CARIBBEAN CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTRE
ANNUAL REPORT 2004/5

Abbreviations
CCDC   Caribbean Child Development Centre
CDB   Caribbean Development Bank
CG   Consultative Group on Early Childhood Education, Care and Development
CRUN   Child Rights Universities Network
ECD   Early Childhood Development
IDB  Inter-American Development Bank
MHIRT  Minority Health & Health Disparities International Research Training Program
RRP  Regional Radio Project
SCS  School of Continuing Studies
UGC  University Grants Committee
UWI  The University of the West Indies

The Caribbean Child Development Centre (CCDC), a specialised unit of the School of Continuing Studies of the University of the West Indies, was established in 1973 with funding from UNICEF as a regional centre for research and training in early childhood education and care. Current work focuses on research, technical assistance, outreach and networking activities.

WORK OF THE DEPARTMENT

(a) Summary of Activities August 1, 2004 to July 31, 2005.

Research
Meeks was invited to become one of two child development specialists participating in a Child Health and Nutrition Research Initiative programme that aims to develop and apply a systematic methodology to identify research priorities in child health and nutrition globally. The initial meeting of participants and programme planning was held in Croatia in June, 2005. The child development section is being carried out along with Dr. Maureen Black of the University of Maryland, and an invited team of world experts.

Research Programme: Aggression and Violence in Jamaican Children
1. Pilot study for a trial of parent and teacher interventions to reduce aggressive behaviour among primary school children. (Funded by the CHASE Fund and the Caribbean Health Research Council, with assistance from the British Council). Data analysis is ongoing.

2. Violence Programme Inventory (Funded by UNICEF, Jamaica)
The project has listed all the intervention programmes addressing children and violence in Jamaica, including details of constituents, geographic area served, programme type and effectiveness. A database of programmes has been developed.

3. UN Secretary General’s Report on Children and Violence: Caribbean Area Report (Funded through UNICEF)
Meeks was the lead researcher of the UWI consortium selected to conduct this report which comprised an extensive review of the literature relating to issues around children and violence in 16 Caribbean countries, and detailed reports from the governments of the participating countries. The
team also participated in a regional consultation of children and young people and stakeholders, and conducted the working group sessions to identify the perceived priority areas for intervention.

4. Nutrition intervention to reduce aggression: Feasibility study. (Funded through the MHIRT Programme)
The sample for this proposed study is aggressive boys in places of safety. In preparation, the residential homes were visited and assessed in terms of feasibility to conduct the research. A proposal to conduct the full study is being developed.

Research Programme: HIV/AIDS and Child Development
1. Promoting Healthy Lifestyles in Western Jamaica: HFLE – HIV/AIDS Project
This project is conducted by Dr Phyllis MacPherson-Russell of the Human Resource Development Unit, and supported by the CCDC. The project goals are to strengthen Health and Family Life Education programmes in teachers’ colleges, and among parents and community groups in a selected area of Western Jamaica.

2. Database of interventions for children affected by HIV/AIDS.
A proposal to develop this database is being submitted.

3. Interventions to promote the development of children affected by HIV/AIDS.
The proposal for this project is under development.

Technical Assistance
The IDB-funded Child Focus II Project was designed to provide technical assistance to a number of Caribbean countries in the areas of Parenting and the Media, Learning Outcomes and Curriculum Development, and Leadership and Management in ECD Associations. Outputs included a web-based masters degree in ECD leadership, a framework and curriculum guide to support learning outcomes in early childhood, a fiscal planning model for the ECD sector based on standards with two country case studies, a strategic planning model for ECD Associations and dissemination of research on what makes the difference in parenting in early childhood. While the project was formally completed in June 2004, a number of outputs continued into, or were produced in this academic year. IDB member countries are at different stages in taking this work forward.

A grant was approved from the Caribbean Development Bank to continue this work in non-IDB-borrowing Caribbean countries. Called Child Focus III, this project will support ECD capacity building through work in three areas: implementation of curriculum goals and outcomes; financing and sustainability of ECD; and implementation of policies and regulatory systems for improving the quality of ECD services. Work is proposed for two countries in each of the 3 areas. The outputs will be disseminated for advocacy and public education purposes related to ECD and parenting.

