribution to all government secondary schools.

The self-defence programme was implemented at Harambee House under the guidance of the Annu Institute and has been successfully completed. The panel discussion was also held at Harambee House with a full attendance.

Glass Blowing

The challenges faced by persons with disabilities to find employment continue to be a matter of great concern. As part of our commitment to providing opportunities, the Council facilitated training in the art of glass blowing for four young persons with disabilities.

Participants of the workshop were from the Learning Centre, the Challenor Creative Arts and Training Centre and the Ann Hill School. Mr. Steve Ludwig of Island Glass Studio facilitated the classes.

Unfortunately the facilities were not accessible and this restricted participation for the mobility challenged. The classes were held twice weekly for eight weeks. The Council provided transportation and met the cost of the training.

Gale Theatre of London

On March 26, 2007, the Gale Theatre Productions presented a dramatic reading of the Glass Menagerie. A play written by acclaimed American playwright Tennessee Williams and features Laura Wingfield who had a physical challenge.

The play is part of this year’s Caribbean Examination Council syllabus and as such is targeted principally towards CXC students.

The Director and producer of the play were very sensitive to disability issues and facilitated a workshop on the portrayal of disabilities in theatre. They also facilitated a question/answer segment after the production.

Additionally, a student from the Springer Memorial School, Shakira Forde, read a powerful self-penned poem on standing up for the rights as a person with a disability, which was read on morning Barbados.

5. ADVOCACY

Pamphlets

In October of 2005, the "Making Life Accessible" pamphlets were revisited and upgraded. Two pamphlets were produced "Making Life Accessible to the physically challenged" and "Making Life accessible for the Blind and Deaf".

The Council plans to produce a third pamphlet, which will address the needs of persons with developmental disabilities.

Kids World

It was at the invitation of SOJE/Lonsdale that the Barbados Council for the Disabled was invited to participate at Kidz World Expo 2006, which was held at Sherburne Conference Centre from May 27 – 28.

The Council was offered a complimentary booth, where full advantage was taken to showcase "**Puppetry in Action**". This effort afforded us the opportunity to heighten awareness of disability issues as seen through the eyes of children.

The Puppeteers consisted of five volunteers and one staff member, who gave excellent performances and must be complimented on their hard work.

Other activities provided by the Council included the Jack Horner's Pie, Wheelie Scotch, and board puzzles

The **Lions Club of Bridgetown Social Services Committee** under the leadership of Lion Miriam Rouse sponsored the admission fees as well as lunch for 25 children with disabilities, and their parents to attend Kids World. The event was very successful; the Council commends the Lions Club of Bridgetown for their inclusion of children with disabilities in their programme of activities.

Disaster Preparedness Workshop

After conducting a workshop in June 2006, the Council joined forces with the vulnerable group committee of the National Assistance Board. The workshop targeted the needs of PWD during emergency situations; all members were invited to participate.

Key emergency personnel from various sectors were invited to share relevant information and to gain an understanding from PWD of the services they would

require in an emergency situation. One of the benefits of the workshop was identifying the training needs for emergency personnel.

CERO Disaster Simulation

This year, the Council together with eleven members including children with various disabilities, took part in the CERO Disaster Simulation exercise. To ensure accessible transportation, the Council's bus was made available.

The exercise was a success, with a number of identified challenges noted for improvement. These included dietary needs, communication and transportation.

IF WE COULD CHANGE PLACES

The Council participated in a joint workshop with the NAB, Vulnerable Persons Committee and the Stress Management in Disaster Team. The workshop was entitled "If We Could Change Places" and was designed for Shelter Wardens, members of the District Emergency Organisations, volunteers and Nursing Homes.

The aim of this workshop was to educate first responders and emergency personnel on the techniques and facilities needed to adequately evacuate PWD in an emergency situation.

Participants readily shared the challenges they faced in providing services for persons with disabilities. They cited lack of information and resources as some of the more pressing concerns.

Welfare and Benefits Panel Discussion

Member Organizations attended the Panel Discussion on Benefits available to persons with disabilities, which was held at the Barbados Public Workers Corporate Credit Union Limited.

The Welfare Department, the National Insurance Department and the National Disabilities Unit facilitated the workshop. There were presentations on the types of benefits and members were reminded that they must disclose all relevant information when applying for benefits.

