



Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

Ministry of Social Development and Family Services

MEDIA RELEASE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Priority: **HIGH**

Building resilience in at risk communities
Minister Cox meets with Community Recovery Committee

The Integrated Community First Responders System will be an important factor in building positive relations within communities said Minister of Social Development and Family Services Senator the Honourable Donna Cox when she met with Mr. Anthony Watkins and Mr. Hasely Crawford of the Community Recovery Committee at the Ministry's Head Office on Friday 4th December, 2020.

The Community Recovery Committee, established in July by Prime Minister Dr the Honourable Keith Rowley, is tasked with the responsibility of developing a plan to address issues affecting at risk-communities.

During the meeting, Minister Cox pointed out to Mr Watkins Minister Cox that the social ills experienced within these communities stem from issues such as poor parenting, crime, poverty, lack of employment and other environmental factors. In order to address these factors that contribute to the decline of the community, Mr Watkins indicated that the committee will focus on four key strategies namely Community Pride and Ownership, Human Development, Social Stability and Support and Business Generation and Economic Development.

In her response, Minister Cox noted that the Ministry of Social Development and Family Services has a suite of programmes and services that can address some of the social ills outlined by the committee including parenting skills workshop, counselling and psychological support through the National Family Services Division; opportunities for entrepreneurship through the Sowing Empowerment Entrepreneurial Development Programme amongst other programmes designed to help, empower and transition persons out of poverty and vulnerability.

In closing, Minister Cox thanked the committee for the timely meeting and assured them that she will continue dialogue with the team as they both embark on a collaborative effort to ensure that the vulnerable are not left behind.



Minister of Social Development and Family Services Senator the Honourable Donna Cox joined by her Adviser Ms. Miriam Jacobs meet with Mr. Anthony Watkins and Mr. Hasely Crawford of the Community Recovery Committee at the Ministry's Head Office on Friday.