



International Association of Drug Treatment Courts

The overall objective of the OAS Drug Treatment Court Program for the Americas (launched by the Executive Secretariat of CICAD in 2010) is to help the governments of OAS member states and specialized professionals (justice and health) set up or consolidate drug treatment courts in their jurisdictions to offer a court-supervised alternative to incarceration for drug dependent offenders, thus, contributing to reductions in crime, drug recidivism, and prison population in the Americas.



During 2012, the Executive Secretariat of CICAD worked with OAS member states to explore the feasibility of this model, its implementation, and evaluation. This initiative was possible through the cooperation of national drug commissions, judicial authorities, public health care authorities and other professionals to address the specific needs of the Member States that expressed interest in the program. During 2012 and 2013, ES/CICAD also cooperated with the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO) in finding synergies between both organizations to ensure that the necessary conversations took place with the health sector in general, and with organizations such as the Canadian Association of Drug Treatment Court Professionals (CADTCP), the National Association of Drug Court Professionals (NADCP), Center for

Court Innovation (CCI), American University, the International Association of Drug Treatment Courts (IADTC), Paz Ciudadana, among others.

OAS member states exploring, implementing, or expanding this model are: Argentina, the Bahamas, Barbados, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago, and the United States.

Concrete Activities carried out in 2012 and the beginning of 2013, involving more than 500 judges, prosecutors, defense attorneys, treatment providers, and policymakers (DTC teams), included:



- **Study Visits** (included training at Court Room):

- Toronto, Canada, March 2012: DTC teams from the Bahamas, Barbados, Jamaica, and Trinidad and Tobago participated, among them, Chief Justice and Attorney General of Barbados. In cooperation with CADTCP.
- Nashville, USA, May 2012: DTC teams from Argentina, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Mexico, Panama. In cooperation with NADCP.
- Baltimore Court and NADCP, USA, October 2012: DTC team from new Court in Rancagua, Chile
- Miami-Dade, USA, December 2012: DTC teams from Trinidad and Tobago. Adult and Juvenile Court Program. In cooperation with NADCP, and Miami-Dade Court.
- Santiago, Chile, December 2012: DTC teams from Costa Rica, Argentina, Mexico, and Ecuador (Ecuador is in negotiations to formally join the program). In cooperation with SENDA and the Chilean Judiciary



- **Workshops and training activities:** During each workshop, a set of draft conclusions was developed. Evaluations show positive feedback from participating OAS member state representatives. These workshops were held in San Jose, Costa Rica (all DTC teams and policymakers); Santiago de Chile, Chile (defense attorneys); Bridgetown, Barbados (all DTC teams and policymakers); Salta, Argentina; Lima, Peru; Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago; Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic.

- **Formal Commitment:**

- Memoranda of understanding signed and formal commitment achieved by the governments of Barbados, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, and Trinidad and Tobago.
- Trinidad and Tobago adopted a policy paper on the DTC program.
- Barbados approved the DTC Project at the Cabinet level.



- **Drug Treatment Court Pilot Projects launched:** San Fernando, Trinidad and Tobago (September 2012), San Jose, Costa Rica (committed in December 2012, and launched in February of 2013); Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic (expected May 2013)

- **Treatment Center GAP Analysis in Trinidad and Tobago:** ES-CICAD organized a GAP analysis comprised of drug treatment experts from Canada, Jamaica, and PAHO to help the DTC steering committee gauge the status of treatment centers that would be servicing current and future DTCs and the



resources needed to ensure the best possible treatment scenario for DTC participants. Observations and recommendations were reported through a document presented to the steering committee. This GAP analysis will be carried out in all participating countries if requested.

- **Drug Treatment Court Monitoring and Evaluation:** ES-CICAD organized two high-level technical meetings with experts from all participating OAS Member States already formally committed to launch or expand Drug Treatment Court pilot projects. Two workshops and peer-review activities were held in January and December 2012, inviting experts from the US, Australia, Barbados, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Jamaica, and Trinidad and Tobago.



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- **CICAD 52.** The Chief Justice of Trinidad and Tobago, the Public Defender from Costa Rica, and a judge from Barbados presented the goals achieved by their respective countries to OAS member states present at CICAD 52 in San Jose, Costa Rica. Peru joins the OAS DTC Program for the Americas.



The OAS Drug Treatment Court Program for the Americas is being carried out through the financial support of the governments of Canada, the United States, and Trinidad and Tobago and the leadership of each of the participating OAS Member States. This effort would have not been possible without the commitment of the national drug commission of each participating country, and the judiciary and health sectors from all participating countries.