

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(2)183/18-19

(These minutes have been
cleared with the Chairman)

Ref : CB2/PL/HS

Panel on Health Services

Minutes of meeting
held on Thursday, 11 October 2018, at 2:30 pm
in Conference Room 3 of the Legislative Council Complex

- Members present** :
- Dr Hon Pierre CHAN (Chairman)
 - Prof Hon Joseph LEE Kok-long, SBS, JP (Deputy Chairman)
 - Hon Tommy CHEUNG Yu-yan, GBS, JP
 - Hon WONG Ting-kwong, GBS, JP
 - Hon CHAN Kin-por, GBS, JP
 - Hon Mrs Regina IP LAU Suk-ye, GBS, JP
 - Hon YIU Si-wing, BBS
 - Hon Charles Peter MOK, JP
 - Hon CHAN Chi-chuen
 - Hon CHAN Han-pan, BBS, JP
 - Hon Alice MAK Mei-kuen, BBS, JP
 - Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki
 - Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung
 - Dr Hon Helena WONG Pik-wan
 - Hon POON Siu-ping, BBS, MH
 - Dr Hon CHIANG Lai-wan, SBS, JP
 - Hon CHU Hoi-dick
 - Dr Hon Junius HO Kwan-yiu, JP
 - Hon SHIU Ka-fai
 - Hon SHIU Ka-chun
 - Hon KWONG Chun-yu
- Members attending** :
- Hon CHAN Hak-kan, BBS, JP
 - Dr Hon Elizabeth QUAT, BBS, JP

Member absent	:	Hon Paul TSE Wai-chun, JP
Clerk in attendance	:	Ms Maisie LAM Chief Council Secretary (2) 5
Staff in attendance	:	Miss Flora TAI Assistant Secretary General 2
		Miss Kay CHU Senior Council Secretary (2) 5
		Miss Michelle TANG Council Secretary (2) 2
		Ms Priscilla LAU Council Secretary (2) 5
		Miss Maggie CHIU Legislative Assistant (2) 5
		Miss Merry LAU Clerical Assistant (2) 5

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I. Election of Chairman and Deputy Chairman for the 2018-2019 session

[Appendices III and IV to LC Paper No. CB(2)10/18-19]

Election of Chairman

Prof Joseph LEE, Chairman of the Panel on Health Services ("the HS Panel") in office, called for nominations for the chairmanship of the HS Panel for the 2018-2019 session. Dr Pierre CHAN was nominated by Dr CHIANG Lai-wan, and the nomination was seconded by Mr SHIU Ka-fai. Dr Pierre CHAN accepted the nomination.

2. As there was no other nomination, Prof Joseph LEE declared Dr Pierre CHAN elected as the Chairman of the HS Panel for the 2018-2019 session. Dr Pierre CHAN then took the chair.

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Election of Deputy Chairman

3. The Chairman called for nominations for the deputy chairmanship of the HS Panel for the 2018-2019 session. Prof Joseph LEE was nominated by Dr KWOK Ka-ki and the nomination was seconded by Mr SHIU Ka-chun. Prof Joseph LEE accepted the nomination.

4. As there was no other nomination, the Chairman declared Prof Joseph LEE elected as the Deputy Chairman of the HS Panel for the 2018-2019 session.

II. Schedule of meetings for the 2018-2019 session

5. Members agreed that the HS Panel would continue to hold its regular meetings on the third Monday of each month at 4:30 pm. Members agreed to adopt the proposed meeting schedule for the 2018-2019 session which was tabled at the meeting.

(Post-meeting note: The above schedule of regular meetings was issued to members vide LC Paper No. CB(2)14/18-19 on 12 October 2018.)

III. Items for discussion at the next meeting

[Appendices V and VI to LC Paper No. CB(2)10/18-19]

Policy briefing-cum-meeting in October 2018

6. The Chairman advised that the HS Panel would receive a briefing from the Secretary for Food and Health on the Chief Executive's 2018 Policy Address in respect of the portfolio of health services at the policy briefing-cum-meeting scheduled for 15 October 2018 at 4:30 pm. The Administration had not proposed any other items for discussion at that meeting.

Items proposed for discussion in the 2018-2019 session

Infrastructure and services of the public healthcare sector

7. Dr Helena WONG opined that the HS Panel should exchange views with the Administration on the second 10-year hospital development plan, the planning of which was underway. Dr KWOK Ka-ki and Dr Fernando

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CHEUNG held the view that the Administration should brief the HS Panel on the services and governance of the Hong Kong Children's Hospital, which was planned to commence service by phases from the fourth quarter of 2018. Dr KWOK Ka-ki suggested that the HS Panel should hold a discussion at the earliest possible time on the full commissioning of North Lantau Hospital. Mr CHAN Han-pan considered that the HS Panel should discuss the long-standing problem of long waiting time for accident and emergency service and specialist services provided by the Hospital Authority ("HA").

