

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:03,420

A two-in-one here, professor and student.

00:00:03,640 --> 00:00:05,099

I love this kind of combination.

00:00:05,460 --> 00:00:09,899

This is a kind of unbeatable combination when you have a professor and a student.

00:00:10,840 --> 00:00:14,579

Our presenter here is Megan Capers.

00:00:16,680 --> 00:00:27,239

She is a graduate student in doing the master's in social work, hoping, like some of our other

00:00:27,239 --> 00:00:29,940

students, one day to go on to do her PhD.

00:00:30,760 --> 00:00:34,459

And we wish you all the best and be thankful that you're coming here.

00:00:34,740 --> 00:00:44,700

And her professor is Professor Mary Jackson, who is professor in the School of Social Work here.

00:00:45,459 --> 00:00:52,520

Professor Jackson, you would like to say anything about your student or anything like that?

00:00:52,520 --> 00:00:54,340

You saved the best for last.

00:00:55,099 --> 00:00:59,639

We saved the best for last. No pressure.

00:01:01,200 --> 00:01:10,819

This is, some people have left already, but it's a very small, it's our first multidisciplinary conference in Caribbean studies.

00:01:10,980 --> 00:01:13,059

So we're very glad that you're here.

00:01:13,059 --> 00:01:15,500

And, you know, take your time.

00:01:16,019 --> 00:01:21,919

And at the end, we'll ask if they have questions, comments, or just no pressure.

00:01:22,019 --> 00:01:24,239
No, your condition is on, right?

00:01:24,379 --> 00:01:26,639
So let's give her a hand, please.

00:01:32,819 --> 00:01:34,080
I'm glad to be here.

00:01:34,099 --> 00:01:37,519
And thank you for coming to listen to me speak.

00:01:37,699 --> 00:01:41,239
And I'm sure all the other presenters that you've heard today were excellent.

00:01:41,680 --> 00:01:49,279
I want to talk about the U.S.-Jamaican drug connection and the need to train substance abuse counselors in Jamaica.

00:01:49,980 --> 00:01:59,300
There's been a great deal of discussion regarding this topic, and specifically the lack of trained counselors in Jamaica.

00:02:01,900 --> 00:02:08,479
There are, there's a limited focus on prevention and treatment, and the Jamaican government

00:02:08,479 --> 00:02:16,619
has been focusing on a punitive model, where instead of, you know, pushing programs for treatment

00:02:16,619 --> 00:02:24,179
and, you know, education, they're just basically dealing with the prison system more, and the

00:02:24,179 --> 00:02:28,600
incarceration rates have risen because of the drug problem.

00:02:28,679 --> 00:02:32,559
So instead of treating people, they're essentially locking them up.

00:02:33,119 --> 00:02:40,039
And it's not really addressing the true issue of drug treatment and, you know, drug treatment programs.

00:02:40,619 --> 00:02:46,600
So there is a need to extend the collaborative between the United States and the Caribbean countries,

00:02:46,880 --> 00:02:53,179

particularly Jamaica, to form partnerships to train local counselors in substance abuse counseling.

00:02:54,360 --> 00:03:00,740

And, for example, currently in Jamaica, substance abuse counseling is provided by family members,

00:03:01,899 --> 00:03:08,699

churches, and school guidance counselors who have no actual specific training in substance abuse.

00:03:09,419 --> 00:03:14,479

And there are only currently 449 school guidance counselors.

00:03:15,660 --> 00:03:21,419

So essentially, the only people really providing services are school guidance counselors, and

00:03:21,419 --> 00:03:23,960

there's only 449 of them.

00:03:24,100 --> 00:03:30,880

So as you can see by that number, there is a big lack of trained practitioners.

00:03:32,460 --> 00:03:41,339

So delving further into the issue in Jamaica, it is a developing nation of roughly 2.6 million

00:03:41,339 --> 00:03:45,020

people, and they face many barriers and hardships.

