MINISTRY OF HEALTH

Current Structure and Functions of the Ministry of Health

Vision
Healthy People, Healthy Environment

Mission
To ensure the provision of accessible, quality services and to promote healthy lifestyles.

Functional Areas
The Ministry is currently structured along four (4) main functional areas, namely:
  • Governance, Policy and Legislation
  • Essential Public Health Functions
  • Health Services Delivery
  • Human Resources Development for Health

Entities
  1. Registrar General's Department & Island Records Office
  2. South East Regional Health Authority; North East Regional Health Authority; Southern Regional Health Authority; Western Regional Health Authority
  3. Dental Council
  4. Medical Council
  5. Nursing Council
  6. Pharmacy Council
  7. Council for Professions Supplementary to Medicine
  8. Bellevue Hospital
  9. Government Chemist
  10. Child Development Agency
  11. Dental Auxiliary School
  12. Kingston School of Nursing
  13. EXED School of Nursing Programme
  14. Jamaica School of Nurse Anaesthesia Critical Care
  15. National Public Health Laboratory Services/Blood Transfusion Services
  16. Health Corporation Limited
  17. National Health Fund
  18. University Hospital of the West Indies
  19. National Family Planning Board
  20. National Council on Drug Abuse
21. Pesticides Control Authority
22. St. Joseph’s Hospital
23. Office of the Children’s Registry

**Proposed Functional Areas**

**Rationale**
The Ministry of Health will retain its core functions. The major change being recommended is in the transfer of non-core activities to other Ministries. These include the child focused Entities – Child Development Agency and the Office of the Children’s Registry and the Registrar General’s Department. The recommendation is also made for the transfer of the Veterinary Division to the Ministry of Agriculture to consolidate this function under one Ministry.

**Entities to be Retained and Restructured**

- South East Regional Health Authority; North East Regional Health Authority; Southern Regional Health Authority; Western Regional Health Authority - Recentralize some functions such as Project Management, HR and Internal Audit. Proposed MoH Head Office structure already reflects recentralization of these areas. Review Regional and Parish structures in light of Health Task Force Review (2007). Consider exclusion from shared corporate services arrangement.
- Bellevue Hospital – To obtain Cabinet approval for the de-institutionalisation of mental health services and absorption of acute mental health cases in hospitals.
- University Hospital of the West Indies - Retain but review for income generating opportunities to reduce reliance on GoJ Budget. Review arrangement in place for Regional (CARICOM) support. Budgetary support from the GoJ should be paid directly to the institution from the Ministry of Finance and the Public Service. MoH should retain its monitoring role of the UHWI in the area of service delivery through formal Service Level Agreements. This is recommended as the unique status of the UHWI as a Regional institution, that is part of the University of the West Indies network, creates ambiguity in the governance relationship between the Ministry of Health and the UHWI. This compromises the ability of MoH to execute its fiduciary responsibility in keeping with the FAA Act.
- Dental Council - Retain but review fee structure for registration of Dentists.
- Medical Council - Retain but off budget fully funded by fees. Fees to be reviewed
- Nursing Council - Retain but off budget fully funded by fees. Fees to be reviewed
- Pharmacy Council - Retain but off budget fully funded by fees. Fees to be reviewed
- Professions Supplementary to Medicine Council - Retain but off budget fully funded by fees. Fees to be reviewed
• To implement shared administrative services for the Dental Council, Pharmacy Council, Nursing Council, Medical Council and Professions Supplementary to Medical Council to improve efficiency.

• Government Chemist- Retain but review operations with a view to exploring among other things, areas for income generation. Review functions that overlap with Bureau of Standards

• National Public Health Laboratory Services/Blood Transfusion Services- Convert to Executive Agency status (in progress)

• Pesticides Control Authority – take off budget

Entities to be Merged

• Health Corporation Limited core functions to be integrated into the National Health Fund to reduce costs and improve overall performance by linking supply and distribution functions for both hospitals and individuals. (in progress)

Entities to be Transferred

• Veterinary Services to the Ministry of Agriculture. It is recommended that the full administration of Veterinary services functions be carried out by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. It is proposed therefore that a memorandum of understanding be established and the relevant protocols be developed between the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, to ensure an integrated approach.

• Child Development Agency and the Office of the Children’s Registry to the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Culture.

• Dental Auxiliary School, Kingston School of Nursing, EXED School of Nursing Programme, Jamaica School of Nurse Anaesthesia Critical Care to the Ministry of Education (in progress)

Entities to be Privatised

• St. Joseph’s Hospital - Review to identify income generating opportunities and to develop into being fully self funding. Preferred model is public/private partnership.