NIS dealt with the a number of issues pertaining to benefits for PWD which included non contributory payments for persons who are blind and deaf, Invalidity benefits, and Disablement benefits.

Central Bank Health Watch Committee Health Fest

The Council and members once again participated in the Central Bank Health Fest, which was held in May 2006 and May 2007, at the Cathedral Plaza, Central Bank. Organizations Leaflets and relevant information pertaining to their member organisations were distributed. Ms. Marjorie Watson, Mrs.

Miriam Kennedy, Ms. Michelle Pinder, Mrs. Juanita Paul Gibbs and Mr. Mike Owen, all members of our affiliates, ably assisted the Council

Child Care Board Health Expo

The Council participated in the Child Care Board's Health Expo held in May 2006 at Jubilee Gardens. The Expo was part of Child Month celebrations; the theme was "Violence Tears Our Nation Apart, Building Communities Requires One Heart."

The Council once again, used the opportunity to display literature and items that are produced by the Council and our membership. There was no Expo in 2007.

UN 8th AD HOC Committee

The Special Envoy for PWD and the President attended the 8th session of the Ad HOC Committee on the Rights of PWD at United Nations New York. It was noted that a large number of countries had PWD as part of their delegation.

The convention does not create new rights for PWD it is based on existing human rights Treaties. The aim is to guarantee effective protection of PWD and ensure that they can enjoy the full range of human rights including, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights.

The Convention will help to bring to the attention of Governments the challenges faced by over 650 million persons with disabilities globally. To date 96 countries have signed the convention with 56 countries ratifying. Barbados has publicly committed to signing the convention, but to date have not done so.

MY BUDDY PROTECTOR

Following on from our "Vulnerability of the Disabled Woman" project, the Council recognised the need to go a step further in empowering women with disabilities with a sense of security. The American Women's Club timely offer to support the Council with this initiative was graciously accepted.

The pocket-sized "My Buddy" attracts attention when used in an aggravated situation. A slight tug of the safety clip emits a piercing alarm and flashing light. The "Buddy Protector" has been fully sponsored by the American Women's Club and has been distributed to vulnerable persons including the elderly.

The Government Information service has promoted the device on TV and radio. Scenes shot at Harambee House for the promotion included young adults with disabilities.

Disability Awareness Day

Disability Awareness Day "**DAD**" was officially launched in a ceremony at the Arthur Smith Primary School. The school was selected because of its close proximity to Harambee House. The principal and staff – as well as the Parent Teacher's Association – must be complimented for their warm and supportive response to the initiative.

Former Bishop of Croydon, Sir Wilfred Wood crafted the official commemorative prayer for DAD. The prayer was distributed to all schools in Barbados for inclusion in the launch day assembly.

The text of the prayer was adapted by the Medinah Foundation to make it appropriate for use in Muslim Schools. Cot Caribbean Graphics donated 250 copies of the prayers for distribution to the schools.

The well-coordinated launch ceremony prominently featured the students of Arthur Smith School. The prayer was read by the head boy and sign language interpreted by two students. The school's choir beautifully performed two songs; this was accompanied by dance performances and the words of the songs interpreted by another group of students.

The Feature Address, delivered by Hon. Anthony Wood, Minister of Education, Youth Affairs and Sports was very well received. It illustrated the Ministry's stated commitment to an inclusive Education. We look forward to reviewing the Draft Policy on Special Education referred to by Minister Wood.

As the plans for DAD were being developed, a sticker to commemorate the day was conceptualized and a proposal sent to UNICEF for funding. The \$5,000.00 received covered the total cost of twenty-eight thousand stickers depicting the "DAD" initiative.

In its first celebration, **Disability Awareness Day** was a resounding success. Numerous schools undertook their own programmes to mark the day. For example, South District Primary featured stories of local persons with disabilities who have been successful in a variety of fields. The Charles F. Broomes requested an address from a Council representative during their assembly. The students of the Luther Thorne Memorial raised over nine hundred dollars for the purchase of a wheelchair, while St. Bartholomew's Primary staged "**We all play the same game**" focusing on blind cricket.

