



Editorial Board

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~ Calendar ~

121st ACA Meeting
20 January 2023

Agenda of 121st ACA Meeting

Date : 20 January 2023 (Friday)
Time : 2:30 pm
Venue : Conference Room, Department of Health, 21/F, Wu Chung House,
213 Queen's Road East, Wanchai, Hong Kong

Three main items on the Agenda -

- ◆ Report on Street Addict Survey 2022
- ◆ Progress on the support services offered to people with haemophilia and HIV infection
- ◆ Report on local female sex worker HIV outbreak and intervention in 2022

A Summary of the 120th ACA Meeting held on 14 October 2022

Report on Youth Sexuality Study 2021 (Secondary School Survey)

The Family Planning Association of Hong Kong (FPAHK) presented the report on Youth Sexuality Study 2021 (Secondary School Survey). Invitation letters were sent to all schools in Hong Kong and the communication with parents was arranged by schools. Participating schools provided the number of male and female students for FPAHK to prepare hard copies of the questionnaire or a unique QR code for students. Students joined the survey by voluntary participation and letters to parents were provided on request.

Members showed concern about the relatively poor response in students' sexual knowledge. FPAHK opined that both the family and school were crucial in the full implementation of sexuality education. Education Bureau (EDB) also engaged FPAHK in teacher training. Topics of gender identity and sexual orientation were added in teacher training. In addition, gender identity and sexual orientation were all along included in the list of topics for talks conducted by FPAHK at schools, subject to the choices by schools. Recently, FPAHK also reached the youths outside schools to share gender identity and sexual orientation via peer volunteers.

EDB supplemented that the report in fact revealed that adolescents' awareness and acceptance of gender and sexual orientation diversity was enhanced, which recognised the efforts schools and frontline teachers put in for the implementation of values education (including sex education), in particular in cultivating positive values and attitudes in students. EDB would continue to support schools in promoting values education through teacher training and provision of learning and teaching resources, with a view to enabling students to possess the positive values and attitudes necessary to protect themselves and make responsible and informed decisions in life.

Members considered that Youth Sexuality Study 2021 was an important reference. Students should learn how to accept various messages via social media. Adolescents should know how to protect themselves and the proper sexual attitude.

Highlights of 24th International AIDS Conference (AIDS 2022), Montreal, Canada

AIDS 2022 was held in Montreal, Canada from 29 July to 2 August 2022. Representatives of DH attended the conference virtually.

DH presented the highlights of researches including comparison of locations for distributing HIV self-test kits, using HIV self-testing in PrEP users, and using gain-framed counselling to improve uptake of PrEP use.

Members noted that the gain-framed counselling was useful reaching hard-to-reach groups and it was proposed to share it with NGOs.

Guidance on the use of HIV Pre-exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) in Hong Kong by the Scientific Committee on AIDS and STI (August 2022)

The Scientific Committee on AIDS and STI (SCAS) has developed an interim statement on PrEP in December 2016, which delineated interim principles on PrEP practice for selected people at high and ongoing risk of HIV infection, as an additional measure for individual protection against HIV. With increasing knowledge overseas, as well as important progress on the experiences of PrEP utilisation in the local context, SCAS had reviewed the latest situation and issued a “Guidance on the use of HIV Pre-exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) in Hong Kong” in August 2022, which discussed different regimens, clinical monitoring and counselling required to maximise PrEP effectiveness.

Members opined that this Guidance could provide further information to healthcare providers and NGOs in provision of care and support to PrEP users. SCAS should disseminate the Guidance to relevant speciality colleges of the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine and medical associations so that medical professionals who were providing or plan to provide PrEP service could take into reference.

Report of the Community Forum on AIDS (CFA)

Members noted the summary report and discussions of the 62nd CFA Meeting held on 9 September 2022. A summary of this CFA Meeting was contained in the ACA Newsfile (Vol. 29, No. 10 – October 2022).

Familiarisation visit to C.H.O.I.C.E. (2 December 2022)



Community Health Organisation for Intervention, Care and Empowerment (C.H.O.I.C.E.)

A Summary of the 63rd CFA Meeting held on 8 December 2022

Results of Street Addict Survey 2022 by The Society for the Aid and Rehabilitation of Drug Abusers

The Society for the Aid and Rehabilitation of Drug Abusers (SARDA) presented the Street Addict Survey 2022.

Members noted that the percentage of sharing needle with strangers remained high under the COVID situation.

SARDA observed that the subjects of the survey were more hidden than in previous years, hence more effort was required. SARDA also expressed that condom use rate might improve if the quality of free condom provided by DH could be better.

Experience sharing by The Society for the Aid and Rehabilitation of Drug Abusers

SARDA delivered a presentation on “Spark Action 3.0” and “Phoenix Project 3.0”.

To encourage drug users to quit drug, SARDA arranged frequent visits to drug users. They were able to take an opportunity when some drug users showed inclination to quitting drugs.

SARDA also shared that drug users were not able to gather in rest gardens or sitting-out areas during the COVID pandemic, and their activities were moved to indoor places which caused difficulties to reach them. Recently the situation was better as drug users had come out but the number of people was still less than that before COVID as well as the number of people who wished to quit drug.

Experience sharing by Teen’s Key

Teen’s Key delivered a presentation on “Introduction of Teen’s Key”.

Teen’s Key stressed about the rapid changes in culture among adolescents. Nowadays, relevant adolescents did not identify themselves as sex workers nor part-time girlfriends. Exchanging sex with money or gifts became part of their romantic relationship with other people. The change in terminology showed that they were unable to differentiate their customers from their lovers. The phenomenon was usually observed among girls under 20 years old.

Teen’s Key also expressed their concern on the coming new legal enforcement on mandatory reporting of child abuse. They worried that their clients would be reluctant to seek help if the new enforcement was launched.