



Editorial Board

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~ Calendar ~

58th CFA Meeting
13 September 2021

Familiarisation visit to AIDS Concern & Hong Kong AIDS Foundation (18 June 2021)



Hong Kong AIDS Foundation



AIDS Concern

Community Stakeholders' Consultation Meeting 2021 for the development of Recommended HIV/AIDS Strategies for Hong Kong

The Community Forum on AIDS (CFA) collaborated with the Hong Kong Coalition of AIDS Service Organizations (HKCASO) organised the seven sessions of Community Stakeholders' Consultation Meeting 2021 smoothly from 13 to 18 July 2021.

The Secretariat of Hong Kong Advisory Council on AIDS has commissioned MOV Data Collection Center Limited to process the written comments. Community members, organizations and the general public are welcomed to submit their opinions via email (ccm@mov.com.hk) or fax (3900 1122) **by 4 August 2021**. The comments collected during consultation will be compiled and included in the final report for ACA's consideration. For more information, you may access <https://www.aca.gov.hk/english/strategies/stakeholders.html>.

Community Stakeholders' Consultation Meeting 2021 for the development of Recommended HIV/AIDS Strategies for Hong Kong



The "Recommended HIV/AIDS Strategies for Hong Kong" is developed by the Hong Kong Advisory Council on AIDS (ACA) every five years. The process of its formulation adopted a wide-based approach of engaging different parties, including Community Stakeholders' Consultation Meeting, and gathering the input of individuals, groups and organizations as well as the general public during the subsequent public consultation. The Strategies cover surveillance, health promotion and HIV prevention, treatment and care, and is underpinned by policy setting and recommending programme funding priority.

Seven sessions of Community Stakeholders' Consultation Meeting for the development of Recommended HIV/AIDS Strategies for Hong Kong (CCM) will be conducted by July this year, jointly by the Community Forum on AIDS (CFA) and the Hong Kong Coalition of AIDS Service Organizations (HKCASO). To assist crowd gathering in the form of online video conferencing, the CCM will be conducted remotely in the Zoom Cloud and HKCASO internet system, depending on the number of attendees. With utilization of video conferencing technology, the participants could freely propose and attend oral questions for the session of online reception. The language used in CCM will be mainly Cantonese.

The date and targets of the seven sessions of CCM:

July 13 (Tue) 18:30-18:00	Female sex workers and male clients
July 14 (Wed) 18:30-22:00	People living with HIV
July 15 (Thu) 18:00-18:30	Men who have sex with men
July 16 (Fri) 14:00-17:30	Adolescent and youth
July 17 (Sat) 18:30-22:00	People who inject drugs
July 18 (Sun) 14:00-17:30	Transgender people Ethnic minorities

The online enrollment platform is launched. Welcome all community members, organizations and general public to support and actively participate in the consultation!
Registration deadline: 4 July (Sun)

Attendance of the 7 sessions of Consultation Meetings are as follows: -

Sessions	Number of participants
Female sex workers and male clients	19
People living with HIV	26
Men who have sex with men	41
Adolescent and youth	19
People who inject drugs	12
Transgender people	12
Ethnic minorities	16



Prioritizations of recommendations



Table host reported back after group discussion



Dr. Patrick LI, Chairperson of ACA and other members attended CCM as observers



Reporting on latest epidemiological trend and current responses before group discussion

A Summary of the 57th CFA Meeting held on 11 June 2021

Experience sharing by Hong Kong Red Cross

Hong Kong Red Cross delivered a presentation on “Youth Development Service - Introduction on Red Cross Youth Programs of HIV/AIDS”.

In the time of COVID-19, most programmes of Hong Kong Red Cross were changed from onsite to virtual activities e.g. Red Ribbon Design Competition and promotion on Facebook/Instagram.

Members also expressed appreciation of the concept of one of the activities “Tree of Love” in which the participants wrote notes to people living with HIV (PLHIV) to show their acceptance. It was proposed that the “Tree of Love” could be posted in one of the HIV clinics in order for the messages to be conveyed to their target audience.

Hong Kong Viral Hepatitis Action Plan 2020-2024

DH briefed members on the overview of the Hong Kong Viral Hepatitis Action Plan 2020-2024 (the Action Plan) and highlighted some actions with particular relevance to HIV prevention and care services.

Some members had queries on the safety of pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) / post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) for people with hepatitis B or C, DH supplemented that some anti-viral medications could be used to treat both HIV and hepatitis B. For longer-term use such as in PrEP, hepatitis B flare up might happen after discontinuation and required careful monitoring. On the other hand, for short duration use such as in PEP, the impact was minimal and usually did not cause any harm. There was no known significant drug-drug interaction between PrEP and commonly used PEP regimen with the medications used for hepatitis C treatment.

According to estimation from local epidemiological studies, there were around 540,000 people living with hepatitis B in Hong Kong, and as of the end of 2015, around 190,000 patients had been ever diagnosed with hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection in Hospital Authority (HA). As set out in the Action Plan, the Government would augment the capacity to diagnose and treat HBV-infected patients, and engage primary care physicians to support the management of HBV infection. Deliberations with various stakeholders were underway.

Also, direct-acting antiviral (DAA) treatment had been expanded to all hepatitis C patients in HA, to where the positive cases could be referred. Preliminary assessment by attending physicians and additional information on the viral load and liver function would be useful for the referral procedure.

Members noted that there were areas of integration and synergy between existing HIV and hepatitis prevention and care programmes.

Arrangement for attending CFA as 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.

58th CFA Meeting

Date : 13 September 2021 (Monday)

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

- ◆ Experience sharing by non-governmental organisations
 - (i) C.H.O.I.C.E
 - (ii) The Society For AIDS Care
- ◆ Highlights of the Community Stakeholders' Consultation Meeting 2021

Invitation

Dear All,

If you are interested to take part as observer in the 58th CFA Meeting to be held on 13 September 2021, please complete the application form (available for download from https://www.aca.gov.hk/cfa_observers_form.pdf) and send the completed form to the CFA Secretariat by **27 August 2021**. For more details of this arrangement, please refer to the summary shown on the left of this page.

CFA Secretariat