



**UWI**  
OPEN CAMPUS

# Quarterly newsletter of the Caribbean Child Development Centre

Consortium for Social Development and Research  
The University of the West Indies, Open Campus



*August - October 2015*

## **Kids on Campus Care & Learning Centre Closes its Doors**



The Kids on Campus Care & Learning Centre (KOC) at CCDC, closes its doors on August 31, 2015 to make way for The UWI Open Campus Early Childhood Centres of Excellence. This is a project under the CHASE fund to provide standardized day care centres in Jamaica and across the region.

The KOC was founded by the late Mrs. Joanna Boyd whose thirty years experience

In the Early Childhood field are the tenets on which the centre was established.

KOC offered day care, after school care and summer activities for children 0-6 years. Its partner centre Wonder World Early Childhood Institution continues to provide learning through play and other recreational activities.

The UWI Open Campus Early Childhood Centres of Excellence at CCDC will open September 2016.

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## Canadian and Jamaican educators exchange ideas at forum



*Photo: Ceceile Minott (third from right), Actg. Head of the Caribbean Child Development Centre at the Firgrove Public School in Toronto, Canada*

“Our basic schools started as an opportunity for parents and caregivers to be able to have somewhere to leave their children in a secured environment while they were at work,” said Ceceile Minott, Acting Head the Caribbean Child Development Centre, University of the West Indies Open Campus. Ceceile was at a Canadian and Jamaican educator’s community forum held at the Firgrove Public School in Toronto, Canada.

Ceceile was in Canada to meet with prospective colleges to discuss an exchange of practicum students. The Caribbean Child Development Centre (CCDC) received a grant for JA\$50,000,000 from the CHASE Fund to renovate CCDC and establish a laboratory school on its premises for children between the ages of three months and five years. The early childhood centre should begin renovation in January 2016 and will open in September 2016. The lab school will be a focal point for practicum students in early childhood development and other programmes. It will also provide research opportunities for staff and students in developmental psychology, early childhood education, social work, paediatrics, public health, nutrition, and other disciplines.

The Jamaican early childhood centre will join two Open Campus early childhood centres in Trinidad & Tobago and one Open Campus early childhood centre in Antigua which are already in existence and in the process of being restructured to become laboratory schools under The UWI Open Campus Early Childhood Centres of Excellence Company. The provision of these laboratory schools will allow for the establishment of best practices in early childhood development, and training sites for prospective educators and others working in the early childhood environment. The centres will incorporate their motto “Learning through play, celebrating the process” in everything that they do.

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Students, teachers, and other stakeholders in the early childhood sector participated in a week of activities from September 13 to 18, 2015 to mark the centennial of the birth of the pioneer of early childhood development in Jamaica, Dudley Grant.

On September 17, the Dudley Grant Memorial hosted its public lecture at the Jamaica Pegasus Hotel with Dr. Joan Lombardi, Senior Advisor, Bernard Van Leer Foundation as the guest speaker.

The week culminated on September 18 with an early childhood conference under the theme: '*Self-Regulation: Supporting Every Child's Needs*', held at the Jamaica Pegasus Hotel.

Mr. Grant, who died in 1988, was born on September 15, 1915. He started his career in 1941 as a primary school teacher and he served in various capacities within the education sector up to 1962. Recognised as *The Father of Basic Schools*, for his outstanding work in the development of early childhood education, Dudley Grant was determined to improve the system, making it more beneficial to the learning process for young children.



*Photo: Participants at the Dudley Grant Early Childhood Conference*

## National Children's Summit



Photo: Podium, Mr. Adawi Aiken, Member CDC Children's Advisory Panel; seated: Mr. Xaundre Mohansingh, Youth Mayor Clarendon; Ms. Sanchia Ellis, Manager The Fathers House CDA; Dr. Priya Anaokar, Project Coordinator, CCDC, UWI Open Campus; Mr. Damian Harris, Operations Officer, Sterling Assets Management Ltd. And Ms. Claudine Bailey, Attorney at Law, Ministry of Industry, Investment and Commerce at the session "Transitioning out of Care and what it means for you" held on August 25, 2015 at the Jamaica Conference Centre.