Networking
The Caribbean Early Childhood Development website project has continued through the CCDC, Dudley Grant Memorial Trust and the Institute of Education. The website remains popular among people from the region and beyond interested in early childhood issues.

Meeks is a member of the Children’s Issues Coalition (ChIC), a group of academics at UWI, Mona campus who are seeking to enable more integrated research and teaching as well as outreach services and dissemination of research findings, in areas of child development and behaviour. ChIC is currently working on 2 major projects: an annual journal entitled Caribbean Childhoods and the development of a database of research on children’s issues. Volume 1 of the Journal was published in 2004, and Volume 2, which focuses on Children at Risk, in 2005. A launch is planned for later in the
year. Work on Volumes 3 (on Indicators and Screening Instruments of Children’s Wellbeing, funded by UNICEF) and 4 (on Children and Violence) are ongoing. The database and a review of the compiled work are now completed, and these will also be disseminated at a launch and workshop later in the year.

CCDC continued to serve as a UNESCO Cooperating Centre for Early Childhood.

CCDC maintains and is working to strengthen our ECD network of representatives from government ministries (dealing with Education, Health and Social Services), ECD services, ECD technical persons, ECD associations, and donors in the region, as well as international organizations. Over the last five years, donors such as World Bank, Inter-American Bank, Caribbean Development Bank, Bernard Van Leer Foundation, UNICEF and UNESCO have supported this work. Our aim is to support ECD institutional strengthening that will be sustainable beyond the term of office of a particular office-holder. CCDC has initiated and supported ongoing regional activities and interventions. We have built relationships with colleagues throughout the English-speaking Caribbean and are currently establishing links in Dutch, French and Spanish-speaking Caribbean states.

Our network building activities, currently supported by UNESCO, include information sharing, facilitation of the exchange of proven practices, support for the Caribbean ECD web site, coordination of regional ECD Link teleconferences (using UWIDEC), production of the electronic Link newsletter, and participation in meetings.

CCDC convened a workshop with researchers in the area of Children and HIV/AIDS on December 8, 2004, sponsored by the UNESCO Office for the Caribbean, to encourage researchers to share their findings across disciplines, reduce duplication of efforts and encourage collaboration in identifying and targeting areas most needed for research. Researchers from the fields of paediatrics, nutrition, mental health, epidemiology, social geography, community health, education and fertility management, as well as from donor agencies participated. The consensus was that the group would support the formalization of a network to encourage dialogue and collaboration among researchers working in the area of Children and HIV/AIDS in Jamaica, and to expand the network to include other Caribbean countries. CCDC is seeking funding to address this role.

Parenting Partners continued to use facilities at the CCDC and to collaborate with CCDC staff. A new initiative, the Regional Radio Project (RRP) aims to increase the use of radio in broadcasting messages for improved parenting practices throughout the region. The RRP commenced in January 2004 and is anticipated to continue for 18 months.

CCDC continued participation in:

- CRUN: an international, interdisciplinary network of universities dedicated to the promotion of children’s rights through education, research and provision of services within national and regional contexts. H Gallimore attended annual meeting Belgium, March, 2005
- CG Consultative Group on Early Childhood Education, Care and Development
- Childwatch International Network of child research institutions. Meeks attended Key Institutions meeting Oslo, June, 2005.

Administration and Plant
The SCS Director’s Office agreed to support a librarian/ information officer for 6 months to carry out the cataloguing and arrangement of all written, audio and visual materials collected at the CCDC.
Safety and Emergency planning consultations were held with UWI Safety and Emergency Management consultants. Implementation of a plan for upgrading these systems continues.

A workshop in Records Management was held in April 2005 with CCDC staff members conducted by the Archive Department, and an inventory of records is currently underway as a preliminary step to a formal management plan.

The administrative capacity of the centre will benefit with the completion of the studies in the EMBA programme of the UWI School of Business undertaken by Office Manager Marva Campbell since March 2004, to be completed in August, 2005.