00:03:45,740 --> 00:03:50,240

There's a lot of violent crime in Jamaica right now. It's rising.

00:03:50,559 --> 00:04:01,779

There's a serious problem with illegal drugs, which has also, like I stated before, increased the incarceration rate. So that's going up.

00:04:02,000 --> 00:04:08,220

There are inhumane conditions in Jamaica, limited resources, shanty towns.

00:04:08,740 --> 00:04:14,039

The citizens are facing negative health consequences from the potent drug use.

00:04:14,979 --> 00:04:16,959

There are a limited number of counselors.

00:04:18,079 --> 00:04:23,320

And the information that's given to the public there is also very limited.

00:04:24,399 --> 00:04:27,140

Drug treatment is not openly talked about there.

00:04:27,899 --> 00:04:30,859

There are lack of educational programs for drug treatment.

00:04:32,359 --> 00:04:38,220

And the issue is basically ignored among the community and government.

00:04:39,059 --> 00:04:44,820

The drugs in Jamaica are crack, heroin, marijuana, which is very potent in Jamaica.

00:04:46,160 --> 00:04:52,720

And that can lead to using and selling, can lead to arrest, fines, and imprisonment.

00:04:53,459 --> 00:05:00,820

And some of the challenges within the prison system are currently the Tower Street Adult Correctional

00:05:00,820 --> 00:05:05,700

Center has imprisoned about 1,700 adult and youth males.

00:05:06,679 --> 00:05:13,940

And with that, inside the prison system, there is an increase in HIV and AIDS that is causing

00:05:13,940 --> 00:05:16,399

some serious concern and problems for Jamaica.

00:05:16,799 --> 00:05:20,779

The government is reluctant to take action on these issues.

00:05:22,220 --> 00:05:28,220

And it also coincides with many of the challenges within the criminal justice system itself.

00:05:29,260 --> 00:05:34,470

One third of the adult population actually engages in drug use.

00:05:36,359 --> 00:05:38,320

Prohibition on drugs has failed.

00:05:39,179 --> 00:05:47,399

Drug enforcement policies has only exacerbated the problem because it has been deemed inexpensive and ineffective.

00:05:48,540 --> 00:05:54,420

Many non-violent drug users are being placed in the prison population.

00:05:55,820 --> 00:06:02,140

The limitations with the criminal justice system has been from funding to structure.

00:06:02,359 --> 00:06:17,739

But also, right now, the criminal justice system and the barriers and mainly the limited number

00:06:17,739 --> 00:06:21,660

of competent substance abuse practitioners, this has been a great challenge.

00:06:22,459 --> 00:06:29,859

The Jamaican government has made a commitment to invest in drug treatment programs and harm reduction programs.

00:06:29,940 --> 00:06:40,859

However, there is still a severe need for licensed substance abuse practitioners that can provide effective and quality services.

00:06:42,000 --> 00:06:48,799

Without those trained professionals, they would not be able to have a substance abuse profession

00:06:48,799 --> 00:06:55,779

there in Jamaica that would be effective in reducing drug treatment issues and help alleviate the problem.

00:06:56,679 --> 00:07:04,019

And we're trying to establish a contact with the local university in Jamaica, the International

00:07:04,019 --> 00:07:08,399

University of the Caribbean, to form a partnership or collaborative effort.

00:07:10,100 --> 00:07:16,579

Also, to provide academic curricula that would focus specifically on assisting students to become

00:07:16,579 --> 00:07:23,399

eligible to pass a national licensure exam in order to become a certified substance abuse counselor,

00:07:24,079 --> 00:07:31,440

which would ensure that people who are trained are going to be effective and they're going to

00:07:31,440 --> 00:07:37,660

be able to provide a quality service versus what's going on now is you have community members,

00:07:38,440 --> 00:07:46,399

church members, friends, family, trying to provide these services and they're not actually licensed to do so.