The "**Harambee Kids**" puppet troupe visited the Luther Thorne Memorial, Christ Church Girls and St. Martin's Mangrove schools, delivering unique messages through the medium of puppetry. The response to the puppets was overwhelming. The puppets also made a significant impact during the official launching ceremony.

Harambee Kids

The "Harambee Kids" has made a number of performances since their introduction. Included in their performances this year were Challenor School, Kiddies Kingdom Nursery & Preschool, Pine Primary School and the Autism Association of Barbados Concert. A skit was also written specifically for Myasthenia Gravis Association of Barbados and performed at their Annual Lecture. Mrs. Gaylene Mohamed, a member of staff is spearheading a core of "Harambee Kids" volunteers in all of the performances.

There are still more schools scheduled for performances and we intend to have a workshop to train additional puppeteers.

6. TRANSPORTATION

Accessible Public Transport

To ensure that safe and suitable transportation is provided for persons with disabilities, the Transport Board, the Ministry of Social Transformation and the National Disabilities Unit met with the Council and its affiliates to outline the specifications for the five new accessible Mercedes Sprinter Buses.

The Management team at the Board had visited a number of dial a ride organisations in England and had taken a very detailed approach to the bus selection, they listed a number of specifications which was deemed suitable in providing transport services for PWD. Transport Board asked organisations present to sign a Specifications sheet confirming their approval of the buses.

A recommendation was strongly put forward that the administration of these vehicles should embrace the employment of persons with disabilities. We will continue to work on this aspect to ensure adequate representation of PWD.

The Council also lobbied to have the fares set at the same rate as that of the general public and is pleased to report that this has been confirmed. The buses are now licensed and will shortly be available for use.

BCD Accessible Transport Service

The Council's bus that takes children with disabilities to and from school is six years old and heavily used. It has become financially draining on our resources to continue to maintain the bus, particularly if its usage is to continue in its present form.

The other bus B278 is pretty much holding its own as far as transporting our members. "Elf" as the staff refers to it, is almost always at a 99% capacity booking. These vital services will continue to be closely monitored.

New Accessible vehicles

We are pleased to report that in June of this year the Council acquired a new Maxus LDV Accessible Bus. The bus will shortly be assigned to transport children to and from school but will also be utilised by adults with disabilities when it is not in use by the children.

The Council has also ordered and is awaiting the delivery of a new accessible car to replace the 16-year-old car currently in use.

7. ACCESS

Parking Awareness

As the level of awareness of the needs and challenges of persons with disabilities has increased, several commercial houses have provided designated parking spaces for persons with disabilities. Unfortunately, some members of the public constantly abuse these facilities.

In an effort to galvanise support and continue the advocacy against such abuse, the Council launched an island wide awareness campaign in November and December 2005. This was done in collaboration with the Barbados Association of Rehabilitation Therapists.

We produced "**Where Are You Parked**" and "**Parking Violation**" fliers and "**Be kind, Respect the Sign**" as well as "**Independence for All**" bumper stickers. In the week proceeding December 3, 2005 the Council placed the bumper stickers and fliers in key public places for distribution; including Barbados Light and Power, Carlton Super Market, Super Centre branches and a number of other commercial institutions.

The project was very successful and highlighted the somewhat callous attitude adopted towards the designated parking. The Council continues to issue the Parking violation fliers, and continue to highlight the everyday access challenges faced by persons with disabilities.

Home Show

The Council once again took part in the Home Show. Our theme focused on access for all persons with disabilities. Using enlarged photographs of the positive and negative aspects of our environment we attempted to convey the message to the public of how to and how not to cater to access needs PWD. We included all disability groups with displays focusing on the deaf, blind, mobility and intellectually challenged.

FAB

After the launch of this project in the latter part of 2005, we have experienced some challenges in getting the necessary support. With numerous deterrents along the way, we are certain that Fully Accessible Barbados will become a reality in the near future.

8. RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Friday Lime

On Friday June 16th 2006, the Council held a Lime, which was intended to initiate the start of other similar activities. The evening was a resounding success, with a wide representation of members enjoying Karaoke as well as card games, dominoes, food drinks and Good Company. A number of our members have since utilized Harambee House for their celebratory events.

Jaycees Fun Day

The Jaycees held their eighth annual Special Day for "Special Children" on Saturday September 30, 2006 at Illaro Court, the grounds of the Prime Minister's residence.