(b) **Main targets for coming year**

1. Continue ongoing projects and networking activities
2. Develop a proposal for major infrastructural upgrading
3. Install OAS IIN (Inter American Children’s Institute) Information Centre at Caribbean Child Development Centre for use among Caribbean practitioners and researchers
4. Conduct intervention trials to reduce children’s aggressive behaviour
5. Develop a database of HIV/AIDS intervention programmes that target children
6. Conduct an intervention trial to reduce the negative developmental outcomes of being affected by HIV/AIDS
7. Host a second workshop on children and HIV/AIDS
8. Develop a Caribbean-wide network of researchers on HIV/AIDS and children
9. Develop an extensive database of searchable materials on children’s issues for use across UWI and the Caribbean
10. Determine the requirements for and the feasibility of an associate degree programme in child development for the Caribbean
11. Secure funding for the following CRUN activities:
   a. Research to develop clear regional recommendations for child rights
   b. Introduce children’s rights through UWI activities

(c) **Teaching achievements**

The Masters in Leadership in Early Childhood Development, a component of the CCDC Child Focus II project, was launched by the Institute of Education on 28th June 2004, and for the 25 students enrolled in the pilot cohort, training continued throughout the academic year.

The staff of the CCDC continued to offer training in a number of UWI courses including the BSc (Nursing) Human Nutrition, MBBS Human Nutrition, and MSc (Nutrition) courses.
Meeks continued supervision of four UWI graduate students in the MSc (Nutrition), MSc (Biostatistics) (submitted thesis) and PhD (Psychology) programmes.

An associate degree in early childhood and another in the psychoeducational assessment of children have been proposed as areas for future development. A proposal has been submitted for a needs assessment in these areas to determine the viability of programmes addressing these topics.

(d) **Number of academic staff members and per capita publications**

Academic staff: 1 (full-time) +1/2 (1 part-time) +1/2 (1 started December 2004) = 2

Publications: 6

Per capita publications: 3

### PAPERS PRESENTED

#### Invited Presentations


#### Other Presentations


### PUBLICATIONS
**Books and Monographs**


**Refereed Journal Articles**


**Technical Reports**


(The reports below are all outputs of the Child Focus II project, which utilized external consultants)

2. Legal Reforms for ECD Services, Final Report, S Geerlings-Headley, September 2004


**INCOME GENERATION**

The CCDC obtains support from the UWI through the School of Continuing Studies, and from a subvention from the Ministry of Education, Youth and Culture (Government of Jamaica). The centre also generates a substantial portion of its own resources. One source is through the three organizations hosted on CCDC premises, the Kids on Campus preschool and after-school care centre, Parenting Partners, a non-governmental organization which focuses on parenting outreach, and the Jamaica Language Unit research project office. Each pays a monthly rental fee which supports general office expenditure and refurbishing of the plant. Fees are also paid to the CCDC for the administration of projects. Details of income for the academic year are shown below:

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kids on Campus</td>
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SCHEDULE OF PROJECT INCOME (2004-2005)

<table>
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<th>PROJECT</th>
<th>GOV OF JAM</th>
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<tr>
<td>UGC Budget</td>
<td>390,000.00</td>
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<td>1,085,200.00</td>
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<td><strong>SUB-TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,475,200.00</strong></td>
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<td>Administration fee from contracts</td>
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<td><strong>Total Income</strong></td>
<td><strong>$3,691,450.45</strong></td>
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J Meeks Gardner:

Members of staff continued to provide public service through representation on a range of boards and organizations locally and internationally.

National
1. Chairman, National Food and Nutrition Coordinating Committee
2. Chairman, Advisory Board of the Child Development Agency
3. Secretary, Board of the Malnourished Children’s Foundation
4. Board Member, Peace Management Initiative
5. Member, National Plan of Action on Children Coordinating Committee
6. Member, Technical Steering Committee, Research Agenda Programme, of the Planning Institute of Jamaica
7. Member, Inter-Sectoral Working Group on Children and Violence

**H Gallimore:**
8. Member, Board of the National Children’s Home
9. Member, Steering Committee for the MOEYC Enhancing Basic Schools Project (four-year project of GOJ and Caribbean Development Bank)

**International**

**J Meeks Gardner:**
10. Board Member, Childwatch International Research Network

**H Gallimore:**
11. CCDC Representative, Child Rights Universities Network
12. CCDC Representative, Consultative Group on Early Childhood Care and Development

**CATEGORIES OF STUDENTS**

- International Exchange Students: 3
- Occasional Student (PhD): 1
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