00:07:47,420 --> 00:07:55,440

And I've included a handout PowerPoint for you to look at for background information about Jamaica

00:07:55,440 --> 00:08:02,739

and you can also see some of the factors that are involved in the hardships and barriers.

00:08:03,339 --> 00:08:10,559

It speaks about the demographics, the economics, and also the political parties that are in Jamaica currently.

00:08:12,920 --> 00:08:21,619

And it is interesting also to note that Jamaica is no longer represented as a national board

00:08:21,619 --> 00:08:29,399

for certified counselors in the international field or regional office, meaning they don't have that accreditation there.

00:08:29,660 --> 00:08:31,179

So that's also a problem.

00:08:31,920 --> 00:08:38,320

And overall, Jamaica wants to be able to address these issues and the government wants to invest

00:08:38,320 --> 00:08:45,099

in it, but the lack of trained professionals is a very serious problem that needs to be addressed.

00:08:45,700 --> 00:08:52,179

And again, we're looking at considering a collaborative effort to eliminate or at least reduce

00:08:52,179 --> 00:08:57,380

the barriers to allow an increased number of trained professionals.

00:08:59,820 --> 00:09:04,460

Does anyone have any suggestions or questions? I have a suggestion. I have a question. Okay.

00:09:04,760 --> 00:09:15,179

You said that you will be trying to make collaborative partnership with the international school of the Caribbean. Correct. All right.

00:09:15,619 --> 00:09:17,520

Isn't that a foreign school?

00:09:19,320 --> 00:09:24,119

Yeah, but yeah, it's within Jamaica. It's a foreign entity. Right. Yes. Correct.

00:09:25,099 --> 00:09:29,679

Therefore, the cost of that school is expensive.

00:09:34,099 --> 00:09:42,840

And UWI, University of West Benin, would it be better to collaborate with them?

00:09:43,140 --> 00:09:46,919

Because they would be the heart, they know the heart of Jamaica.

00:09:47,179 --> 00:09:52,520

They would be able to get to quicker because the tuition is a lot cheaper.

00:09:53,539 --> 00:10:02,940

And even to a point of working with them where they get that accreditation so that you produce

00:10:02,940 --> 00:10:11,679

more counselors and different things so that the drug issue will be addressed.

00:10:12,119 --> 00:10:15,250

I was just wondering if you guys have thought of that.

00:10:16,049 --> 00:10:24,070

Because I think I know that school and that school is mainly for Americans or foreigners that goes there.

00:10:24,270 --> 00:10:28,549

So, they hardly get Jamaicans that will attend that school. Okay. I see. That's interesting.

00:10:28,770 --> 00:10:34,849

So, if we're looking for locals, then therefore, I'm not certain we'll be addressing the issue. Yeah.

00:10:35,130 --> 00:10:39,950

And ideally, training locals is what we would hope to focus on.

00:10:40,530 --> 00:10:43,669

So, yes, that is a great, kind of great suggestion.

00:10:44,150 --> 00:10:49,010

I think the reason why the International University of Jamaica was proposed was because there

00:10:49,010 --> 00:10:55,429

was already a somewhat of a relationship with the International University of Florida.

00:10:56,270 --> 00:11:04,109

But like you said, that would probably reach more people if we did it, thought that way or looked into that. That's good.

00:11:04,469 --> 00:11:09,109

Because I don't think Jamaica is used in social work at this time. No, you're not. You're not.

00:11:09,869 --> 00:11:17,909

You know, listening to your paper here, I'm very much alarmed in the sense that, you know, it's

00:11:17,909 --> 00:11:27,909

more than two million people there have this serious problem and are not producing people who can help.

00:11:28,349 --> 00:11:32,270

This is a very serious issue, yes. I never knew that.

00:11:32,909 --> 00:11:42,690

Um, I know that with the counselors that you were looking to train or more of them, I feel like

00:11:42,690 --> 00:11:49,950

it might, well, just having the counselors in general, it's kind of reactionary.