There was a large turn out of children from the various schools, this was the first time the activity saw so many children/young adults who were Deaf/Hearing Impaired.

A number of fun activities and entertainment were provided and a wide assortment of refreshments was served throughout the afternoon. Transportation was provided by Foster and Ince and the Council's two buses.

A special thanks to the JAYCEES and their sponsor Digicel, who arranged another successful Fun Day for children with disabilities.

International Day of Disabled Persons 2006

The Annual celebration for the International Day of Disabled Persons was commemorated in keeping with the UN Theme for 2006 "E-Access". The Council arranged two events which were staged at the Ocean Park Barbados Ltd.

"My Buddy Protector" was launched by the President of the American Women's Club and Mrs. Julie Arthur, wife of the Prime Minister who also presented buddy protectors to young persons with disabilities.

Mr. Philip Cross, representing Dr. Rosina Wiltshire, Resident Coordinator United Nations delivered the keynote address. There were also self-defence demonstrations from Annu Institute.

The Council also held its annual festive luncheon. Preparations were made to cater for 300 persons and the final tally was approximately 280.

The guest of honour was Mrs. Julie Arthur and her daughter Leah.

One of the high points of the event was the "E-Access-Abilities" center-pieces placed on each table. Each card held valuable information on a noted person with a disability and a corresponding piece of technology which could be

beneficial to a person with similar challenges. The cards were well received as they highlighted a number of well-known and not so well known persons with disabilities. Emphasis was placed on the inclusion of persons with Caribbean origins. There was also a small gift giving game "the Right Family Christmas" which added an element of light-hearted fun to the proceedings.

The tickets for the event were subsidized by the Council

Corporate Barbados contributed substantially to the event in kind with donations of wine, chickens, turkeys, hams and drinks and the Council's volunteers offered much needed support for the event.

Concorde Visit

The Barbados Council for the Disabled continues to be encouraged by of the Lions Club of Bridgetown support in offering children with disabilities equal opportunities to share in social activities offered to the public.

In May 2007, forty children with disabilities, parents and guardians, drawn from among our membership and the special schools toured the Concorde Museum with great excitement.

The Museum Experience included an interactive simulation area of the inside of the Concorde. This afforded persons who are unable to access the stairs of the airplane to actually get a realistic feel of being on the Concorde and even piloting one.

Cruise 2007

Our cruise was again added to our calendar of events. The board recognised that it would be challenging to raise funds just after World Cup Cricket, and decided to hold the cruise as a social event and not as a fundraising activity. As expected a small profit was realised; however the outcome was very encouraging as most of the persons attending were either members or friends.

9. ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

HARAMBEE ENTERPRISE SCHEME

To coincide with the opening of Harambee House, the Council embarked on the Harambee Enterprise Scheme as an initiative to facilitate individuals with disabilities attaining a personal objective. With a maximum budget of \$2,000.00 a year, it was agreed that two members would be awarded each year.

In 2006 the selection committee comprised of Ms. Julie Sealy- Chairperson, Ms. Cheryl Belle, Canon Noel Burke, Mr. Ken Harewood, Mrs. Peggy Inniss, and Ms. Linda Walcott, Mrs. Roseanna Tudor with administration assistance from Ms. Emily Lynch.

The first Awardees of the Harambee Enterprise Scheme were Mr. Granville Carter and Mr. Patrick Forde. They were both presented with their awards at the opening of Harambee House.

Mrs. Dorien Pile chaired this year's committee; the awardees are Ms. Nicole Layne and Mr. Bernard Sealy. The Council wishes to thank the committees for their dedication to the task and wish all applicants every success in their endeavours.

TRAINING FOR DEVELOPMENT

TVET Training for the Blind

Three visually impaired persons were identified to participate in the 10-week Assistive Technology Trainers' Course funded by TVET and ably facilitated by Kerryann Ifill, the Council's Research Officer.

The programme consisted of training in Microsoft Word, Microsoft Excel, and the use of the Internet with additional coaching in the use of Jaws for Windows.

Class attendance was exceptionally good, with two of the three students achieving 100% attendance.

Overall, participants clearly demonstrated aptitude for the material covered and it is to be hoped that similar programmes will be conducted in the future.

