

ACA NEWSFILE

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Editorial Board

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Happy
New Year!

AIDS Hotline: 2780 2211

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~ Calendar ~

35th CFA Meeting
18 March 2015

HIV/AIDS Forum 2014 held on 22-23 November 2014

The AIDS Institute of the University of Hong Kong and The Hong Kong AIDS Foundation organized the 3rd HIV/AIDS Forum (2014) on 22-23 November 2014. ACA is a local co-organizer of this Forum. Dr Susan FAN, Chairperson of ACA delivered a talk on the Hong Kong experience in tackling the subject of HIV infection and health care workers in the last two decades. The talk was well received by the audience and invited questions and discussions.



A Summary of the 34th CFA Meeting held on 16 December 2014

General operation of CFA meetings and Terms of Reference (TOR)

As discussed in the last ACA meeting held on 10 October 2014, the CFA should continue to operate in the new term from 2014 to 2017. The TOR of CFA was slightly amended to reflect that CFA had served as a platform for dialogue with other stakeholders not directly involved in HIV/AIDS but related fields, as follows -

- (d) provide a platform for collaboration in combating HIV/AIDS epidemic and facilitate dialogue with other stakeholders in related fields.*

Mid-term review of the ACA Strategy 2012-2016

DH presented a mid-term review for the Recommended HIV/AIDS Strategies for Hong Kong, 2012 – 2016 (the Strategies). It showed the great efforts that NGOs had paid in the past two years in HIV prevention and the areas that needed further improvement, such as condom use among regular sex partners and health prevention message coverage. Some members opined that a gay-friendly environment could help control the HIV epidemics and suggested that passing the legislation against discrimination of sexual orientation could be one of the means for this.

Review of the NGO Workshop on HIV treatment and drug abuse held on 18 November 2014

Red Ribbon Centre held a talk on HIV treatment and drug abuse in November 2014 with doctors from Integrated Treatment Centre and a psychiatrist as speakers. The talk was well attended by around 50 NGO staff members. CFA members considered the talk was very good and comprehensive, and further workshop would not be required in the near future. Some members commented that MSM were worried about confidentiality or being compelled to change their sexual orientation when receiving certain drug rehabilitation services.

Preliminary results of HARiS 2014 targeting 5 populations

Prof Denise CHAN of CUHK presented the preliminary descriptive and analytic results and highlighted a few points -

- (a) increase in HIV prevalence among MSM (5.9% cf. 4.1% in PRiSM 2011), especially among the young MSM aged 20-29 (7.8%) and venue goers (13.0%);
- (b) high HIV prevalence among TG (18.6%);
- (c) satisfactory indicators and high condom use rate in female sex workers (FSW);
- (d) HIV testing rate to be improved in male clients of female sex workers (SWC); and
- (e) different patterns of sexual and testing behaviours between Chinese and Nepalese injecting drug users.

It showed that HIV-positive participants were more likely to engage in commercial sex, recreational drug use, alcohol drinking and group sex, and more effort should be paid on these subgroups.

It was agreed that HARiS was a useful survey for regular monitoring of HIV prevalence and risky behaviours of the at-risk populations and should be repeated in 2015.

Report of World AIDS Campaign 2014 by DH

DH presented the "Getting to Zero" World AIDS Campaign 2014 Kick-off Ceremony on 29 November 2014 at Shatin Town Hall Plaza, with a collaboration between the Red Ribbon Centre and the Family Planning Association of Hong Kong (FPA). In 2014, the DH World AIDS Campaign was centred on "life skills-based education (LSBE)" on HIV/AIDS and sex for junior secondary students and would be conducted in the 2014-2015 school term. The target was to recruit 10-15 schools involving around 1,500 students. The kick-off ceremony was officiated by guests including the Wife of the Chief Executive and the Patron of the RRC, Mrs Regina Leung, 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 learn about HIV/AIDS.

Arrangement for Request of Attendance in CFA by Observers

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.

35th CFA Meeting

Date : 18 March 2015 (Wednesday)
Time : 2:30 pm
Venue : Conference Room, Red Ribbon Centre
2/F, Wang Tau Hom Jockey Club Clinic
200 Junction Road East, Kowloon

Four main items on the Agenda

- ◆ Supplementary results of HARiS 2014 - IDU
- ◆ Review of local HIV situation 2014 and revision of HIV/AIDS Report Form (DH2293)
- ◆ How life skills affect the sexual health status of youth community
- ◆ Proposed new Partner Notification System on DH website

Invitation

Dear All,

If you are interested to take part as observer in the 35th CFA Meeting to be held on 18 March 2015, 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 **27 February 2015**. For more details of this arrangement, please refer to the summary shown on the left of this page.

CFA Secretariat