



香港精神健康護理學院 有限公司  
**THE HONG KONG COLLEGE OF MENTAL HEALTH NURSING LTD.**

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**Views on Mental Health Policy and Service**  
**Response from Hong Kong College of Mental Health Nursing**  
**June 2014**

1. The Hong Kong College of Mental Health Nursing is delighted to see the concerted effort of multidiscipline in working towards a local Mental Health Policy in Hong Kong.
2. The College will like to see an action by the Government to have an official Mental Health Policy version within the terms of present Chief Executive.
3. According to WHO, mental illness ranks fourth of the 10 leading causes of disability in the world and is expected to approach second place by 2020. Nurses have the fundamental responsibilities not just to restore health, alleviate suffering or to prevent illness but also has the responsibility to promote health, including mental health.
4. The College believes that respect for human rights, including cultural rights, the right to life and choice, to dignity and to be treated with respect inherent in nursing. Nursing care is respectful of and unrestricted by considerations of age, colour, creed, culture, disability or illness, gender, sexual orientation, nationality, politics, race or social status.
5. Nurse shares with society the responsibility for initiating and supporting action to meet the health and social needs of the public, in particular those of vulnerable populations, especially for the mentally ill; and advocates for equity and social justice in resource allocation, access to health care and other social and economic services.
6. The College of Mental Health Nursing has clear objectives not only to promote the development of professional knowledge and competence by organizing educational and professional activities, but also advise the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government and other appropriate authorities on matters related to mental health nursing development and mental health services in Hong Kong.
7. We all agree that scarce resources are major challenge responses to mental health needs. However, there must be an effective way to consider existing healthcare delivery networks for the better services for the mentally ill.
8. As care providers, mental health nurses in Hong Kong play a key role in the delivery of mental health services and are prepared for the challenges in meeting mental health needs in Hong Kong to collaborate across professional groups, service users and carers in sharing education and innovative approaches to care delivery.



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9. The College appreciates the Government has started discussions to incorporate many views, insights and recommendations supported by meetings, conferences and seminars from service users, professional groups, as well as the community groups, but there must be solid plan including short and long term plans for the coming years.
10. The College believes that mentally ill persons are like ordinary citizen and they shall have their right to participate and take charge in the development of mental health programs.
11. The College will like to see that the Mental Health Policy will fit to use in the local communities, according to priority and need, and has to be in line with other government policies like Manpower Policy in Hong Kong. It is also important that the Policy shall not include only the mainstream mental health services, but also vulnerable groups in which the services at present is minimal or absent, like the deaf, blind, immigrants, and prisoners.
12. The College considers that considerable resources must be ring-fenced to develop mental health services in Hong Kong to address the dearth of services; the need of the long-standing neglect; the close inter-relationship with physical health with mental health and wellbeing; and the increasing inequities of the rich and the poor.
13. The College also demands the Government should have adequately resources to implement the Policy, including the provision of adequate workforces, and education preparation of mental health nurses.
14. The Policy has to be backed by all relevant Government Departments, Non-government Organizations and service users to achieve appropriate and equitable mental health programs for people in Hong Kong.
15. The College will like to see that the Mental Health Policy will cover not only secondary and tertiary care or severe mentally ill or psychotic illnesses, but also will cover all age groups, and to have long term plan in primary care, including mental health promotion strategies and bring all stakeholders together in one piece.
16. This College strongly urges the Government to bring the Mental Health Policy forward, and implement it as soon as possible to meet the needs of the local communities.

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June 2014