00:11:50,030 --> 00:11:54,489

So, the people who already have this drug problem are going to be counselors.

00:11:55,289 --> 00:12:04,109

Have you thought about, before, the fact that, you know, in the states

we have D.A.R.E. in our

00:12:04,109 --> 00:12:09,950
elementary schools, have you thought about maybe establishing that
kind of program within the

00:12:09,950 --> 00:12:11,650
public schools in Jamaica alone?

00:12:11,710 --> 00:12:20,690
That way you get younger locals sooner to tell them about some issues
with drugs and everything so they know.

00:12:20,690 --> 00:12:27,390
Well, and that's been an issue because what's happened is intervention
methods have been attempted,

00:12:27,390 --> 00:12:33,250
but there's not really anything focusing on prevention like you're
talking about or treatment,

00:12:33,409 --> 00:12:39,510
and that's why it's also even more serious because that has actually
not been addressed as well

00:12:39,510 --> 00:12:41,109
either in an effective manner.

00:12:41,229 --> 00:12:42,489
So, that's a good point.

00:12:42,590 --> 00:12:47,809
The lack of prevention programs there and education programs, like you
said, D.A.R.E., there's

00:12:47,809 --> 00:12:53,890
really not anything solid there for them, for the citizens to utilize.
So, yeah, it is.

00:12:54,169 --> 00:12:56,409
It's a lot that can be done. A lot.

00:12:59,669 --> 00:13:11,270
So, I don't know. All those who can't find jobs, that's just, there's
a lot of work to be done here.

00:13:13,710 --> 00:13:16,090
Of course, we can see a lot of work to be done right here.

00:13:17,190 --> 00:13:19,270

I have a question I have.

00:13:19,369 --> 00:13:22,809

Since these men have been there doing the research,

00:13:25,770 --> 00:13:34,250

are they in talks or thinking about how could we, with the resources that they have, they have

00:13:34,250 --> 00:13:42,770

the churches, family members, school guidance counselors, is there any way we could equip them

00:13:42,770 --> 00:13:53,229

better to address the issue in a different manner so that probably it's going to be attacked differently?

00:13:53,770 --> 00:14:00,690

Because if we have an issue right now in America in terms of substance abuse, there we really

00:14:00,690 --> 00:14:03,549

not getting a full grasp of it.

00:14:04,429 --> 00:14:10,729

And it's probably only for the past five to 10 years, America is really trying to produce counselors

00:14:10,729 --> 00:14:13,869

that are focusing on substance abuse. Right?

00:14:13,869 --> 00:14:23,609

So, would we think of, anyway, since we are focusing specifically now on substance abuse in

00:14:23,609 --> 00:14:29,669

terms of where to treat, to be involved with clients, you have to have, if you're likely with

00:14:29,669 --> 00:14:35,890

substance abuse, have you thought of probably doing some training with those type of people

00:14:35,890 --> 00:14:41,630

and trying to probably educate them a little more so that they go about it probably in a different manner?

00:14:41,690 --> 00:14:42,710

And that's a good suggestion.

00:14:42,710 --> 00:14:48,789

We were suggested that because of the culture and the resources in Jamaica, some people mentioned

00:14:48,789 --> 00:14:55,409

what about trying to train the guidance counselors to get certified in substance abuse, which would be beneficial.

00:14:55,750 --> 00:14:58,010

Also, you mentioned community members.

00:14:59,090 --> 00:15:03,309

Sometimes you'll have community members in churches that might be able to get trained and pass

00:15:03,309 --> 00:15:13,809

the exam, or sometimes local leaders, not necessarily a church leader, but a local trust, maybe

00:15:13,809 --> 00:15:17,650

they could, if they're willing to go through a training program to get certified, you know,

00:15:17,650 --> 00:15:20,130

to build that trust with the citizens there.

