

ACA NEWSFILE

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Editorial Board

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89th ACA Meeting
9 January 2015

ACA familiarization visits to NGOs and government units working on HIV/AIDS (in last quarter of 2014)



AIDS Concern



The Family Planning Association
of Hong Kong



Hong Kong AIDS Foundation



Society for the Aid and Rehabilitation of Drug
Abusers (SARDA) cum Pui Hong Self-Help
Association



Community Health Organization for
Intervention, Care and Empowerment
Limited (CHOICE)



Heart to Heart



Red Ribbon Centre



Integrated Treatment Centre



On 1 December each year since 1988, World AIDS Day is an opportunity for people worldwide to unite in the fight against HIV, show their support for people living with HIV, and commemorate people who died of AIDS. This year, to echo the strategy of "Getting to Zero" meaning "Zero new HIV infections", "Zero discrimination" and "Zero AIDS-related deaths", DH collaborated with The Family Planning Association of Hong Kong (FPAHK) to launch the WAC 2014. The objectives of the

campaign are:

- ◆ To raise awareness of HIV in students at junior secondary levels;
- ◆ To equip them with the skills necessary in HIV prevention;
- ◆ To promote condom use as a social norm among these students;
- ◆ To encourage their participation in the promotion of HIV prevention in the community.



The campaign comprised of two parts: (1) conducting life skills-based education (LSBE) on HIV/AIDS and sex in junior secondary students; and (2) holding a kick-off ceremony with participation from students and youths.



LSBE aims to develop students' cognitive skills (e.g. critical thinking, problem solving, decision making), self-management skills (e.g. self-awareness, self control, resilience) and interpersonal skills (e.g. negotiation, refusal, conflict management) in an interactive and participatory approach. Basic knowledge on HIV, its prevention, and practical skills of using condoms are also included. Eleven schools have agreed to join the programme for the school year 2014/2015.

The kick-off ceremony was held in Sha Tin Town Hall Plaza on 29 November 2014. After a brief ceremony by officiating guests including Mrs Regina Leung, the wife of the Chief Executive and the Patron of the RRC, Secretary for Food and Health, Director of Health and officials from health authorities in Shenzhen and Macau, school students and youths gave their stage performances. Booths were also open to the public to play games, get souvenirs and most importantly, know about HIV/AIDS.



Agenda of 89th ACA Meeting

Date : 9 January 2015 (Friday)

Time : 2:30 pm

Venue : Conference Room, Department of Health, 21/F, Wu Chung House, Wanchai, Hong Kong

Three main items on the Agenda -

- ◆ Risk behaviours and HIV prevalence among men who have sex with men and transgender – findings from the HARiS 2014
- ◆ Mid-term review of the implementation of the Recommended HIV/AIDS Strategies for Hong Kong 2012-2016
- ◆ Targeted awareness and publicity campaigns in 2014/15 for men who have sex with men

A Summary of the 88th ACA Meeting held on 10 October 2014

Current HIV situation and AIDS programme in Hong Kong

DH introduced and described the current local situation of HIV epidemic and the various responses. In the foreseeable future, the biggest challenge would still be the continually rising MSM infections. Moreover, we should remain vigilant about HIV infection among injecting drug users despite the low infection rate in recent years. The high quality treatment and care patient service have to be maintained. One crux is to sustain HIV expertise in the longer-term human resources development.

For promotion of HIV prevention, members opined to educate general public, especially the young generation, of the basic and essential facts of HIV infection and its association with drug use. Current HIV epidemiology and risk of MSM should be made explicit. People should be informed of available treatment and the possible consequence of HIV infection.

Report on the 20th International AIDS Conference (AIDS 2014), Melbourne, Australia

DH presented a brief report on the International AIDS Conference 2014, including the global HIV situation, the difficulties of HIV prevention among vulnerable populations, some HIV related hot issues and their relevance to Hong Kong.

As HIV self-testing may become more common in the future, members were concerned about the qualities of self-test kits, the accuracy of information and sufficiency of technical support. It was considered necessary to monitor the situation.

CHOICE is working with CUHK to conduct a study for assessing the behavioral change of HIV self-testers, and the results may shed light to the local implications.