



Editorial Board

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59th CFA Meeting
8 December 2021

A Summary of the 58th CFA Meeting held on 13 September 2021

Experience sharing by The Society for AIDS Care

The Society for AIDS Care (SAC) delivered a presentation on “Together we make a difference”.

SAC had modified its client services during the pandemic. More activities were converted to virtual mode, such as online health talks and counselling. Since the clients in SAC were generally of older age, family members of the clients might assist the clients to use the smart phones, for example to take photos of the pill box to check drug compliance.

As not few clients faced discrimination and stress after the diagnosis, having a good relationship with family members or the significant others with their support was important. Emotional support was provided to all clients, and the pros and cons of disclosure of HIV status was discussed with the clients to assist them in making the decision.

More about the 58th CFA Meeting

Experience sharing by C.H.O.I.C.E.

C.H.O.I.C.E. delivered a presentation on “Integrated Anti-Drug Service 3.0”.

Increased slamming and complications arising from slamming were closely observed among clients using services of C.H.O.I.C.E. The users usually started with chemsex from gay dating app, and might become regular substance users later while some of them would still took drugs for chemsex purpose. They also observed that the situation of chemsex worsened in the time of COVID-19. Many people had depressed mood since the social unrest situation and later during the COVID-19 pandemic, both might also contributed to the situation. The decreased hotel room fee during the pandemic increased its popularity as a venue for chemsex.

Highlights of the Community Stakeholders’ Consultation Meeting 2021

As the first phase of consultation to collect opinions for drafting the next Recommended HIV/AIDS Strategies for Hong Kong, seven Community Stakeholders’ Consultation Meeting (CCM) sessions were conducted from 13 to 18 July 2021. DH commissioned an independent contractor to conduct the CCM. The contractor together with the representative from DH presented the opinions collected during the consultation period. Several comments were collected after the presentation:

- A member commented that some suggestions raised by the communities in previous CCM were not in the last strategies and these suggestions could be considered and included into the next strategies.
- Ethnic minorities (EM) interpreter services was usually declined by the EM clients due to confidentiality issue, despite the interpreters had already signed declaration form. Members suggested providing education to both service users and the interpreters.
- Regarding the increasing number of pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) users, it was considered important to make sure they were using PrEP correctly and with proper follow up. Some members suggested that the government should lead the PrEP implementation as the demand was getting higher. At the same time, NGOs should be prepared to face the opposing parties against PrEP implementation.
- Although it was easier for the community to obtain post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) now, it was considered necessary to enhance education of its use with proper follow-up arrangement.

Arrangement for attending CFA as observers

The following arrangement was agreed during the CFA Meeting held in March 2012 -

- a. Upon the Convener's invitation/agreement, people who were interested to take part as observer might attend the whole or certain sessions of the meeting and speak up in the meeting at the Convener's discretion;
- b. The CFA Secretariat would announce the agenda on the ACA's website (in the ACA Newsfile) prior to each CFA Meeting. Interested parties could put up their requests to the CFA Secretariat for consideration;
- c. In case of over subscription, the CFA Secretariat would work out the list of participants by adopting a fair procedure deemed appropriate;
- d. Despite of this new administrative arrangement, the meeting would continue to be conducted in Cantonese only; and
- e. At the same time, the CFA Secretariat could invite relevant stakeholders to attend the meeting if deemed appropriate.

59th CFA Meeting

Date : 8 December 2021 (Wednesday)

Time : 2:30 pm

Venue : Activity Area, Red Ribbon Centre
2/F, Wang Tau Hom Jockey Club Clinic
200 Junction Road East, Kowloon

Three main items on the Agenda

- ◆ Results of Street Addict Survey 2021 by The Society for the Aid and Rehabilitation of Drug Abusers
- ◆ Experience sharing by non-governmental organisation
 - Hong Kong AIDS Foundation
- ◆ A brief overview on indicators for monitoring HIV responses to achieve the targets set in the "UNAIDS Global AIDS Strategy 2021-2026"

Invitation

Dear All,

If you are interested to take part as observer in the 59th CFA Meeting to be held on 8 December 2021, please complete the application form (available for download from https://www.aca.gov.hk/cfa_observers_form.pdf) and send the completed form to the CFA Secretariat by **26 November 2021**. For more details of this arrangement, please refer to the summary shown on the left of this page.

CFA Secretariat