



GOVERNMENT OF BERMUDA

Department for National Drug Control

Report of the 2024 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)
1st November, 2024



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Participants at the 2024 Annual Meeting of the Bermuda Drug Information Network (BerDIN), BUEI

The 2024 Annual Meeting of the Bermuda Drug Information Network (BerDIN) was held on the 1st of November, 2024 at the Bermuda Underwater Exploration Institute (BUEI).

Representation

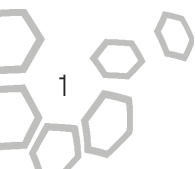
A list of meeting participants is in **Annex I** to this Report.

CALL TO ORDER & WELCOME

Mrs. Deborah Hunter, a BerDIN Member who represented the Bermuda Sports and Anti-Doping Association, called the meeting to order and extended a welcome to the meeting's participants and invited guests.

OPENING REMARKS

The Hon. Michael Weeks JP MP, Minister of National Security, brought Opening Remarks to the meeting. He noted that the BerDIN is integral to our collective efforts in addressing drug-related challenges. The data collected is 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. Minister



Weeks shared that this year's meeting, will focus on updating the membership on recent activities and initiatives from both demand and supply reduction agencies. He highlighted the fact that from the concerning trend of several strategic partners being unable to provide data for 2023, we must ensure that our monitoring systems remain robust by the continuation of supplying essential data. Minister Weeks ended his opening remarks by stating, "The voices of those directly affected by drug addiction – those in recovery and their families – must be central to our discussions. Their lived experiences are invaluable, and incorporating their insights into the data we gather will strengthen our efforts to reduce drug use and enhance recovery outcomes."

Following the Opening Remarks, the meeting was officially declared open by the Minister of National Security, Hon. Michael Weeks JP MP.

INTRODUCTION

Participants were reminded of the meeting's objectives by Mr. Anthony Santucci, Executive Director, CADA; which were: 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, Mr. Santucci read out the list of BerDIN Member agencies and their representatives while they each made themselves known to all persons present in the meeting room.

Housekeeping matters were also conveyed.

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 presentations this year had a focus on updating the membership on recent activities and initiatives from both demand and supply reduction agencies. Participants were also given the opportunity to hear from an overseas guest as he presented on emerging drug trends. The Annual Meeting this year was the first that the BerDIN collaborated with another agency, the Bermuda Addiction Certifications Board (BACB).

Update on the Drug Situation in Bermuda

The meeting then received a presentation from Mrs. Joanne Dean, on behalf of Dr. Kyla Raynor, Director of the Department for National Drug Control, on the current drug situation in Bermuda. Mrs. Dean provided a snapshot of Bermuda's drug situation as presented within the 2024 Annual Report of the BerDIN. The BerDIN's accomplishments were highlighted as the members were thanked for their continual support. Highlights were given in relation to the data that was reported throughout the ten chapters of the Report. Mrs. Dean also discussed the large number of data



gaps in this year's report along with the number of organizational challenges agencies have been faced with. She challenged the members to continue their important work despite the current obstacles we are facing. Mrs. Dean concluded by sharing a way forward; as we begin to evaluate goals and objectives, work towards closing the many data gaps and implement new research methods.

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.

Special Presentation- Tall Cop Says Stop

In a collaboration between the Department for National Drug Control (DNDC) and the Bermuda Addictions Certifications Board (BACB), the meeting participants received a very informative presentation from Officer Jermaine Galloway, also known as the "Tall Cop". Officer Galloway provided the meeting with an in-depth presentation on the emerging drug trends that he has seen across the United States, Canada and now Bermuda. Participants were shown a number of images and videos on the different drugs that are showing up in our stores across the island. He also spoke about the damaging impacts that these products are having on our community from the way they are being marketed to our young people to the potent quantities items such as vape devices are being made to administer.

The Network:

Noted the information provided in the presentation.

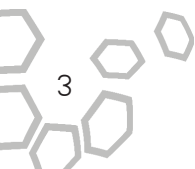
ENVIRONMENTAL SCAN

Officer Galloway conducted an environmental scan during his time in Bermuda. The scan's findings are detailed below.

Throughout the course of his research in Bermuda, Officer Galloway found many drugs openly trending and being sold in the community. There was also some confusion observed among salesclerks regarding which items were permissible for sale and which were not.

