

Ministry of Social Development and Family Services



MEDIA RELEASE

Wednesday, 21 October 2020

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Priority: <u>HIGH</u>

<u>Minister of Social Development and Family Services discusses best practices in Social</u> <u>Services with United States Ambassador Joseph Mondello</u>

October 21, 2020--- Minister of Social Development and Family Senator, The Honourable Donna Cox, today met with United States Ambassador Joseph Mondello to explore bilateral relations and exchange ideas in the sphere of social development and family services. The meeting took place at the U.S Embassy located at 15 Queens Park West, Port of Spain.

Also present at the meeting was Acting Permanent Secretary at the Ministry, Ms Sheila Seecharan. From the discussions held, both sides agreed that there were tremendous opportunities for training and exchange in several areas including programmes for older persons, first responder systems, best practices in developing healthy, functional families; as well as policies and strategies to help transition persons from welfare to a state of resilience, self-reliance and sustainability. Minister Cox also placed emphasis on strengthening the Ministry's social safety net to better serve the most vulnerable persons, in order to lift them out of poverty.

Other areas in which the bilateral relationship could be expanded monitoring and evaluation frameworks for the efficient and effective delivery of social services. The Ambassador agreed to partnering with the Ministry and a subsequent meeting is being arranged for further discussions and the way forward.

<Ends>



Minister of Social Development and Family Senator, the Honourable Donna Cox and United States Ambassador Joseph Mondello greet prior to the meeting.



Establishing Relations - Minister of Social Development and Family Services Senator the Honourable Donna Cox meets with United States Ambassador to Trinidad and Tobago, His Excellency Joseph N. Mondello. Accompanying Minister Cox is Permanent Secretary Sheila Seecharan.

For more information:

Communications Unit Ministry of Social Development and Family Services (868) 623-2608; Ext 5405/5445/5432 cceu@social.gov.tt