

.Calendar.

XXVIth Meeting of the Advisory Council on AIDS (ACA)

2:30pm 11 September 1998

XXXIst Meeting of the Committee on Education and Publicity on AIDS (CEPAIDS)

6pm 12 November 1998

XVIth Meeting of AIDS Services Development Committee (ASDC)

date to be confirmed

XVth Scientific Committee on AIDS (SCA) date to be confirmed

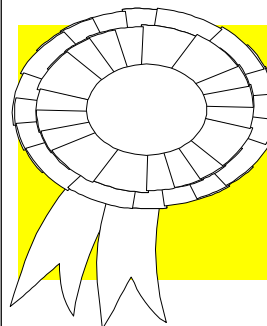
Strategy Series

THE Committee on Education and Publicity on AIDS (CEPAIDS) has started a new Strategy Series on priority areas in HIV prevention. The strategies are developed during CEPAIDS

meetings - so far two (one on men who have sex with men, MSM and the other on mobile population) have been started and are now in progress. The strategy papers would document current knowledge and recommend directions in the local setting, with a societal perspective and practical approach.

The new series is developed to stimulate interest in the community, catalyse targeted prevention efforts, and provide a forum for refining future strategies. The series would become one first step towards building a bridge between the Committee and the community. The strategy development process will be a dynamic one requiring input from the community, reviewing and updating ❁

ACA NEWSFILE



Seminar on Methadone

A Seminar titled 'Methadone Treatment and Harm Reduction in Narcotics Abuse - current situation and future perspectives' will be held at the Hong Kong Century Hotel on 24 September. The speakers are Dr Robert Newman (see page 2), Dr Mak Ying Wai, Mr Lee Yang Tseng, Dr James Chien and Mr Peter EI Lee. Harm reduction is an important component in the strategy for preventing HIV infection. The Seminar is a timely one following our review on Hong Kong's AIDS programme. [enquiries: Miss Mary Yip, Hong Kong Council of Social Service 28642964] ❁

Meeting postponed

THE 26th meeting of the Advisory Council on AIDS is now scheduled for 11 September 1998. The Chairman and Secretariat apologise for any inconvenience caused by the changes. ❁

DR SEX HOTLINE 2337 2121

Advisory Council on AIDS Secretariat

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Study Tour

A group of ten Mainland experts from various ministries visited Hong Kong between 19 and 21 August. The group was on a study tour to take reference from Hong Kong's programme on AIDS, with an emphasis on harm reduction.

The group visited the Red Ribbon Centre, Methadone Clinic, drug rehabilitation services, Pui Hong Self-help Association, and the Government's Narcotic Division. A dinner was hosted by Dr Conrad Lam on 19 August 1998. ❀

Harm Reduction in Hong Kong

DR Robert Newman, MD, MPH will be visiting Hong Kong on 23 and 24 September. He will be in Hong Kong as the Lions Visiting Scholar 1998, to provide consultation at a workshop on HIV and harm reduction in Beijing and also to meet with people working on harm reduction in Hong Kong.

Dr Newman is no stranger to Hong Kong. He

helped design Hong Kong's addiction treatment programme in 1975, and has been a pioneer in methadone maintenance. In March 1994 (see *ACA Newsfile* April 1994) he visited Hong Kong again to advise on harm reduction strategy.

Dr Newman is currently the CEO of Continuum Health Partners, Inc, which controls Beth Israel Medical centre, St Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital Centre and Long Island College Hospital. He is a Professor of Epidemiology and Social Medicine, and of Psychiatry. (Dr David Ho was the Lions Visiting Scholar 1997) ❀

IN THE MEDIA

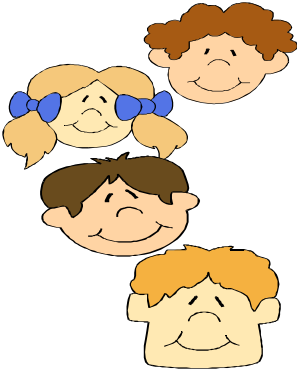
DR Conrad Lam, ACA Chairman, met with representatives of Hong Kong Coalition of AIDS Service Organisations (HKCASO) to understand their concern about the upcoming AIDS Conference organised by *HOPE Worldwide*. The Coalition was boycotting the Conference because of the controversy surrounding the International Church of Christ, which supported the event, and the insufficiency of consultation with the local community. ACA is a local partner of the Conference. [16 August 1998]