8. Expressing concern over the financial burden on some patients in need of self-financed drug items, Dr Helena WONG considered that the Administration should revert to the HS Panel on the findings of the consultancy study commissioned by HA to review the existing means test of the Samaritan Fund and Community Care Fund Medical Assistance Programmes. Dr Fernando CHEUNG suggested inviting deputations' views on the review findings once available. This apart, he proposed discussion on the needs of persons suffering from dementia which was an area featured in the Mental Health Review Report released in 2017, and the provision of one-stop services for victims of sexual violence in public hospitals. Dr KWOK Ka-ki opined that the Administration should brief the HS Panel on the work progress of the Advisory Committee on Mental Health since its establishment in November 2017. Mr SHIU Ka-chun proposed discussion on the implementation of medical-social collaboration at a future meeting.

Disease prevention and treatment

9. Dr CHIANG Lai-wan noted from the Chief Executive's 2018 Policy Address that the Administration planned to review the types of screening for women of different risk profiles taking into account, among others, the outcomes of a study on the risk factors associated with breast cancer for local women which was expected to be available in the latter half of 2019. She was of the view that the HS Panel should discuss the provision of breast cancer screening at the earliest possible time. Dr Fernando CHEUNG held a similar view. Mr CHAN Han-pan proposed a discussion on cancer treatment, in particular the use of immunotherapy for treating cancers. The Chairman remarked that the Subcommittee on Issues Relating to the Support for Cancer Patient appointed under the HS Panel was on the waiting list.

10. Dr Helena WONG considered that the HS Panel should invite stakeholders' views on how to further enhance the development of primary healthcare as well as the role of the pilot District Health Centre in Kwai Tsing District in this regard after its commencement of operation, and discussed the treatment for psoriasis patients. Dr Fernando CHEUNG was

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particularly concerned about the healthcare referral mechanism between the Department of Health and HA in the treatment of psoriasis. Mr KWONG Chun-yu opined that the provision of atrial fibrillation screening in the primary healthcare setting to facilitate early identification of potential stroke cases should be brought up for discussion at a future meeting of the HS Panel.

Legislative proposal concerning electronic cigarettes and other new smoking products

11. Holding the view that the latest legislative proposal to ban the import, manufacture, sale, distribution and advertisement of electronic cigarettes and other new smoking products as announced in the Chief Executive's 2018 Policy Address was a drastic policy change from the regulatory proposal for such products which the Administration briefed the HS Panel in June 2018, Mr CHAN Chi-chuen considered that the Administration should be requested to brief the HS Panel on the latest legislative proposal before its introduction into the Legislative Council. The HS Panel should also receive oral representation from deputations on the subject.

Chinese medicine

12. Dr Helena WONG suggested that the HS Panel should be briefed on the positioning of Chinese medicine in the public healthcare system, and discuss the regulation of Chinese medicines.

Regulation of health food products

13. Dr Helena WONG considered that the HS Panel should discuss the regulation of health food products which covered products containing Chinese medicine or western medicine and general food products.

Regulation for healthcare professions

14. Dr Helena WONG and Dr Fernando CHEUNG held the view that the Administration should update the HS Panel on the latest implementation progress of the Pilot Accredited Registers Scheme for Healthcare Professions, in particular the accreditation process of clinical psychologist professions which was expected to commence in the fourth quarter of 2018. Mr SHIU Ka-chun opined that the Administration should be requested to brief the HS Panel on its plan to, in the light of the evaluation findings of the Pilot Scheme, study how to formulate a statutory registration regime for relevant accredited professions as announced in the Chief Executive's 2018 Policy Address.

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Other issue of concern

15. Referring to the first case of human infection by rat hepatitis E virus recently identified in Hong Kong, Mrs Regina IP expressed concern over the deteriorating hygienic situation in public places. The Chairman said that the subject of environmental hygiene in public places fell within the purview of the Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene. The HS Panel and the Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene could hold a joint meeting to discuss the issues of concern as and when appropriate.

IV. Any other business

16. The Chairman updated members that subsequent to the meeting of the HS Panel on 19 June 2018, the Panel on Commerce and Industry ("the CI Panel") had considered at its meeting on 17 July 2018 the proposed deferment of order of activation of the Joint Subcommittee on Issues Relating to the Regulations of Devices and Development of Beauty Industry, which was jointly appointed by the HS Panel and the CI Panel, from the second place to the third place on the waiting list, leaving the second place for the Subcommittee on Issues Relating to the Support for Cancer Patients which was newly appointed under the HS Panel. The CI Panel was of the view that the Joint Subcommittee on Issues Relating to the Regulations of Devices and Development of Beauty Industry should remain in the second place on the waiting list. In the light of the above development and in accordance with the relevant decision made by the HS Panel at its meeting on 19 June 2018, the HS Panel would in due course seek the endorsement of the House Committee for the proposed swapping of the order of activation of the Subcommittee on Issues Relating to the Development of Chinese Medicine and the Subcommittee on Issues Relating to the Support for Cancer Patient, both appointed under the HS Panel, such that the latter could be activated at an earlier time when a vacant slot arose. Members raised no queries.

17. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 2:48 pm.