

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(2)320/19-20

(These minutes have been
cleared with the Chairman)

Ref : CB2/PL/HS

Panel on Health Services

**Minutes of special meeting
held on Monday, 21 October 2019, at 4:30 pm
in Conference Room 2 of the Legislative Council Complex**

Members present : Dr Hon CHIANG Lai-wan, SBS, JP (Chairman)
Hon CHAN Hoi-yan (Deputy Chairman)
Hon Starry LEE Wai-king, SBS, JP
Hon CHAN Hak-kan, BBS, JP
Dr Hon Priscilla LEUNG Mei-fun, SBS, JP
Hon Mrs Regina IP LAU Suk-ye, GBS, JP
Hon Steven HO Chun-yin, BBS
Hon YIU Si-wing, BBS
Hon MA Fung-kwok, SBS, 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 Helena WONG Pik-wan
Hon Elizabeth QUAT, BBS, JP
Hon POON Siu-ping, BBS, MH
Dr Hon Junius HO Kwan-yiu, JP
Hon HO Kai-ming
Hon SHIU Ka-fai, JP
Hon SHIU Ka-chun
Hon Wilson OR Chong-shing, MH
Hon YUNG Hoi-yan, JP
Dr Hon Pierre CHAN
Hon LAU Kwok-fan, MH
Hon KWONG Chun-yu
Hon Vincent CHENG Wing-shun, MH, JP

Members absent : Hon Abraham SHEK Lai-him, GBS, JP
Hon Tommy CHEUNG Yu-yan, GBS, JP
Prof Hon Joseph LEE Kok-long, SBS, JP
Hon WONG Ting-kwong, GBS, JP
Hon CHAN Kin-por, GBS, JP
Hon WONG Kwok-kin, SBS, JP
Hon LEUNG Che-cheung, SBS, MH, JP
Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung
Hon CHU Hoi-dick
Hon LUK Chung-hung, JP
Hon Kenneth LAU Ip-keung, BBS, MH, 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

Ms Priscilla LAU
Council Secretary (2) 1

Mr Ronald LAU
Council Secretary (2) 5

Miss Maggie CHIU
Legislative Assistant (2) 5

Ms Louisa YU
Legislative Assistant (2) 10

Action

I. Election of Deputy Chairman for the 2019-2020 session
[Appendices III and IV to LC Paper No. CB(2)2/19-20]

The Chairman called for nominations for the deputy chairmanship of the Panel for the 2019-2020 session. Ms CHAN Hoi-yan was nominated by Mr SHIU Ka-fai and the nomination was seconded by Mr Steven HO. Ms CHAN Hoi-yan accepted the nomination.

Action

2. Prof Joseph LEE was nominated by Dr KWOK Ka-ki and the nomination was seconded by Dr Pierre CHAN. As Prof Joseph LEE was absent, Dr KWOK Ka-ki confirmed that the nomination was accepted by Prof Joseph LEE. No further valid nominations were made.

3. The Chairman announced a vote by secret ballot. The result of the vote was that 20 members voted for Ms CHAN Hoi-yan and six members voted for Prof Joseph LEE. The Chairman declared Ms CHAN Hoi-yan elected as the Deputy Chairman of the Panel for the 2019-2020 session.

II. Schedule of meetings for the 2019-2020 session

4. The Chairman said that the regular meetings of the Panel were scheduled for the third Monday of each month at 4:30 pm in the last session. Given that there were many outstanding items for discussion by the Panel, there was a suggestion that other timeslots for the Panel to hold its regular meetings in the 2019-2020 session should be explored to facilitate the arrangement of meetings with a longer duration as and where necessary. Options currently available included the second and fourth Friday of each month at 10:45 am. Dr Elizabeth QUAT was supportive to the suggestion. The Chairman said that views of the Administration and members would be sought on the proposed timeslots, before a decision was made on the way forward.

(Post-meeting note: On the instruction of the Chairman, members were consulted on the proposed timeslots for regular meetings of the Panel for the 2019-2020 session vide LC Paper No. CB(2)42/19-20 issued on 23 October 2019. Having regard to members' returns, the Chairman directed that the Panel would hold its regular meetings on the second Friday of each month at 10:45 am, except the second Friday of April 2020 which fell on a public holiday. The meeting schedule for the 2019-2020 session was issued to members vide LC Paper No. CB(2)60/19-20 on 25 October 2019.)

III. Items for discussion at the next meeting

[Appendices V and VI to LC Paper No. CB(2)2/19-20]

Regular meeting in November 2019

5. Members noted the list of outstanding items for discussion by the Panel (Appendix V to LC Paper No. CB(2)2/19-20) and raised no queries to the Administration's proposal to discuss the subjects

Action

"Hong Kong Cancer Strategy" and "Substitute decision-making and advance directives in relation to medical treatment" at the November regular meeting of the Panel.