00:15:20,349 --> 00:15:23,669

Because, I mean, the culture is a lot of people don't talk about it.

00:15:24,070 --> 00:15:30,169

So, if you have a counselor that someone will trust, they might be more willing to go seek treatment

00:15:30,169 --> 00:15:32,950

from that counselor, which would be great, you know.

00:15:33,289 --> 00:15:44,229

We can't send our ECU students, because they may come back. They won't come back. I wouldn't come back.

00:15:44,510 --> 00:15:45,869

I have a quick question.

00:15:46,869 --> 00:15:48,650

What does the training entail?

00:15:48,909 --> 00:15:56,409

Is this, I mean, with like the exam, is this like a huge academic study for a few years kind

00:15:56,409 --> 00:16:04,849

of training, or more like first aid training, where you get some spurts of what you need to know? That's a good question.

00:16:05,010 --> 00:16:06,789

I don't know how it would work.

00:16:07,030 --> 00:16:10,909

We haven't developed a curriculum, a full curriculum yet.

00:16:10,909 --> 00:16:16,130

I know for here in America, for instance, in North Carolina, you would have to have a master's

00:16:16,130 --> 00:16:19,549

or work in the field. It just depends. I know Dr.

00:16:19,770 --> 00:16:25,549

Jackson is the head of the son's abuse certificate program, and you can earn that here at ECU,

00:16:25,609 --> 00:16:28,309

and then you're eligible to be a counselor if you pass an exam.

00:16:28,630 --> 00:16:33,590

So, it's kind of different, but that is also something that we would need to figure out, you know, foolproof.

00:16:33,650 --> 00:16:38,070

Like, how would it work, and what would it look like, and who would want to be involved?

00:16:38,880 --> 00:16:45,469

You know, I actually considered one time doing a certificate program, you know, take my one

00:16:45,469 --> 00:16:53,530

course free of charge, and I applied, but I couldn't do it, you know, but it's something because

00:16:53,530 --> 00:17:00,729

I look and see the state right here of our students, our young people, right here in Greenville,

00:17:00,789 --> 00:17:08,550

North Carolina, and so throughout the nation, throughout the world, you know, if I could be of benefit.

00:17:09,030 --> 00:17:14,810

And it's interesting because if you imagine America, our problems

here, it's pretty bad, and

00:17:14,810 --> 00:17:16,170
we have a lot of resources.

00:17:16,670 --> 00:17:23,469
We have a lot of help, and then if you look at Jamaica, their problem is really bad, and the

00:17:23,469 --> 00:17:30,369
help is almost non-existent, so it's like we have it rough, but there are other places that

00:17:30,369 --> 00:17:35,209
really need a program, need counselors, it's just, they need some help with this issue.

00:17:35,689 --> 00:17:37,569
I just have a quick question.

00:17:38,430 --> 00:17:45,910
I was wondering if you could explore the connection with drug use, or the culture of Rastafari,

00:17:46,689 --> 00:17:58,449
and drug use in dancehall, which is something that was used in the papers, but how do you come

00:17:58,449 --> 00:18:05,050
to that culture of Rastafari, which really is part of the backbone of the Jamaican culture,

00:18:05,310 --> 00:18:08,229
right, on the use of marijuana?

00:18:10,969 --> 00:18:17,849
That's... To answer this question, you know, first of all, when we do that, marijuana, it's

00:18:17,849 --> 00:18:26,250
a drug, you look at me, it's a drug, and you talk about other things, yes, it's a drug, but

00:18:26,250 --> 00:18:30,709
marijuana is a way of life, it's a part of the culture. Right, yeah.

00:18:31,130 --> 00:18:38,530
And what has happened for the Caribbean, we come back to this whole thing about tourism, right,

00:18:38,770 --> 00:18:47,189

you know, there are large groups of North Americans and Europeans who go down to the Caribbean

00:18:47,189 --> 00:18:59,390

precisely for that, because in Belize and a number of the other countries, the drinking age is what, you know? Eighteen. Eighteen. Eighteen.

