



Editorial Board

Executive Editor: Mrs Ellen LAU, ACA Secretariat

AIDS Hotline: 2780 2211

IN THIS ISSUE WE HAVE

- ✧ A Summary of 31st CFA Meeting.....pages 5-7
- ✧ Agenda of 32nd CFA Meeting.....page 8



~ Calendar ~

**32nd CFA Meeting
13 March 2014**

A Summary of the 31st CFA Meeting held on 11 December 2013



Results of the HIV/AIDS Response Indicator Survey (HARiS) – FSW & TGSW and IDU

Members were briefed on the survey results for the two populations (a) female and transgender sex worker (FSW & TGSW); and (b) injection drug users (IDU).

- (a) (i) The venue-recruited FSW showed higher rates of consistent condom use than the internet-recruited FSW (>92% vs <65%), but had a lower HIV testing rate in 12 months (61.0% vs 76.2%). None was tested HIV positive, while 8.2% were positive for chlamydia.
- (ii) For the TGSW, their low HIV testing rate in 12 months (7.5%) and consistent condom use rate (<30%) were noted. Only 18.5% sought proper medical management for suspected STI. Two out of 18 urine samples were tested HIV positive. Large service gaps were noted.
- (b) For IDU, the HIV testing rate was 63.7%, but the condom use rate in last sex with regular partners was only 39.3%. Needle sharing rate was 9.4%.

Members suggested to conduct HARiS for transgender community as a separate group in next year, and that transgender specific service in Social Hygiene Clinics may help encourage them to seek medical help when in need. They also suggested to analyse the IDU results by different ethnicity, and compare with that of SARDA.

more about 31st CFA Meeting held on 11 December 2013



Discussion on HARiS 2014

Members were briefed about the preliminary plan of HARiS 2014, which would target on five populations of MSM, TG, SWC, FSW, and IDU. Urine collection and completion of detail questionnaires would be expected for MSM and TG. The timing, venues, populations covered and incentives were discussed, and dates of two meetings were fixed (3 and 6 January 2014) for further discussion.



Blood Donation Form used by Hong Kong Red Cross (HKRC)

Dr LEE Cheuk-kwong of the Hong Kong Red Cross Blood Transfusion Service was invited to share with Members on the captioned. He explained that (a) the safety of donors and blood products were always their top priorities; (b) as laboratory tests had their own limitations, a carefully designed screening questionnaire asking about specific risk factors including sexual behaviours could help screen out potentially unsuitable donors; and (c) HKRC had always made reference to the blood donation policy of other countries, including US. Some members opined that asking about MSM sexual activity in the questionnaire and permanently not allowing MSM to donate blood were discriminatory. They suggested HKRC to follow UK in requesting MSM to refrain from blood donation for one year only; and the Expert Panel of HKRC should consult the general public when they review the current policy. In conclusion, Dr LEE would have further internal discussion and would communicate with CFA if necessary.



Discussion on abandoning condom as prostitution evidence

The discussion was mainly on the Police's remark that condoms being used as prostitution evidence had not occurred to be a concern during regular meetings and communications with sex workers concern groups and relevant NGOs in the past few years. Some members who took part in those meetings revealed that they had been raising this issue during meetings but the discussion apparently had not been recorded. They would revisit the issue and ensure that discussion would be properly documented in future meetings.



Further analysis result of the Survey on HIV/AIDS and Sex Education at Junior Secondary Level in Hong Kong

Members noted that letters prepared by both Education Bureau (EDB) and Department of Health (DH) would be issued to all primary and secondary schools to -

- (a) Announce findings of the survey;
- (b) Encourage schools to introduce life skills-based education (LSBE) on HIV/AIDS and sex through inviting NGOs or joining Red Ribbon in Action Education Funding Scheme; and
- (c) Invite schools to join the multi-sectoral seminar in March 2014.

Some NGOs found it not easy to get into the secondary schools to promote sex and HIV education concerning sex among same gender. Members anticipated that it might be easier to get into schools if they joined with another NGOs who had been invited to schools before. The Convener was of the view that most schools might be using more subtle instead of explicit ways to promote sex education and AIDS prevention.



Report back of ICAAP 2013

Mr Andrew CHIDGEY made a presentation on his recent attendance in International Congress on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific (ICAAP) held in Bangkok, Thailand from 18 to 23 November 2013. He briefed members on the HIV trend in Asia and summed up the three major steps to follow such as to recognize the potential for MSM work across the region, connect with countries working on a similar epidemic and develop data on the Hong Kong cascade. One member considered that some incentives / scholarship should be given to local NGOs to encourage their members to attend the ICAAP.



Audit of VCT Services in community settings

An audit training workshop was held on 30 October 2013 in Red Ribbon Centre (RRC). Participating members showed understanding when the checklist and infection control issue were gone through during the workshop. Members were reminded to submit the duly completed checklist on quality assurance by end of March 2014 so that a summary of the findings could be prepared for general reference.

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.

32nd CFA Meeting

Date : 13 March 2014 (Thursday)
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

- ✧ Preliminary findings of Nepalese drug users survey – 2013
- ✧ Follow up after HIV testing - experience sharing

Invitation

Dear All,

If you are interested to take part as observer in the 32nd CFA Meeting to be held on 13 March 2014, 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 February 2014**. For more details of this arrangement, please refer to the summary shown on the left of this page.

CFA Secretariat