

Editorial Board

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IN THIS ISSUE WE HAVE

- ✧ Agenda of 114th ACA Meeting page 12
- ✧ A Summary of the 113th ACA Meeting.....page 13-14
- ✧ Online Training Workshop on Basic Knowledge of HIV/AIDS & STIs for NGO Staffpages 15

~ Calendar ~

114th ACA Meeting
9 April 2021

Agenda of 114th ACA Meeting

Date : 9 April 2021 (Friday)
Time : 2:30 pm
Form of Meeting : Video Conference

Three main items on the Agenda -

- ◆ HIV epidemiology in Hong Kong 2020
- ◆ Framework for the formulation of Recommended HIV/AIDS Strategies for Hong Kong beyond 2021
- ◆ HIV treatment and prevention in the time of COVID-19



A Summary of the 113th ACA Meeting held on 8 January 2021

The Family Planning Association of Hong Kong: Sexuality Education Programs for Youth

The Family Planning Association of Hong Kong presented its sexuality education programmes for youth and the challenges encountered. Members considered that certain important elements, such as safer sex, harms of substance use and anti-discrimination, should be included with the aim to cultivate relevant values among students in the context of sex education. Apart from schools, influence from family and peers were equally important and should not be neglected.

Education Bureau (EDB) supplemented that it had been advocating a holistic approach to fostering positive values and appropriate attitudes of students, and encouraging schools to systematically plan their curricula for implementing values education, including sex education. A variety of support measures, including teachers' professional development programmes and learning and teaching resources, had been provided to schools to facilitate implementation of sex education.

Members also considered that evaluation of coverage and acceptance of the education programmes by youth was important. There was also room for collaboration between different key players including FPAHK, DH, EDB and AIDS NGOs.



A Summary of the 46th Scientific Committee on AIDS and STI (SCAS) Meeting

The Chairperson referred members to the summary of the 46th Meeting of SCAS held on 17 November 2020. DH briefed members on the major discussions.

Results of the HIV/AIDS Response Indicator Survey (HARiS) 2020 – Men who have sex with men and people who inject drugs

The University of Hong Kong presented the findings of the HIV/AIDS Response Indicator Survey (HARiS) 2020 on two at-risk populations – men who have sex with men (MSM) and people who inject drugs (PWID).

Members raised concern about the decreasing rate of condom use and the unsatisfactory rate of HIV testing among MSM. The increasing use of pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) among MSM might be one of the reasons to account for the decreasing use of condoms. The survey also noted a higher rate of ever/current use of PrEP among chemsex users than that of non-chemsex users.

The ongoing COVID-19 epidemic might affect the survey findings such as the decreased HIV testing rate due to closure of testing services by DH and NGOs.

Apart from quantitative statistics, it was proposed to include some qualitative analysis in future survey and to explore the possible impact of COVID-19 on HIV prevention.



Highlights of World AIDS Campaign 2020

The Council received a report on the activities of World AIDS Campaign 2020, including the “HIV-STI Conference for Primary Health Care Professionals” held on 28 November 2020 and other health promotional activities held around the World AIDS Day. The Conference provided comprehensive coverage with expert and healthcare professional speakers from the public and private sectors and academia.

Red Ribbon Centre (RRC) of DH has increasingly disseminated HIV-related messages through social media platforms. Facebook posts were created to arouse public awareness of the World AIDS Day, to introduce our animation for youth demonstrating use of condom, and to promote new activity area in RRC and a new set of exhibition boards for youth education on HIV and sexually transmitted infections (STIs). RRC also introduced its second self-testing study targeting MSM and transgender population which has commenced in December 2020.

Online Training Workshop on Basic Knowledge of HIV/AIDS & STIs for NGO Staff

The Red Ribbon Centre (RRC) of the Department of Health will organise an online training workshop on “Basic Knowledge of HIV/AIDS & STIs for NGO staff 2021”. The workshop targets the frontline NGO staff working in the field of HIV/AIDS, drug rehabilitation and for whose work is related to sexual minorities. The workshop will be conducted in Cantonese.

Two half day sessions will be held:

| Date & Time | Topic |
|--|---|
| Day 1 15 April 2021 (Thursday) 14:00 – 17:15 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Brief introduction on HIV/AIDS situation & AIDS programme in Hong Kong• Basic Knowledge on HIV and viral hepatitis• Introduction of out-patient HIV clinical service in Kowloon Bay Integrated Treatment Centre• Introduction of Pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) & Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) |
| Day 2 20 April 2021 (Tuesday) 14:00 – 17:15 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Basic knowledge on STIs and referral system of Social Hygiene Service• Review of rapid test of HIV and STIs• The connection between substance use & HIV/AIDS• Case sharing of identifying and taking history from MSM with chemsex |

For application and enquiries, please contact RRC nurse - Miss Anita CHANG at 3143 7200.