(Post-meeting note: At the request of the Administration and with the concurrence of the Chairman, the agenda item "Substitute decision-making and advance directives in relation to medical treatment" has been reworded as "End-of-life Care: Legislative Proposals on Advance Directives and Dying in Place", and a new discussion item "Preparation for winter surge" has been added to the agenda for the November regular meeting.)

Items proposed for discussion in the 2019-2020 session

6. Referring to his letter dated 21 October 2019 (LC Paper No. CB(2)35/19-20(01)) which was tabled at the meeting, Dr KWOK Ka-ki proposed that the Panel and the Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene should hold a joint meeting at the earliest possible time to discuss the public health risks of the chemicals deployed by the Police to disperse crowds, and representatives of the Food and Health Bureau, the Department of Health, the Hospital Authority ("HA"), the Police and the Government Laboratory should attend the joint meeting to answer questions from members. Mr CHAN Chi-chuen, Dr Helena WONG and Mr KWONG Chun-yu shared Dr KWOK Ka-ki's views. Mr CHAN Chi-chuen and Mr KWONG Chun-yu suggested that the proposed discussion should also cover the impacts of the chemicals on pets. Mr Steven HO said that the Panel should be briefed by the Administration on the impacts of the petrol bombs and other offensive weapons used by radical protestors on the health of members of the public and pets as well as the environment.

7. Mrs Regina IP said that it was not uncommon for law enforcement agencies in different places to use tear gas rounds and pepper based solution for crowd-control purpose under the principles adopted by the United Nations in this regard. She considered that the Secretariat could provide information to give an overview of the aforesaid principles as well as the scientific evidence on the health impacts of these chemicals to facilitate discussion, if held, by the Panel. Mrs Regina IP, Ms Starry LEE, Mr SHIU Ka-fai and Mr Steven HO stressed that it was the illegal acts of the radical protestors that warranted the use of minimum necessary force by the Police to effect dispersal.

8. Ms Elizabeth QUAT, Ms Starry LEE and Mr CHAN Han-pan expressed concern about the public assemblies recently took place in some

Action

public hospital premises in which some staff members of HA, including the healthcare professionals, had participated. They pointed out that some members of the public might as a result perceive public hospitals for not being able to provide equitable services to patients due to different stance and background. They suggested that the Administration and HA should brief the Panel on measure(s) being put in place to ensure the healthcare professionals' professionalism in the delivery of services in public hospitals, particularly in the light of recent social events. Dr Priscilla LEUNG said that to her understanding, there were clinics which requested members of the public having different stance not to seek medical consultation at the clinics.

9. Dr Helena WONG proposed a discussion of healthcare manpower planning to meet the public hospital developments under the first and second 10-year Hospital Development Plan, and the corporate governance of HA. The above apart, the Panel should discuss the proposed use control of medical devices, the regulation of Chinese medicines and health food products as well as the management of pharmaceutical products in the light of the recent counterfeit vaccine incidents.

10. Ms Elizabeth QUAT opined that the Panel should continue to follow up with the Administration the provision of public dental services; and discuss the provision of population-based breast cancer screening, which she had long been calling for, and the prevention of osteoporosis. Dr Helena WONG considered that the Administration should give an update to the Panel on the development of primary healthcare.

11. In conclusion, the Chairman said that she would bring up the issues raised by members at the meeting with the Administration. In response to Ms Elizabeth QUAT's enquiry, the Chairman said that where necessary, the Administration would be requested to first provide written responses to members' grave concerns about the health impacts of the chemicals used by the Police in dispersal operations and the maintaining of healthcare professionals' professionalism in the delivery of services in public hospitals to facilitate the Panel to consider how the matters should be followed up.

IV. Any other business

Joint Subcommittee on Issues Relating to the Regulation of Devices and Development of the Beauty Industry

Subcommittee on Issues Relating to the Support for Cancer Patients

Action

12. The Chairman informed members that the Joint Subcommittee on Issues Relating to the Regulation of Devices and Development of the Beauty Industry appointed by the Panel and the Panel on Commerce and Industry, and the Subcommittee on Issues Relating to the Support for Cancer Patients appointed by the Panel would continue to work until the respective expiry of their 12-month periods of work. The membership of these two subcommittees would be re-opened to members of the Panels concerned, and it would be for these two subcommittees to decide at their first meetings in the 2019-2020 session whether re-election of the Chairmen and Deputy Chairmen was necessary. Members raised no queries.

13. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 5:02 pm.

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
3 December 2019