Delta 8: Was found to be sold on the island, and information from salesclerks highlighted that it was very popular but was ultimately taken off the shelves by law enforcement or a relevant agency. During discussions, salesclerks suggested that they may no longer be permitted to sell it. When questioned about its legality, they refrained from providing an answer. Despite this, Delta 8 was still found in various forms across several stores.

Nicotine vapes: These were predominantly sold in pharmacies, but some vapes were also identified in several liquor stores. Additionally, nicotine salt pouches (which contain many of the same substances as vapes) were uncovered. The price points were noted to be similar for these items



and were in plain sight in the stores that were visited, alongside various brands.

Kratom: The legal status of Kratom, a plant primarily sourced from Asia, is ambiguous in Bermuda. A store selling Kratom turned out to also sell Delta 8 and CBD products. This establishment was the most knowledgeable, in terms of the different drugs, when compared to other stores on the island. During the scan, there was no evidence of drugs such as: Phenibut and tianeptine, which are typically found to travel with Kratom. This is something to keep a close eye on throughout the community.

Alcohol: Standard products were found during the scan.

Sexual enhancers: Numerous pills and products are often associated with street-level drugs. Although certain stores were not visited during the scan it was recommended that they be investigated as inhalants are often found in these stores. Additionally, liquor stores were found to be selling sexual enhancement products.

Shrooms: Products referencing or promoting shrooms have been identified locally. They have become the number one emerging trend in the US and is starting to become more popular on the island, often many distributors are incorporating shroom references into their marketing strategy. Furthermore, some of the product packaging was unclear in regard to the actual substances inside the packaging.

Most of the items found in Bermuda come from American companies, which means that the trends from the US are gradually influencing the island. This will also aid, to some extent, in forecasting future developments in Bermuda, as these trends typically emerge in the US prior to reaching the island.

The Network:

Noted the information provided in the presentation.

DNDC Survey Initiatives 2024

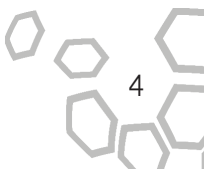
The Department for National Drug Control (DNDC) representative, Mrs. Stephanie Tankard, Research Officer, provided the meeting with an update on the Department's survey initiatives since the last meeting. She spoke about six surveys: public amenity, treatment demand, consumer experience, employee experience, stakeholder feedback, and the Drug Abuse Monitoring Survey (DAMS). The purpose, methodology and data captured from the DAMS were presented in detail.

The Network:

Noted the information provided in the presentation.

Emergency Room Study

Dr. Celeste Maycock, an Emergency Physician from the King Edward Memorial Hospital (KEMH) presented to the meeting participants the findings from the 2024 Emergency Room Study. The study was intended to be a collaboration between DNDC and KEMH and was conducted over a one-year period. Dr. Maycock highlighted some interesting facts about drunk and drugged driving



in Bermuda along with its negative impacts on our community. She then shared the methodology and results from the study. There were 167 patients that were enrolled in the study, with 84% being male, majority reported that they were between the ages of 31-40 and drank most (53%) on the weekend (Friday-Sunday). Majority (81%) of road traffic collisions were mostly from motorbikes, with 62% of participants being involved in single vehicle collisions. Dr. Mayock concluded her presentation by reiterating that most of the participants whether admitted (81%) or discharged (64%) and tested positive for a substance. Lastly, she shared some limitations of the study and take-home points.

The Network:

Noted the information provided in the presentation.

Alcohol and Drug-related Mortality

Mrs. Nadine Kirkos who is the Government Analyst for the Department of Health, shared with the meeting a number of case studies that she has dealt with in the past two years, whilst explaining the breakdown of drugs identified in the toxicology reports and DUI samples taken. Mrs. Kirkos also explained the process followed when a death occurs in Bermuda.

The Network:

Noted the information provided in the presentation.

Roadside Sobriety Checkpoints

There was a presentation from Chief Inspector Robert Cardwell, of the Tactical Support Division from the Bermuda Police Service (BPS), who spoke about the process of roadside sobriety checks and the legislation that supports it. He also discussed the proposed legislative changes that he has put forth, that will support strengthening BPS officers authority when stopping a vehicle as well as the public's ability to know when and where the roadside sobriety checks will occur.

The Network:

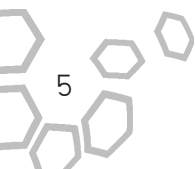
Noted the information provided in the presentation.