Dr. Priya Anaokar, Project Coordinator for CCDC's Transitional Living Programme for Children in State Care (TLP-CSC) Project, was one of the invited panellists at the recently held Children's Summit on August 25, 2015 at the Jamaica Conference Centre. Dr. Anaokar presented on the TLP-CSC project during the panel session entitled "*Transitioning out of Care and what it means for you*".

Dr. Anaokar informed the youth delegates present about the goals and objectives of the TLP-CSC project, which aims to improve their preparation for the transition to independent living once they leave residential care. The programme will include a life skills training component as well as vocational skills training which is being offered by the HEART Trust/NTA. The programme will include a life skills training component as well as vocational skills training which is being offered by the HEART Trust/NTA. The TLP-CSC aims to improve the transition to independent living for Jamaican youth leaving residential care at 18 years, and reduce the risk factors such as unemployment, involvement in crime, substance abuse, teenage pregnancy, low education or job skills, inadequate life skills and poor self-image. This three year exit-readiness programme includes life skills training, job skills training, mentoring and the creation of a safe and appropriate transitional living facility for 40 females. The project was launched in October, 2014 and implemented under a US\$1,456,000 grant from The US Agency for International Development Grants initiative (USAID). The USAID administers economic and humanitarian assistance in more than 80 countries worldwide.





Photo: Dr. Priya Anaokar, Project Coordinator, CCDC, UWI Open Campus and Ms. Cerita Buchanan BSc, MSW

Prior to commencement of CCDC's Transitional Living Programme for Children in State Care (TLP-CSC) Project, Training of Trainer (ToT) workshop in life skills training, a sensitization session was held on September 3, 2015 at the Alpha Boys Home in Kingston.

The aim was to present the project objectives to the participants and brief the group on the logic of the life skills component.

A consultant, Mrs. Linda Craigie-Brown, was retained to develop the life skills curriculum and training material, which would eventually be combined into a life skills manual, and to execute the Training of Trainer course.

Forty CDA staff members were selected to participate in a Training of Trainer (ToT) workshop in life skills. The participants were selected from the four CDA regions across the island based on pre-determined criteria, and include social workers, facility managers, regional directors and monitoring officers.

The first batch of 16 officers were trained from 14th-25th September, 2015 and the second batch of 24 officers from 5th - 16th October, 2015.



Photo: L-R Dr. Priya Anaokar, Project Coordinator and Marva Campbell, Programme Officer CCDC with staff of the Lighthouse Youth Services.

As part of the capacity building exercise for CCDC's Transitional Living Programme for Children in State Care (TLP-CSC) Project, a three-member delegation, embarked on a study tour to the Lighthouse Youth Services in Cincinnati, Ohio and Casa Valentina in Miami, Florida.

The objectives of this visit was to observe the operations of independent living programmes and have discussions with the programme personnel, with the hope of gleaning operational knowledge on good practices that can be transferred to the design of the transitional programme and operations of the housing complex to be developed under the TLP-CSC project. The Lighthouse was selected as it is deemed a good practice for independent living programmes with the operation of both scattered and clustered models. Casa Valentina also has a highly recommended independent living programme utilizing the scattered model.

The visits to the two programmes provided enriching insights as well as possible challenges that transitional living programmes may encounter. Programme personnel and their system partners shared on their case management systems, legislative and policy frameworks, strategic plans, varied programmes in place and their operations.





Photo: Gail Ferguson from the Culture and Family Life Lab and Child Development Lab at the University of Illinois presenting at CCDC (also pictured Dr. Priya Anaokar, CCDC

Gail Ferguson, Phd (supervised by Prof Julie Meeks) and from the Culture and Family Life Lab and Child Development Lab at the University of Illinois visited CCDC on Oct 2 to share results from the Culture, Health, and Family Life Study.

Gail's study focuses on the psychological impact of 21<sup>st</sup> Century cultural globalization on modern youth and families in terms of their acculturation, enculturation, cultural identity, well-being, and family relationships. The research was conducted in the U.S. and internationally.



Photo: Colleagues from the Caribbean Child Development Centre, University of West Indies (Jamaica) visit the Culture and Family Life Lab and Child Development Lab at the University of Illinois. Pictured L-R: [Joan Thomas MS, Gail Ferguson, PhD, Brent A. McBride, PhD, Ceceile Minott, MA].