



MINISTRY OF PUBLIC HEALTH SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND LABOUR

COLLECTIVE PREVENTION SERVICES

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Sint Maarten, 22 May 2012

Short summary of Open House event 19 May 2012

Convinced of the necessity of National campaigns to improve vaccination coverage on Sint Maarten, Section Youth Health Care (YHC) at Collective Prevention Services (CPS) opened the doors of Festival Village at 9.00 AM on Saturday 19 May 2012 for the Open House event.

At 11.00 AM all visitors were officially welcomed, the Minister and PAHO Rep. wished everyone a pleasant and instructive event.



At the booth of YHC vaccination cards of 192 children were checked. Out of this group 75 children were vaccinated, 117 cards showed that these children were up to date with their vaccinations and the remainder got appointments to visit the clinic at Vineyard Building for their additional shots.



In the Dental Mobile 47 children received complete prophylaxis with cleaning and fluoride application. 50 information packages were handed out to parents and the children by the Dentist Hilda Guevara from YHC.



Preparation for the organization started in March 2012 under the leadership of Anita Priest as Chair of the Organizing committee, other members of the committee were Claudia Yhan, Irene Serfilia, Anuska Gibbs, Deborah Granger and Anita Knight (not in the picture).



CPS took the initiative to use this event as an opportunity to establish closer relationships between NGO's, the Private Sector, Civil Society and the Ministry. The stakeholders that participated were:

1. Rotary Club of Sint Maarten Sunrise: shared information on the Rotary International Polio Elimination Project and sponsored the Zumba activity with 2 Zumba instructors
2. The Ambulance Service – VSA: gave information about the department and did some demonstrations
3. Nagico Insurance: gave information on health insurance
4. HIV-AIDS PMT: shared information on the program and safe sex behavior
5. Inspectorate – VSA: namely labour inspection
6. Help Desk – VSA: had a display about all the subjects they focus on. They also presented Sint Maarten Cancer Foundation a platform to share information on their organization.
7. Diabetes Foundation: weight, height, BMI, blood pressure, blood sugar, diabetes information etc.
8. Abbott Nutrition: flew in from Curacao to share information about their nutritious products and give away sample products.
9. Elderly and Pensioners Association: shared information on their organization
10. Alzheimer Foundation: did memory testing exercises
11. Love of Kids Foundation: show cased what they are doing on behalf of children to ensure healthy and happy children. They also shared information about their website.
12. Red Cross: shared information on their activities and their support to the community

This year was a special celebration of VWA; it was the tenth American anniversary and the first Global celebration. Dr Christian Morales, expert on Health Systems and Services, represented the PAHO-WHO on this special occasion.



It was the intention to also make this day a fun day for the children. It turned out to be a fun day for everyone. The feedback that CPS got from the stakeholders was all positive. Asked about their comments on the preparation leading up to the event all stakeholders responded that they received the invitation in time, that the lines of communication were clear and the information sharing was good.

Asked about their experience during the event. They responded that the organization of the event was good. The tables, tents and chairs were in the booths when they arrived. They had contact information of the floor manager Jason Peterson and the master of ceremony Yolaine Bruney, in case they needed to contact the organization.



At least three organizations mentioned that they appreciated the opportunity they had to bring some of their challenges to the attention of the Minister. An official questionnaire has been send to all stakeholders for their formal feedback.

Looking at the images taken that day we can safely conclude that the children enjoyed the day. Even the prick of the needle couldn't keep them from smiling and enjoying the festivities, the promotional items that were handed out to them and the foods and drinks we handed out.



Promotional items that were given out were:

- 180 T-shirts for Kids
- 180 caps for Kids
- 275 bags
- 200 rags for parents (sponsoring of Nagico)
- 200 bandanas (joint funding with Rotary St Maarten Sunrise)

The children also enjoyed

- Popcorns
- Snow cones
- Hot dogs

Cartoon characters from Sesame street such as Big Bird interacted and made fun with the children.



Even the smallest visitors were soothed and cuddled in any way possible



The highlight of the afternoon was the Zumba event, organized and sponsored by Rotary Sint Maarten Sunrise. Two Zumba schools kept visitors active with almost 2 hours of Zumba



The organization was also honored with the visit of the Ombudsman of Sint Maarten who complimented the Minister of Health with this event and saw it as an opportunity to get first-hand information from

grass root organizations in the Health sector as well as information in particular from the Inspectorate and the Help Desk.



At 4.00 PM, Secretary General officially closed the event with a special vote of thanks to the organizers, the participating stakeholders but more importantly to all parents, children and every one that responded to the invitation and came to spend the day with the Ministry of Health.



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