Bermuda's Road Safety Plan

The BerDIN members were provided with a presentation by the Chairman of the Bermuda Road Safety Council (BRSC), Dennis Lister III JP MP. The presentation focused on the initiatives and strategies for addressing impaired and substance driving. Mr. Lister discussed the impacts of impaired driving on our small community whilst imploring the need for behavioral and cultural shifts if real change is to be seen. Participants were reminded of the number of campaigns and initiatives that were created to address impaired driving. Lastly, Mr. Lister concluded his presentation by sharing the expected outcomes and goals of the BRSC.

The Network:

Noted the information provided in the presentation.



CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1) **Bilateral Meetings:** there was again the call by Stephanie Tankard for there to be more problem solving by collaborating with each other outside of the annual meeting.
- 2) **Data Gaps:** Stephanie Tankard encouraged agency members to supply the missing data in order to strengthen the BerDIN outputs.

CLOSING REMARKS

The meeting concluded with Stephanie Tankard thanking everyone for their participation in yet another successful meeting. She then 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. Refer to **Annex III** for the evaluation and results.

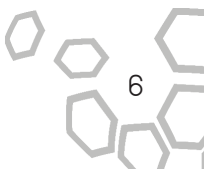
RAFFLE WINNERS

Congratulations to the following persons who had the opportunity to win a raffle prize at the meeting.

Julita Peniston	Leslie Grant
Cheryl Godfrey	Chefanices Williams
Kent Laws	Dy-Juan DeRoza
Melissa Trott	Cornell Castle
Kim Jackson	Raynisha Simmons
Sierra O'Meally	Shirley Place
Julee Smith	Frederika Brangman

CLOSE OF MEETING

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



ANNEX I: LIST OF MEETING PARTICIPANTS

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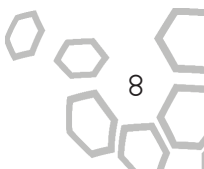
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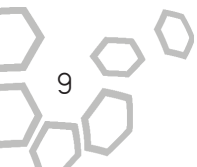
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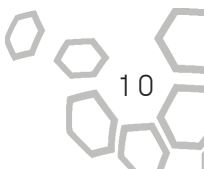
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"There is immense power when a group of people with similar interests gets together to work toward the same goals." – Idowu Koyenikan

AGENDA

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.

9:00 AM	WELCOME	Deborah Hunter <i>Executive Director</i> Bermuda Sports Anti-Doping Association
9:05 AM	OPENING REMARKS	Hon. Michael Weeks, JP MP <i>Minister of National Security</i>
9:10 AM	Introduction of Meeting » Objectives of the Meeting » Introduction of Participants » Adoption of Agenda	Anthony Santucci <i>Executive Director</i> CADA
9:20 AM	Snapshot of the current drug situation in Bermuda	Dr. Kyla Raynor <i>Senior Research Officer/Policy Analyst</i> Department for National Drug Control
9:45 AM – BREAK		
10:00 AM	Special Presentation	Jermaine Galloway <i>Retired Police Officer</i> Tall Cop Says Stop
1:00 PM – LUNCH		
2:00 PM	National Surveys	Stephanie Tankard <i>Research Officer</i> Department for National Drug Control
2:30 PM	Emergency Room Study Alcohol and drug-related accidents	Dr. Celeste Maycock <i>Emergency Physician</i> Bermuda Hospitals Board
3:00 PM	Alcohol and drug-related mortality	Nadine Kirkos <i>Government Analyst</i> Department of Health
3:30 PM – BREAK		
3:45 PM	Roadside Sobriety Checkpoints	Chief Inspector Robert Cardwell <i>Tactical Support Division</i> Bermuda Police Service
4:15 PM	Bermuda's Road Safety Plan	Dennis Lister III, JP, MP <i>Chairman</i> Bermuda Road Safety Council
4:45 PM	Wrap-up Evaluation	Dr. Kyla Raynor



BERDIN MEMBERS & REPRESENTATIVES

BERMUDA HOSPITALS BOARD:

KING EDWARD VII MEMORIAL HOSPITAL Ms. Cyrlene Wilson, *Statistical Analyst*

TURNING POINT SUBSTANCE ABUSE PROGRAMME Mrs. Shirley Place, *Clinical Director*

BERMUDA POLICE SERVICE:

FINANCIAL CRIME UNIT Mr. Calvin Nhan, *Financial Analyst*

NARCOTICS Mr. Joseph Sherwin, *Inspector*
Mr. Nidol Barker, *Sergeant*

DUI Mr. Raoul Ming, *Sergeant*

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*

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS:

