



Editorial Board

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**27th CFA Meeting
12 December 2012**

Photos taken during the 80th ACA Meeting on 5 October 2012



A Summary of the 26th CFA Meeting held on 5 September 2012

(I) Discussion on abandoning condom as prostitution evidence

Members noted that NGOs had been calling to stop confiscating and using condom for prosecution related to prostitution due to public health reason. The issue was previously brought up for discussion at the ACA Meeting held on 10 July 2009. With the help of Mr Charles Wong, an Acting District Court Judge, Mr Ernest LIN, was invited to attend the CFA Meeting to brief members on the current considerations on this issue in Hong Kong. He explained the legal basis for charging a person of prostitution and elaborated the following points –

- (a) A person, irrespective of gender, could get charged by police because of soliciting for immoral purposes in public areas, but not because of possession of condoms and lubricants alone;
- (b) Although possession of condoms could be used as a circumstantial evidence, it was of very low importance in proving a person's involvement in illegal prostitution activity; and
- (c) It was important to educate the sex workers to protect their own rights.

Members noted that the Complaints Against Police Office should be approached when necessary to establish precedents that might improve the situation in the long run. Besides, the relevant NGOs could contact the Judiciary Studies Board for sharing experience and difficulties when serving the sex workers community. Some members supported the idea of organizing a team with members from the public health sector, the police force, the judiciary, and representatives from relevant organizations to facilitate cross-sectorial communication. Simple educational materials stating clearly what was not prohibited by law could be produced as appropriate to help avoid the potential of power abuse by law enforcement, and to reduce the reluctance of condom use by sex workers. This suggestion would be brought to the ACA for consideration.



(II) Progress of AIDS response indicators

Members noted that taking into account various NGOs' comments on the draft response indicator, a revised version had been worked out and sent to the participating NGOs on 13 August 2012. Subsequent discussion on the details of the survey was made between RRC and individual NGOs from late August to early September 2012. Deliberation was made on the problems encountered by certain NGOs with a view to identify possible solutions (and a summary of these meetings was given to all CFA members). After active discussion, agreement was made on the methodology and logistics for carrying out the survey while further discussion related to the response indicators for female sex workers and injecting drug users would be made in due course.

Besides, further discussion with each organization would be made for finalizing the questionnaires and the resources incurred.

(III) Debriefing – Visit to Shenzhen Center for Disease Control and Prevention (Shenzhen CDC)

Members noted that DH SPP had met with Shenzhen CDC on 3 July 2012 to discuss enhanced collaboration across the border among other issues. During the meeting, HIV infection situation among the MSM in both Shenzhen and Hong Kong had been discussed and a visit to an NGO had also been made. It was concluded that frequent exchange of information between the two places should be maintained.

(IV) Survey findings of MSM attending private group sex party

Members noted that Dr Krystal LEE of Chinese University of Hong Kong had been commissioned by DH to conduct a survey to quantify the perception of risk in MSM who attended private group sex party (GSP) in 2011. The preliminary findings of the survey included –

- (a) A significant risk for HIV/STI transmission but low perceived risk among participants in GSP;
- (b) The importance of saunas in terms of prevention needs were underscored;
- (c) The GSP participants showed passive attitude on practice of safer sex; and
- (d) Despite the worry about getting HIV infection, psychological factors such as pleasurable experience were still the main determinants for joining GSP.

The results of the study would be compiled for dissemination when ready.

Arrangement for Request of Attendance in CFA by Non-members

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.

27th CFA Meeting

Date : 12 December 2012 (Wednesday)
Time : 2:30 pm
Venue : Conference Room, Red Ribbon Centre,
2/F, Wang Tau Hom Jockey Club Clinic
200 Junction Road East, Kowloon

Two main items on the Agenda

- Progress of Life skill-based education on HIV/AIDS and sex education in Hong Kong
- Amendment to the HIV infection and the Health Care Workers – Recommended Guidelines



Invitation

Dear All,

If you are interested to take part as observer in the 27th CFA Meeting to be held on 12 December 2012, please complete the application form (available for download from http://www.aca.gov.hk/cfa_observers_form.pdf) and send the completed form to the CFA Secretariat by 28 November 2012. For more details of this arrangement, please refer to the summary shown on the left of this page.

CFA Secretariat