00:19:00,189 --> 00:19:06,150

I mean, it's different here, I always tell, I go to this little school where I take my students,

00:19:07,069 --> 00:19:17,170

I said, you know, some of you might be tempted to take drugs, if you take drugs and you get

00:19:17,170 --> 00:19:25,630

locked up here, it's not my responsibility, because I had a student, two students from Barton

00:19:25,630 --> 00:19:31,430

one year, and from Raleigh Airport, I knew I was in trouble.

00:19:33,349 --> 00:19:41,630

I mean, when we arrived there, I gave them the warning, early morning, before anybody could

00:19:41,630 --> 00:19:48,170

wake up, they already walk in a key card, and they already contact these people.

00:19:50,349 --> 00:19:54,849

That year, I had planned to take them over for a weekend to Mexico.

00:19:56,089 --> 00:20:03,449

These guys found out that there is, I don't even know the name, there's a bear, that in Greenville,

00:20:03,510 --> 00:20:06,910

it was like about seven, eight dollars, U.S. dollars.

00:20:07,630 --> 00:20:13,250

But in Mexico, it was like about seven pesos, which at that time, it was like one U.S. dollar.

00:20:13,589 --> 00:20:16,310

They drank themselves drunk like fish.

00:20:17,849 --> 00:20:21,869

I mean, they go precisely for this stay here.

00:20:22,949 --> 00:20:30,930

And in Belize, they have those helicopters circling to look down, because they go out on the

00:20:30,930 --> 00:20:36,170

keys away from the city, the people, the foreigners go, so they could use drugs.

00:20:36,910 --> 00:20:45,229

Right, and like in Jamaica, I think one of the problems, or one of the things is to come to the idea of Babylon.

00:20:46,010 --> 00:20:48,989

Babylon wants to take away the wheat, and Babylon wants to bring its own meal.

00:20:53,550 --> 00:20:59,270

So it's kind of a complex situation, which I like the idea of empowering people at the local

00:20:59,270 --> 00:21:07,010

level, at the grassroots level, which is more of a grassroots approach, which takes into consideration

00:21:07,010 --> 00:21:12,790

the movement of Rastafarian supporters. Right, right.

00:21:12,790 --> 00:21:15,369

I think about the need for social workers.

00:21:15,489 --> 00:21:20,689

What I'm going to say is, it's not what you dealt with in your paper and what you're talking

00:21:20,689 --> 00:21:25,689

about, but the hinges on the same thing, because there will always be a need for social workers

00:21:25,689 --> 00:21:30,050

in the Caribbean, for one reason, and you mentioned it, there's not enough resources.

00:21:30,050 --> 00:21:37,530

And in countries that there are not enough resources, let's say, posts to patrol the coast,

00:21:38,829 --> 00:21:41,589

radar on all these things, there's not a lot of that in the Caribbean.

00:21:41,810 --> 00:21:47,290

So what you find, you find the Mexican cartels, they have instances that they would land planes

00:21:47,489 --> 00:21:52,569

packed with drugs, because these are the countries that are hubs that they use, so there will

00:21:52,569 --> 00:21:56,969

always be drug problems in these other countries, because the resources are not there to actually

00:21:56,969 --> 00:22:02,050

condone, big ones like this, like US can't condone, but you said it, but you think about the

00:22:02,050 --> 00:22:07,910

smaller ones, so there will be a need for social workers to deal with that problem when that

00:22:07,910 --> 00:22:16,689

drug gets introduced into the society, it will happen. Yeah. Dr. Jackson, I think... Thank you.

00:22:20,729 --> 00:22:21,849

Thank you for your suggestion.

00:22:21,849 --> 00:22:25,770

I think we need just all the English graduates, go do social work. Okay.