

## Editorial Board

Executive Editor: Mrs Ellen LAU, ACA Secretariat



Vol. 19, No. 5 – May 2012 (issue no. 221)

**AIDS Hotline: 2780 2211**

### ~ IN THIS ISSUE WE HAVE ~

- ✧ A Summary of the 24th CFA Meeting held on 22 March 2012.....pages 17-20
- ✧ Agenda of 25th CFA Meeting .....page 20

### ~ Calendar ~

**25th CFA Meeting  
14 June 2012**

**79th ACA Meeting  
29 June 2012**

## A Summary of the 24th CFA Meeting held on 22 March 2012

### An Exploratory Study of Risk Behaviours among Young MSM

Ms Shara HO of CHOICE used the powerpoint to present the outcome of the above exploratory study, mainly in the following aspects –

- a. contextual and social determinants of risk-taking and HIV testing behaviours;
- b. profile the varied means of sexual relationships especially interpretation of regular and non-regular sex partnership;
- c. whereabouts for finding and meeting sexual partners;
- d. difficulty encountered in knowing the HIV status of sex partners; and
- e. opinion and knowledge on accessing to testing for HIV and STI.

Members noted that this study was conducted in August 2010 using focus group interview (totally six focus groups with 34 participants). The findings of this

study were just for reference purpose as there were numerous subsequent changes to such findings after a lapse of time. It was however worth to note that the participants in this study generally considered that homosexual education should be provided at school. Besides, although some of these participants relied on popper to ease their pain, they were not aware that they were in fact using drug.

Some Members considered that the Education Bureau should be reminded to put more emphasis in providing sexual education and knowledge on AIDS at school. Members were also reminded of the significant influence of the peer groups and that it was necessary to keep pace with the rapid change of communication platform of the young MSM in order to reach them.



to be continued.....

## more about 24th CFA Meeting held on 22 March 2012

### Three-year Work Plan in Response to Recommended HIV/AIDS Strategies for Hong Kong, 2012 – 2016

Discussion was made on what the Forum as a whole might do, and a common scheme for collecting input from the local AIDS effort in the civil society to come up with an overall prospective summary of action plans, for implementing the Recommended HIV/AIDS Strategies for Hong Kong, 2012 – 2016 issued by ACA.

Members generally agreed that the following deliverables should be achieved within the three-year term –

- a. recommending the funding mechanism of AIDS Trust Fund (ATF);
- b. engaging multi-sectoral stakeholders for dialogue on cross-cutting issues;
- c. identifying needs and opportunities for continuous training and development of NGO workers; and
- d. advising the development of common response indicators.

Besides, it was agreed that the following essential information of individual action plans should be prepared by the civil society to facilitate easy updating and compiling of a consolidated summary on a regular basis –

- a. Priority area of actions;
- b. Related recommendations;

- c. Priority communities and subgroups (if any);
- d. Types and components of project/programme;
- e. Scale (i.e. expected no. of clients, attendee or audience);
- f. Period of the projects/programmes; and
- g. Geographical information.

Some Members commented that ATF was too rigid on the rationale in granting funds and opined that more communication was essential in minimizing any discrepancies. In order to facilitate NGO's smooth and effective preparation of the funding application, it was considered that ATF should organize prior briefing sessions during which ATF would advise on the main theme for funding allocation and the NGOs could seek clarifications as necessary. Discussion was also made on the insufficient manpower of ATF and the feasibility of long term funding allocation and appeal mechanism. Members noted that their major concerns and comments on ATF funding mechanism would be brought up to ATF by the ACA Chairperson during their meeting on 26 March 2012 for further deliberation.

## Clinical Waste Control Scheme

Members were pleased to note that EPD had recently confirmed that waste arisen from community-based VCT carried out by NGO for screening of HIV infection was not defined as Clinical Waste under the Waste Disposal Ordinance. While waste from VCT was not regulated as Clinical Waste, EPD would like to remind the NGOs concerned to observe strict guidelines on safe handling and disposal of the waste at all times with a view to protect the public from the risk of exposure to infectious waste. EPD's message was subsequently conveyed to all CFA members on 13 March 2012 and members were also asked to share this news with their colleagues and consider resuming VCT (if suspended) carried out by their organization shortly.



## HIV infection and the health care workers

Members had great concern on a recent case concerning a healthcare personnel working in the public sector who had committed suicide on 12 January 2012 and the media later disclosing that the deceased was HIV positive. There were numerous reportings from all major newspaper and the internet recently. Members generally considered that the

mass media should bring out positive message by providing proper information on AIDS while observing privacy protection and that this matter should be escalated to ACA for further examination of the related issues (including the HIV prevention in the medical setting, media reporting and the privacy issue).



## Arrangement for Request of Attendance in CFA by Non-members

In response to a recent request, this issue was examined in the CFA meeting.

After discussion, Members generally agreed that –

- a. CFA should be opened to all people who were interested to take part as observer. Upon the Convener's invitation/agreement, these participants 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.

## 25th CFA Meeting

Date : 14 June 2012 (Thursday)

Time : 2:30 pm

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

### Three main items on the Agenda -

- Summary of LegCo Panel meeting on HIV-infected healthcare workers
- Report on the progress of response indicators
- Presentation on findings of the latest PRiSM 2011 survey by the Chinese University of Hong



## Invitation

Dear All,

If you are interested to take part as observer in the 25th CFA Meeting to be held on 14 June 2012, please complete the application form (available for download from [www.aca.gov.hk/cfa\\_observers\\_form.pdf](http://www.aca.gov.hk/cfa_observers_form.pdf)) and send the completed form to the CFA Secretariat before 31 May 2012. For more details of this new arrangement, please refer to the summary shown on the left of this page.

CFA Secretariat