



Editorial Board

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123rd ACA Meeting
14 July 2023

Agenda of 123rd ACA Meeting

Date : 14 July 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

Two main items on the Agenda -

- ◆ Stigma and discrimination against people living with HIV in Hong Kong
- ◆ Review on the Expert Panel on HIV Infection of Health Care Workers

Photo taken during the 65th CFA Meeting on 6 June 2023



A Summary of the 65th CFA Meeting held on 6 June 2023

Data analysis of local female sex worker HIV outbreak in 2022

Subsequent to the reporting of a local female sex worker (FSW) HIV outbreak by Action for REACH OUT in May 2022, a total of five FSW cases were identified with HIV diagnosis dates ranging from August 2021 to June 2022. Special Preventive Programme and Social Hygiene Service of Department of Health (DH) has collaborated with AIDS NGOs on several public health actions to investigate the situation and promote HIV testing/prevention for FSW and their male clients in targeted areas.

DH presented the analysis of the data collected by the NGOs using self-administrated questionnaires in the meeting. Members noted the difficulty in identifying male clients of female sex workers (MCFSW), as FSW were often unwilling to disclose information about their clients. Besides, it was noted that promotion booths were set up in the vicinity of one-woman brothels in the targeted geographical districts in order to reach out for the MCFSW in the concerned areas during the FSW outbreak investigation. It was therefore inevitable that some of the recruited participants were merely passers-by instead of MCFSW.

Members agreed that continuous monitoring and surveillance are crucial in view of the observed changes in the community of commercial sex workers since border reopening. Further surveys could be conducted to address the limitations of earlier studies and to assess the situation for females with multiple partners, such as part-time girlfriends. In view of the ageing population, effective ways to disseminate HIV prevention messages to the elderly population should also be explored.

Opinion and recommendation on operation of Community Forum on AIDS

As the meeting was the last one of the current term, members were invited to give their opinion and recommendation on operation of CFA. The new term of ACA would take into account the opinion and recommendation.

Members considered the CFA had provided an important platform to collect the observations and comments from organisations involved in HIV prevention to support strategy formulation at the ACA level. Members reflected unusual observations and shared frontline situation with fellow organisations and DH, so that timely action could be taken if required.

The observer arrangement of the CFA should be maintained, and the Secretariat would invite parties of related fields e.g. NGOs working on transgender people, people living with HIV (PLHIV), Elderly Health Service of DH to participate in CFA meetings.

Review of the works of CFA 2020-2023

(1) Expansion of the CFA membership

The following NGOs / organisations and individuals newly joined the CFA since 2020: CARAM Asia; Christian Action; Gay Harmony; Transgender Equality Hong Kong Limited; and Mr. Christopher WONG.

(2) Participation in the formulation of Recommended HIV/AIDS Strategies for Hong Kong (2022-2027)

The CFA provided a platform for collection of views in the formulation of the “*Recommended HIV/AIDS Strategies for Hong Kong*”. CFA NGO members provided valuable inputs and feedbacks in the end-term review of the progress of implementation of the last ACA Strategies (2017-2021) conducted in 2021. CFA members together with stakeholders provide valuable views in the Community Stakeholders’ Consultation Meeting 2021 for the successful formulation of Recommended HIV/AIDS Strategies for Hong Kong (2022-2027).

(2) Sharing of knowledge and experience

Department of Health and CFA Members shared HIV knowledge and working experience through the platform of CFA.

(4) Observer arrangement

Staff members and volunteers from AIDS NGOs attended the meeting. The observer system continued to be a useful opportunity for NGO to increase the exposure of their new colleagues and volunteers.

(5) Coordination of community-wide surveys

Since the first round of PRiSMTG in 2006, CFA continued to be an important platform for coordinating NGOs’ effort for conducting the survey and result sharing. During this term, the fifth round of PRiSMTG was conducted from June to December 2022, targeting high risk populations i.e. MSM and transgender people.