In 2006, the council invited its members to identify areas in which they required additional training and support. The survey conducted revealed that the areas in need of most urgent attention were:

- Events Planning
- Project Management
- Leadership Development

Events Planning

The first activity was "Events Planning and Promotion". The Council was determined that all participants should benefit from a fully certified course as opposed to a workshop activity. After investigating a number of programmes, it was decided to engage the service the Caribbean Training Institute. The programme was scheduled to run from January 16 to May 9, but has since been extended to June 2007.

Six persons from the following six organisations have participated in the course, Organisations who submitted names are:

- The National United Society of the Blind
- The Multiple Sclerosis Society of Barbados
- The Barbados Association of Children who are Intellectually Challenged
- The Barbados Association for the Blind and Deaf
- BARNOD
- Barbados Organisation of Parents of the Disabled

The Council provides the Blind and visually impaired students with Braille and Audio course material.

From all reports, the course has been well received with high levels of attendance.

Project Management Training

Members are shortly to commence training on the "Project Management" The course will be facilitated by Advantage Training Solutions and will be conducted under the Certified Business Professional training programme; the Technical and Vocation Educational Council will contribute partial funding.

Constitution Review

At present the Council's constitution is under review as agreed to by the General Assembly. Mr. Peter Serieux has chaired a committee comprising of Ms. Sandra Carter, Ms. Patricia Taylor, with staff support from Ms. Emily Lynch. The document has been presented to the Board of Directors and is currently being reviewed by Justice Inniss.

10.COMMUNICATIONS

The Council continues to work towards strengthening all lines of communication with the general public and our membership.

The "A Voice of Our Own" article continues to be one the Council's main public awareness campaigns. The articles covers wide ranging issue that impact on PWD.

The Weekly bulletin continues to be circulated to over 200 persons. We've recently upgraded the distribution of the bulletin, which is now sent through the website's "Subscriptions". It is to be regretted that more organisations do not utilise the bulletin as a means of sharing their varying activities and we hope that this year will see increased participation.

The website underwent a transformation during the past year. The overall image has been upgraded; one dynamic aspect of the site is an adaptation of the Directory of Services. Additionally we feature Calendar of Events and daily international news feed. Mr. Terry Ally continues to supervise the website on the Council's behalf with the guidance and input of the Board and Secretariat.

The Council has also published an article on discharge planning, in the Barbados Association of Medical Practitioners Quarterly magazine.

The Media continues to support our work, particularly the Nation Publishing Company and the producers of 'Morning Barbados'.

World Health Organization (WHO) Atlas - Country Resources on Intellectual Disabilities

The WHO Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse and Montreal Pan American Health Organization collaborating Centre for Reference and Training in Mental Health conducted a worldwide Survey on needs and resources of persons intellectually challenged.

The Barbados Council for the Disabled, OPOD, the Autism Association and the Children's Development Centre in consultation with the Ministry of Education and health professionals completed the Survey. The survey helped to highlight the gaps in knowledge and the work that needs to be done to address the challenges faced by persons with intellectual challenges.

11. GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION

Over the past two years, the collaboration between the Council and Government has improved significantly. It is extremely gratifying that our input has been sought on a number of important Government initiatives.

In July of 2006, the Council was invited to have a representative sit on the **Vulnerable Persons Committee**. During this period, the **National Advisory Committee on Persons with Disabilities** commenced meetings. The committee has a wide cross section of individuals whose task it is to advise the Ministry of Social Transformation on the matters concerning persons with disabilities.

During the period under review the Council has been consulted on the following initiatives:

- The Ministry of Health - Draft Oral Health Policy and community care strategy.
- The Ministry of Energy - Draft Energy Policy
- The Government of Barbados - National Strategic Plan 2005-2020
- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs - Human Rights Convention
- ACP-EU – 9th Regional Seminar of ACP-EU Economic and Social Interest Groups.
- Our input has also been sought on the Building Code, The National Library Service, Transport Board, Cricket World Cup and the National Initiative for Service Excellence.

National Initiative for Service Excellence (NISE)

"NISE" will be hosting a workshop for young school leavers; their manual will cover information provided by the Council on working with and catering to the needs of persons with disabilities.

The **Barbados National Standards Institute** (BNSI) has completed the redrafting of the Building Code, which will be placed before parliament for approval.

