



Editorial Board

Executive Editor: Mrs Ellen LAU, ACA Secretariat

AIDS Hotline: 2780 2211

~ IN THIS ISSUE WE HAVE ~

- ✦ A Summary of the 76th ACA Meeting held on 3 October 2011.....pages 5-7
- ✦ ACA visit on 10 Feb 2012.....page 8

~ Calendar ~

24th CFA Meeting
22 March 2012

A Summary of the 76th ACA Meeting held on 3 October 2011

Proposed schema of operation for the Hong Kong Advisory Council on AIDS 2011-2014

Members were briefed on the major changes to the organization and operation of the Hong Kong Advisory Council on AIDS (ACA) and that the terms of reference of ACA (first proposed by the Government in 1990) would remain unchanged as follows -

- (a) to keep under review local and international trends and development relating to HIV infection and AIDS;
- (b) to advise Government on policy relating to the prevention, care and control of HIV infection and AIDS in Hong Kong; and
- (c) to advise on the coordination and monitoring of programmes on the prevention of HIV infection and the provision of services to people with HIV/AIDS in Hong Kong.

Besides, ACA would deliver its objectives through -

- (a) deliberations at the ACA meetings;
- (b) commissioning, supervision and endorsement of reports on selected subjects;
- (c) activities of standing committee; and
- (d) overseeing the progress of the Recommended Strategies 2007-2011 and preparation for a new set of Recommended HIV/AIDS Strategies for Hong Kong 2012-2016.

The meeting noted that a two-tier structure of the ACA had been established in its sixth and seventh terms of office from 2005 to 2011 with one committee named the Community Forum on AIDS (CFA) formed under the ACA. A survey to collect the views of CFA members had found it to be a valuable and effective platform for two-way communication between ACA and frontline HIV/AIDS service delivery organisations, workers and communities, as well as a neutral body to coordinate agencies working on HIV prevention and care and promoting acceptance of people living with HIV/AIDS. In the light of these findings, it was recommended to continue to adopt the two-tier system of interaction in which CFA would be formed under ACA in its eighth term of office from 2011 to 2014. The terms of reference of CFA could be fine-tuned after discussion in CFA's first meeting.

To take forward the formation of CFA, it was unanimously agreed that Professor Samuel YU should be nominated as the CFA Convener. In response, Professor YU accepted the appointment and invited ACA members to join CFA and contribute their expertise in the Forum.

To be continued.....



more about 76th ACA Meeting held on 3 October 2011

Recommended HIV/AIDS Strategies for Hong Kong 2012 to 2016 – second draft (post-stakeholders consultation)

Members were briefed on the process leading to and results of a month-long consultation with major stakeholders on the draft Recommended HIV/AIDS Strategies in Hong Kong from year 2012 to 2016. With a view to maximizing stakeholders' contribution, ownership and acceptability of the eventual Strategies, the CFA and Hong Kong Coalition on AIDS Service Organizations co-organized a nine-session Community Stakeholders Consultation Meeting (CSCM) from 26 January to 1 February 2011. An online opinion survey was also conducted from 11 January to 8 March 2011. Comments and recommendations collected from the initial consultation were discussed by ACA and a summary report of CSCM was sent out to related public agencies for soliciting their feedback in the second quarter of 2011. Subsequently, a draft document on Recommended HIV/AIDS Strategies was discussed at the 75th ACA Meeting in July 2011. In response to Members' suggestions, additional revisions were made and the latest draft was sent out to major stakeholders in the public sector, professional bodies, civil society and the universities for comments in August 2011.

The responses received through the consultation activities indicated that the stakeholders generally supported the proposed recommendations. The relevant comments, questions and suggestions were highlighted for Members' reference/information.

Members were led through the priority areas for action. On scaling up HIV prevention in priority communities, the following themes/elements might be taken into account by the AIDS Trust Fund (ATF) in assessing funding

applications -

- (a) psychosocial determinants of risk behaviours such as life-skills based HIV education;
- (b) specific sub-groups having disproportionately more HIV infection, such as ethnic minorities drug users and younger MSM;
- (c) increasing the coverage of HIV testing among MSM and FSW;
- (d) new modes of communication such as internet to reach target populations; and
- (e) innovative programmes to approach priority communities who were not so easily accessible and whose risk have not been extensively studied.

Members also noted that a mid-term and an end-of-period review on the eight targets of the Recommended HIV/AIDS Strategies for Hong Kong 2007-2011 had been conducted.

The Secretariat would further fine-tune the draft 2012 to 2016 Strategies for public consultation, and present the final version at the next ACA meeting. After finalizing the Recommended HIV/AIDS Strategies for Hong Kong 2012- 2016, relevant stakeholders/partners would be identified and invited to take up their ownership and come up with action plans to achieve the objectives/deliverables. Professor YU would discuss with CFA members and enlist the assistance of service providers to prepare implementation plans. On the funding aspects, ATF could review its funding allocation/mechanism according to the stipulated procedures in the light of the Recommended Strategies.

World AIDS Day 2011 Publicity Activities by Department of Health

Members were briefed that the World Health Organization had declared 1 December 1988 as the first World AIDS Day (WAD). The goal of the World AIDS Campaign (WAC) was to energize and support an effective and sustained response to the AIDS epidemic. In Hong Kong, the first WAD event was held in 1988. Since then, the Government and the civil society had contributed towards the fight against the AIDS epidemic by hosting publicity activities on or around WAD.

Members were also presented the series of publicity events around WAD which would be organized by the Red Ribbon Centre of

Department of Health. The media partner for World AIDS Campaign 2011 (WAC 2011) was Metro Broadcast Corporation Limited. The four major components in WAC 2011 and the key messages to be delivered were also highlighted for Members' reference. Other publicity activities around World AIDS Day 2011 would include Announcements in the Public Interest, HIV/AIDS prevention messages and activities in raising awareness on HIV/AIDS within and beyond the MSM community during the Hong Kong Lesbian and Gay Film Festival, publicity targeting female sex workers and their clients, as well as publicity targeting medical practitioners.

Farewell to the Executive Editor of the ACA Newsfile

Mr Kenneth NG, the former Executive Editor of the ACA Newsfile has proceeded on pre-retirement leave and his successor Mrs Ellen LAU has taken over from him with effect from 3 January 2012. The Editorial Board wishes Kenneth a happy retirement.



ACA visit on 10 February 2012

