

立法會
Legislative Council

Ref : CB2/PL/HS

LC Paper No. CB(2)1370/07-08
(These minutes have been seen
by the Administration)

Panel on Health Services

**Minutes of special meeting
held on Thursday, 22 November 2007, at 4:30 pm
in the Chamber of the Legislative Council Building**

- Members present** : Hon LI Kwok-ying, MH, JP (Chairman)
Dr Hon Joseph LEE Kok-long, JP (Deputy Chairman)
Hon Fred LI Wah-ming, JP
Hon Mrs Selina CHOW LIANG Shuk-ye, GBS, JP
Hon Mrs Sophie LEUNG LAU Yau-fun, GBS, JP
Dr Hon YEUNG Sum, JP
Hon Andrew CHENG Kar-foo
Hon Audrey EU Yuet-mee, SC, JP
Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung
Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki
Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung
- Member attending** : Hon LEE Cheuk-yan
- Members absent** : Hon CHAN Yuen-han, SBS, JP
Hon Vincent FANG Kang, JP
- Public Officers attending** : Item I
Mr Patrick NIP, JP
Permanent Secretary for Food and Health (Health) (Acting)

Dr W L CHEUNG
Director (Cluster Services)
Hospital Authority

Ms Margaret TAY
Chief Manager (Integrated Care Programs)
Hospital Authority

Mr SIT Tung
Assistant Director of Social Welfare
(Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services)

Attendance by invitation : Dr CHIU Yu-lung, Marcus
Associate Professor, Department of Social Work
The Hong Kong Baptist University

Hong Kong Association for the Promotion of Mental Health

Dr CHAN Chung-mau
Chairman

Mr CHEUNG Kin-sum
Honorary Secretary

Hong Kong Familylink Mental Health Advocacy Association

Mr CHOW Man-cheung
Executive Committee Member

Hong Kong Association of the Pharmaceutical Industry

Mr Steven E Hardacre
President

Dr Anthony CHAN
Vice-President

Department of Psychiatry,
The Chinese University of Hong Kong

Professor Helen CHIU Fung-kum
Professor of Psychiatry and Chairman

Professor Linda LAM Chiu-wa
Professor

The Hong Kong College of Psychiatrists

Dr IP Yan-ming
Vice President

Dr Eric CHEUNG
Hon. Secretary

Hong Kong Chinese Civil Servants' Association, Social Work
Officer Grade Branch

Mr CHEUNG Kam-ki
Vice-Chairman (External Affairs)

Miss Nana CHAN
Executive Committee Member

健康之友

Miss CHAN Suk-yin
Member

Mr YEUNG Yick-chung
Member

Alliance of Ex-mentally Ill of Hong Kong

Mr Eric CHAN Kwok-shing
Vice-Chairman

Dr TSANG Fan-kwong
Specialist in psychiatry

Kwai Chung Hospital Doctors' Association

Dr LAU Ka-hin
Chairman

Mr Ernest K S NG
Social Worker

Amity Mutual-Support Society

Mr LEUNG Kim-pong
Chair-person

Mr TUNG Lai-lam
Committee Member

Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Hong Kong

Mr SO Yiu-wah
Vice President

Equal Opportunities Commission

Mr CHU Chung-man
Head, Policy & Research

Concord Mutual-Aid Club Alliance

Miss CHAN Wai-ching

Mr HUI Wai-chun

Centre for Suicide Research and Prevention
The University of Hong Kong

Dr Paul YIP
Director

Society for Community Organisation

Mr HO Hei-wah
Director

Mr PANG Hung-cheong
Community Organizer

Hong Kong Medical Association

Dr CHAN Yee-shing
Council Member

Clerk in attendance : Miss Mary SO
Chief Council Secretary (2) 5

Staff in attendance : Ms Amy YU
Senior Council Secretary (2) 3

Ms Sandy HAU
Legislative Assistant (2) 5

Action

I. Mental health policy

(LC Paper Nos. CB(2) 373/07-08(01) to (07), CB(2)407/07-08(01) to (05), CB(2)427/07-08(01) to (06), CB(2)444/07-08(01), CB(2)467/07-08(01) and CB(2)648/07-08(01))

Permanent Secretary for Food and Health (Health) (Acting) (PSFH(H)(Atg)) briefed members on the Government's mental health policy and services available in the public sector, details of which were set out in the Administration's paper (LC paper No. CB(2)373/07-08(01)).

Views of deputations/individuals

2. The following deputations/individuals presented their views on mental health policy and services, as detailed in their submissions -

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- (a) Dr CHIU Yu-lung, Marcus
Associate Professor, Department of Social Work
The Hong Kong Baptist University
[LC Paper No. CB(2)444/07-08(01)];
- (b) Hong Kong Association for the Promotion of Mental Health
[LC Paper No. CB(2)373/07-08(02)];
- (c) Hong Kong Familylink Mental Health Advocacy Association
[LC Paper No. CB(2)373/07-08(03)];
- (d) The Hong Kong Association of the Pharmaceutical Industry;
[LC Paper No. CB(2)648/07-08(01)];
- (e) Department of Psychiatry
The Chinese University of Hong Kong
[LC Paper No. CB(2)373/07-08(04)];
- (f) The Hong Kong College of Psychiatrists
[LC Paper No. CB(2)373/07-08(05)];
- (g) Hong Kong Chinese Civil Servants' Association, Social Work
Officer Grade Branch
[LC Paper No. CB(2)407/07-08(01)];
- (h) 健康之友
[LC Paper No. CB(2)427/07-08(01)];
- (i) Alliance of Ex-mentally Ill of Hong Kong
[LC Paper No. CB(2)427/07-08(02)];
- (j) Dr TSANG Fan-kwong
Specialist in Psychiatry
[LC Paper No. CB(2)373/07-08(06)];
- (k) Kwai Chung Hospital Doctors' Association
[LC Paper No. CB(2)373/07-08(07)];
- (l) Mr K S NG, Ernest
Social Worker
[LC Paper No. CB(2)427/07-08(03)];
- (m) Amity Mutual-Support Society
[LC Paper No. CB(2)407/07-08(02)];