OVER 450,000 calls were received by the computerised Dr Sex Hotline which provides recorded messages on different aspects of sex. The Hotline is jointly maintained by the Department of Health and Hong Kong Sex Education Association. [15 August 1998]

DR David Ho featured as one of the five Outstanding Chinese in a new documentary series produced by RTHK. [30 August 1998]

ACA and DH AIDS Unit
<http://www.info.gov.hk/aids>

AIDSHotline
2780 2211



AAA Forum

TWENTY-SIX participants joined in a forum titled "Ethical Considerations of HIV/AIDS Research and Intervention with Special Population" at the Red Ribbon Centre on 20 August. Organised by the AIDS Advocacy Alliance, the forum stimulated active discussion on the subject. In a message posted after the forum, the AIDS Advocacy Alliance urged the Government to show their confidence in the community planning process recommended in the external consultancy report (see page four of this newsletter). The forum also suggested further meetings, drawing up of ethical guidelines, opening up of avenues of communication, and building ethical consideration into the community planning process. ❁

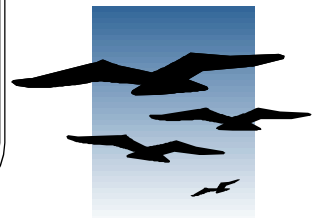
Cumulative HIV/AIDS Statistics in Hong Kong updated 30 June 1998

		total	(AIDS)
Gender	male	912	(314)
	female	154	(35)
Ethnicity	Chinese	732	(261)
	non-Chinese	334	(88)
Transmission	heterosexual	579	(200)
	homosexual	239	(82)
	bisexual	58	(24)
	Injecting drug use	17	(5)
	blood/bl products	67	(16)
	perinatal	6	(2)
	undetermined	100	(20)
TOTAL		1066	(349)

Department of Health, Hong Kong

WORLD AIDS DAY 1998

The next World AIDS Day will be the eleventh one since the first World AIDS Day was proclaimed in 1988. Please let us know what you or your agency would be doing on and around the coming World AIDS Day..... ❁



Community Planning - how to go about

Following-up on Review

THE following is a letter from the Secretariat to Miss OC Lin of Hong Kong Coalition of AIDS Service Organisations (HKCASO), dated 1 August, on the proposed community planning process to be implemented soon:

I refer to our phone conversation yesterday. The Chairman has asked me to convey to you his heartfelt appreciation for the encouraging response of HKCASO given in your letter of 25 July as regards our review. As you may have already known, the Advisory Council on AIDS is examining the external consultancy report with a view of exploring means of carrying its recommendations forward. In this connection, community planning is prioritised as one important area in moving Hong Kong's programme forward.

The Council realises

the importance of wide consultation in the development of this new initiative. The input of the community at this stage would naturally be essential. In view of the broad representation of HKCASO, the Council wishes to invite the Coalition to propose a plan on the setting up of the community planning process in Hong Kong. This should be designed using the framework provided in the external consultancy report (pages 31 to 36), with the objective of "drawing up specific activities in key areas and identifying capacity building needs". We are sure that with your support, and through your consultation with all community sectors, including AIDS-NGOs, mainstream NGOs, PWA and academics, an effective community planning process can be established.

Though our external consultants had kindly proposed a model (in the report) to work on, we feel it necessary to frame it appropriately to address

local needs. In this context, we are hoping that HKCASO can make specific proposal on:

- 1. how to form the community planning committee or group, and what its terms of reference should be;**
- 2. its composition, with refinement as necessary, and their justifications;**
- 3. the time frame for the committee/ group's operation;**
- 4. the mechanisms which the committee/ group could utilise in drawing up the sets of specific activities; and**
- 5. prioritising the areas listed on page 35.**

We hope that a proposal can be available before 28 August, which would then be examined by the Advisory Council on AIDS at its next meeting in September.

The chairman, other Council members and the Secretariat shall be grateful to discuss with you further should there be queries.

Thanking you in anticipation. ☀