WESTGATE CORRECTIONAL FACILITY Ms. Julee Smith, *Senior Case Worker*

RIGHT LIVING HOUSE Mrs. Theresa DeRoza, *Programme Director*

DEPARTMENT OF COURT SERVICES:

BERMUDA ASSESSMENT AND REFERRAL CENTRE Ms. Mariko Aguiar, *Clinical Supervisor*

DRUG TREATMENT COURT Dr. Renee Lightbourne, *Senior Probation Officer*

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH:

CENTRAL GOVERNMENT LABORATORY Ms. Nadine Kirkos, *Government Analyst*

MATERNAL HEALTH CLINIC Ms. Ann Marie Moore, *Maternal Health Nurse*

DEPARTMENT FOR NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL:

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

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

Ms. Tanya Esdaille, *Chairman*

ANNEX III: PARTICIPANT EVALUATION

2024 ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
BERMUDA DRUG INFORMATION NETWORK
(BerDIN)

1st NOVEMBER, 2024
TRADEWINDS AUDITORIUM
BUEI

PARTICIPANT EVALUATION

Friday, 1st November, 2024

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

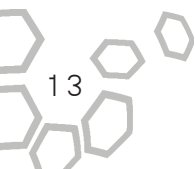
About Right

Too Short

The best aspect(s) of this meeting was:

The meeting could be improved by:

Other comments or suggestions:



ANNEX IV: PARTICIPANT EVALUATION

**2024 ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
BERMUDA DRUG INFORMATION NETWORK
(BerDIN)**

**1st NOVEMBER, 2024
TRADEWINDS AUDITORIUM
BUEI**

PARTICIPANT EVALUATION RESULTS: MEETING

Friday, 1st November, 2024

MEETING DESIGN	Categories (29/33 participants)				
Items	Outstanding	Above Average	Average	Below Average	Poor
– Organisation of the Meeting	55.2	41.4	3.45	-	-
– Content (Current, Relevant, Useful)	72.4	27.6	-	-	-
– Meeting Facilities (Venue, Meals, etc.)	65.5	31.0	3.45	-	-
– Participant Materials	44.8	37.9	13.8	3.5	-
– Quality of the Meeting (Overall Meeting Rating)	58.6	34.5	6.9	-	-

MEETING RESULTS	Categories (29/33 participants)				
Items	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree/ Nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
– Meeting objectives were accomplished	62.1	37.9	-	-	-
– The information was timely/relevant	72.4	27.6	-	-	-
– Opportunities for participation/involvement	62.1	37.9	-	-	-
– Format/agenda was suitable	65.5	34.5	-	-	-

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

Length of Meeting: 85.7% (29 respondents) thought it was “About Right”.

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

- Great information
- The guest speaker
- Audience participation
- Food and content-speakers were knowledgeable and engaging
- Learned new, up to date and relevant information that can be utilized to affect decision making
- Everything
- The information presented re:Vaping
- Learning about the new surveys
- All of the presenter’s information was relevant relating to current drug trends and interventive services
- Relevant information for addiction challenges
- Receiving information on upcoming drug trends to the island.



- Learning names of new drugs
- Collaborating with our peers (networking)
- BerDIN presentation
- Insight into synthetic drugs

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

- Providing bags for everyone-not just members or invited guest
- Turning down the temperature of the venue- too cold
- Finishing at 3pm
- Maybe shorter, more frequent breaks-particularly post lunch
- Considering a two-day event when you have an informative presentation like today or even 1 day and a half
- Perhaps implementing breakout feedback groups to garner stakeholder feedback regarding providing support and insight to aid in addressing the identified gaps
- Informal gathering with the speaker- less intimidating
- Handouts
- Having something the group could leave with even if it wasn't his slides-something we could review

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

- The meeting was great
- Very good conference! We could always use another day. However, the pace of the day seemed sufficient and not rushed. Just right number of presentations
- Really enjoyed the full day and the addition of the special speaker
- Great job Stephanie and rest of DNDC team! I look forward to next year!
- I would like to hear about new drug prevention or interventions including laws happening in Bermuda
- Well done DNDC team for an outstanding job on facilitating the 2024 BerDIN Meeting
- Great session-loaded information- need longer time period for information
- Food was salty but good choice
- Guest speaker's presentation was rushed through due to time constraints
- Maybe host over 2 days
- Enjoyed presentations from BerDIN members
- Job well done!





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.