

Editorial Board

Executive Editor: Miss Louisa HUNG, ACA Secretariat



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AIDS Hotline: 2780 2211

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~ Calendar ~

43rd CFA Meeting
7 March 2017

A Summary of the 42nd CFA Meeting held on 6 December 2016

Preliminary results of HARiS 2016 - Injecting Drug Users (IDU)

Dr Denise CHAN of The Chinese University of Hong Kong presented the preliminary results of the HIV/AIDS Response Indicator Survey (HARiS) 2016 on 90 injecting drug users recruited by the Society of Rehabilitation and Crime Prevention, Hong Kong (SRACP). Apart from Chinese questionnaire, Nepalese and Vietnamese questionnaires were used for the survey, with Nepalese peer educators as interviewers.

Most of the participants (78.9%) were Chinese and 20% were Nepalese. Results showed that only half of them used condom when having sex with regular partners, and the condom use rates for causal and commercial sexual partners were higher. Less than 60% had received HIV testing in the last year, and 17% shared injection equipment in the past 1 month. SRACP supplemented that they had launched the needle distribution service for 1.5 years since 2015. Subsequent survey conducted by them showed that there was no noticeable decrease in drug use, however the decrease in needle sharing was very obvious.

DH informed that more data would be available in early 2017 from Society for the Aid and Rehabilitation of Drug Abusers (SARDA) for further analysis.

More about the 42nd CFA Meeting

Consultation on proposal of revised blood donor eligibility criteria – deferral policy for men who have sex with men (MSM)

Dr LEE Cheuk-kwong of the Hong Kong Red Cross Blood Transfusion Service (HKRCBTS) introduced their services as well as the scientific evidence and overseas experience in relaxing the MSM blood donation ban from permanent to time-limited (one year). He concluded that, based on current evidence, the removal of such ban would not adversely affect blood safety while it would improve donors' honesty in answering the screening questions.

While members in general welcomed the relaxation of the donation ban on MSM, they raised many suggestions on the current practice of HKRCBTS informing donors about their ineligibility for blood donation, which might breach the confidentiality. They suggested issuing the information letter on-site at the blood donation venue, or letting the donors choose whether to receive the letter in case they were later found to be ineligible for blood donation. They also suggested HKRCBTS to target young people for publicity of blood donation.

Report on progress of PRiSMTG 2017

DH informed members that PRiSMTG 2017 was successfully awarded to a commercial contractor. The recruitment channels would include the Internet (mobile applications and social media) and outreach venues. 70% of subjects would be recruited from Internet and 30% from venues. A meeting would be convened between the contractor and NGOs in January 2017 to discuss the details of the study methodology.

Another briefing session will be held in March 2017 for all participating NGOs.

Promotion of HIV Prevention by the Red Ribbon Centre 2016

In 2016, the Red Ribbon Centre collaborated with the Family Planning Association of Hong Kong (FPAHK) to co-organise the World AIDS Campaign 2016 with Life Skills-Based Education (LSBE) on HIV/AIDS and sex as one of the important components. Other publicity were also conducted in December 2016.



FPAHK issued press release about World AIDS Campaign 2016.



Publicize about the LSBE programme and the three educational short video clips



Advertising on Trams



Setting up street stands in Tin Shui Wai to distribute souvenirs and condoms on 1 December 2016



Advertising on the Light Railway Transit starting from November 2016

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.

43rd CFA Meeting

Date : 7 March 2017 (Tuesday)

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

- ◆ Results of Street Addict Survey 2016
- ◆ Update on HIV situation (2016) and report on MSM HIV prevention programme in 2016

Invitation

Dear All,

If you are interested to take part as observer in the 43rd CFA Meeting to be held on 7 March 2017, 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 **21 February 2017**. For more details of this arrangement, please refer to the summary shown on the left of this page.

CFA Secretariat