



SOCIAL SECURITY BOARD

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PRESS RELEASE

Re: SSB/NHI SIGNS MOU WITH THE BELIZE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Date: March 15TH, 2023,

Having recognized the many health risks that the members of the Belize Police Department (BPD) face in providing essential services to the general public, the Social Security Board (SSB)/National Health Insurance (NHI) and the Ministry of Home Affairs and New Growth Industries on behalf of the BPD signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) this morning, Wednesday, March 15th, 2023 in the Toucan Room of the Best Western Belize Biltmore Plaza. The MOU will be effective April 1st, 2023.

The purpose of the MOU is to provide coverage for Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) and to address the safety and security concerns of the staff and by extension the general population who interact with the BPD on a daily basis. The services are available only in the South Side at this time.

As part of this initiative, Southside Primary Care Providers will implement a pilot project to identify individuals at high risk to develop NCDs at BPD Precincts 1 and 2 of Belize City. This pilot project, which is supported by NHI, will “secure the continuity of care and particularly the management of those patients with chronic conditions for an initial period of six (6) months.”, as stated in the MOU. Further, based on the findings the Primary Care Givers will initiate preventive/mitigating interventions.

According to the MOU, “the Belize Police Department in turn will facilitate and assist the Primary Care Providers (PCPs) in strengthening the safety and security measures presently established to provide a safer and secured environment for the healthcare workers and patients at all NHI contracted PCPs in the southside of Belize City.”

The welcome address for the event was done by Dr. Marco Tulio Mendez, who is the Executive Chairman for NHI, followed by Dr. Ramon Figueroa, the General Manager for NHI who spoke about the project’s objectives. Remarks were given by Mrs. Deborah Ruiz, CEO – Social Security Board, who was followed by the main speaker, Hon. Kareem Musa, Minister of Home Affairs and New Growth Industries.

End.

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