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- (n) The Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Hong Kong
[LC Paper No. CB(2)427/07-08(04)];
- (o) Equal Opportunities Commission
[LC Paper No. CB(2)407/07-08(03)];
- (p) Concord Mutual-Aid Club Alliance
[LC Paper No. CB(2)427/07-08(05);
- (q) Centre for Suicide Research and Prevention
The University of Hong Kong
[LC Paper No. CB(2)407/07-08(04)];
- (r) Society for Community Organisation
[LC Paper No. CB(2)407/07-08(05)]; and
- (s) Hong Kong Medical Association
[LC Paper No. CB(2)467/07-08(01)].

3. Members noted the written submission from the Hong Kong Psychological Society tabled at the meeting.

Discussion

4. Dr KWOK Ka-ki said that although mental health services covered the whole spectrum from prevention, medical treatment to rehabilitation, these services fell far short of meeting the needs of mentally ill persons and ex-mentally ill persons due to lack of a comprehensive policy on mental health. As pointed out by some deputations at the meeting, each doctor at the psychiatric specialist out-patient clinic (SOPCs) of HA could only spend an average of five to six minutes on each patient, doctors at SOPCs were mostly trainee doctors, and only about 12% and 9% of discharged mentally ill persons could receive rehabilitation services and services from medical social workers respectively. In the light of this, Dr KWOK urged the Administration to expeditiously come up with a comprehensive mental health policy, including establishing service indicators and setting aside a certain percentage of gross domestic product (GDP) for mental health expenditure. In respect of the latter, Dr KWOK pointed out that although the number of mentally ill persons increased by more than 45% in the past five years, allocation of resources to services related to mental health in the past three years had remained flat at \$3.25 billion in 2003-2004, \$3.18 billion in 2004-2005 and \$3.13 billion in 2005-2006. Comparing with other developed economies like Australia of which government spending on mental health came to some 1% of GDP, Hong Kong's public spending on the same lagged far behind at some 0.24% of GDP. Dr Fernando CHEUNG, Mr LEE Cheuk-yan and Mr LEUNG

Action

Kwok-hung expressed similar views.

5. PSFH(H)(Atg) and Director (Cluster Services) HA responded as follows -

- (a) to further improve mental health, a working group, chaired by the Secretary for Food and Health and comprised professionals of psychiatric and rehabilitation services and academia, had been set up in August 2006 to review the existing mental health services and map out the long-term development of mental health services;
- (b) it was not practicable nor appropriate to establish service indicators such as consultation time per patient for mental health services;
- (c) doctors would spend appropriate time on each patient having regard to the individual patient's clinical condition and a triage mechanism was in place to ensure that urgent cases were attended to within a reasonable time frame; and
- (d) the long term development of and resource allocation to mental health services for the future would be examined under the framework of the healthcare reform and supplementary financing arrangements.

6. Dr KWOK Ka-ki enquired about the number of meetings held by the working group, and whether it had come up with any concrete plan and resource allocation for the future.

7. PSFH(H)(Atg) responded that the working group had held one formal meeting so far. Apart from this, informal discussions with relevant professionals had been held. PSFH(H)(Atg) further said that the working group planned to complete its work in one to two years' time.

8. Mrs Sophie LEUNG said that to better promote mental health, the Administration should step up efforts in mobilising and engaging community participation in the prevention of mental illness and rehabilitation of ex-mentally ill persons.

Motion

9. Dr KWOK Ka-ki moved the following motion -

"本委員會對政府長期缺乏精神健康政策，忽視精神病患者及其家屬的需要，表示極之失望及遺憾，並強烈要求政府：

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- (一) 盡快全面檢討及訂定本港的精神健康政策；
- (二) 增加精神科服務的資源，以改善現時精神科在預防、診斷、治療、藥物、住院及復康等各方面的服務；及
- (三) 加強精神科社區服務，提升精神健康社區衛生服務團隊的職能。"

(Translation)

"That this Panel expresses deep disappointment and regret at the Government's longtime lack of mental health policy and its neglect of the needs of mentally ill patients and their family members, and strongly urges the Government to -

- (a) expeditiously conduct a comprehensive review and formulation of a mental health policy for Hong Kong;
- (b) increase resources for psychiatric services to improve the existing psychiatric services in areas such as prevention, diagnosis, treatment, medication, hospitalisation and rehabilitation; and
- (c) strengthen community psychiatric services and enhance the functions of community psychiatric healthcare teams."

10. The Chairman put the motion to vote. All members present voted in favour of the motion. The Chairman declared that the motion was carried.

Conclusion

11. Dr KWOK Ka-ki and Dr Fernando CHEUNG suggested and members agreed to hold another meeting in three months' time to consider the Administration's response in writing to views expressed by deputations and the motion carried at the meeting.

12. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 6:40 pm.

Admin

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
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