The **National Library Service** has installed computers with technology for persons with disabilities. The Council has been invited to discuss training and relocation for these systems, which are currently located at the Speightstown Branch.

The Library Service is seeking maximum use of the service by members of the community of persons with disabilities.

We have also continued to have representation on the **National Council of Aged, Disaster Preparedness and the Children Development Centre.**

It is to be hoped that with the signing of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities the level of collaboration will continue to grow.

12. ADMINISTRATION

NEWSPAPER ARCHIVE

Preservation of one's history is one of the greatest gifts that one can give to the next generation. With this in view, the Council has kept extensive newspaper archives. Overtime, these papers have begun to become worn and ragged. We're therefore embarking on a plan of preservation of the clippings.

With the support of volunteers, we have begun to create a searchable electronic archive of the cuttings. The information would be uploaded to the website to make it completely accessible to our membership or persons conducting research.

To facilitate the easy access to the articles, the Nation and Advocate newspapers has been approached for digital copies of all articles in their archive. It is anticipated that this task should be completed over the coming months. Two volunteers have begun to enter information onto the database.

Staff Development

The Staff of the Council has continued to improve their skills to ensure greater efficiency. Three members of staff completed a course in Microsoft PowerPoint which has enhanced the quality of Council presentations.

As our accounting system is now fully computerised, it was essential that staff be adequately prepared with the maintenance of the system. In keeping with their daily tasks, two members of staff also completed a course in QuickBooks Accounting Package. A further three members of staff will also participate in the Project management Training which will begin in July.

First Aid Training

The staff of BCD underwent a day of first aid training with the Heart and Stroke Foundation, which was conducted by Gina Pitts. The certified course was an introduction to basic first aid and included:

- The General Principles of First Aid

- What to do in the event of choking
- How to perform CPR
- How to treat burns and bites

All staff successfully completed the training and on receipt of their cards were registered first aid attendants with the American Heart Association for two years.

It has been recommended that our bus drivers Mr. Rupert Holder attend a further one-day training course for paediatric first aid as he takes responsibility for driving the children to and from school.

13. VOLUNTEERISM

Cricket World Cup 2007

In August sixteen persons with Disabilities attended a one-Day training Session on volunteering for cricket world cup 2007. These included persons who are visually impaired, hearing impaired, wheelchair user, Interpreters for the Deaf and a Rehab Officer for the Blind.

We also had discussions with Cricket World Cup (CWC) legacy committee, their transport coordinator and their volunteer coordinator. Although 16 volunteers were trained and photographs taken for identity cards, our volunteers were not utilised. CWC did however make use of our accessible bus and driver.

BCD Volunteers

Having realised the importance of volunteers in organisations, the Council invited a wide cross section of our volunteers to a meeting to inform them of the work of the Council and our membership. We have offered the use of our volunteers to members and in many cases this has proven to be productive. For example, we were able to respond to a request from the Children Development Centre and provided a volunteer who supports a child's school attendance. Currently there are fifty-five persons with a variety of skills, listed on our database.

REVIEW

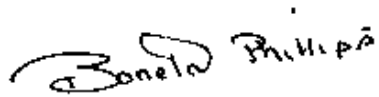
The last two years has been consolidating several years work. We have achieved some major objectives but like any growing organisation we need to continually evaluate our achievements and be clear about our goals.

A challenge has been the lack of support or information from the National Disabilities Unit. However we have been able to maintain progress by the collaborative efforts of other Government Departments and International Agencies.

I would conclude by thanking the Board of Directors for their contributions, I would particularly like to thank the Treasurer, Mrs Dorien Pile who worked very hard to implement change. My thanks to the Secretary, Ms. Sandra Carter; two years of taking lengthy minutes and never missing meetings is indeed an achievement.

A very special thank you to each member of our staff team, your commitment to disability issues is second to none. I would like to especially thank the Operations Manager, Roseanna Tudor who has led many of the initiatives that I have reported on today, also my sincere appreciation to Kerry Ann Ifill our Research Officer, for her speed and enthusiasm in efficiently performing tasks.

Thanks to each and everyone, for your participation and your contributions, your individual challenges have inspired me to achieve our objectives and affect a measure of change.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Boneta Phillips". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "B".

Boneta Phillips
President
June 2005-June 2007