

立法會
Legislative Council

Ref : CB2/PL/HS

LC Paper No. CB(2)147/11-12
(These minutes have been cleared
with the Chairman)

Panel on Health Services

Minutes of meeting
held on Thursday, 13 October 2011, at 8:30 am
in Conference Room 1 of the Legislative Council Complex

- Members present** : Dr Hon LEUNG Ka-lau (Chairman)
Dr Hon Joseph LEE Kok-long, SBS, JP (Deputy Chairman)
Hon Albert HO Chun-yan
Hon CHEUNG Man-kwong
Hon Andrew CHENG Kar-foo
Hon LI Fung-ying, SBS, JP
Hon Audrey EU Yuet-mee, SC, JP
Hon Vincent FANG Kang, SBS, JP
Hon CHEUNG Hok-ming, GBS, JP
Hon WONG Ting-kwong, BBS, JP
Prof Hon Patrick LAU Sau-shing, SBS, JP
Hon Cyd HO Sau-lan
Hon CHAN Hak-kan
Hon CHAN Kin-por, JP
Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che
Dr Hon PAN Pey-chyou
Dr Hon Samson TAM Wai-ho, JP
- Members absent** : Hon Fred LI Wah-ming, SBS, JP
Hon IP Kwok-him, GBS, JP
Hon Alan LEONG Kah-kit, SC
- Clerk in attendance** : Ms Elyssa WONG
Chief Council Secretary (2) 5
- Staff in attendance** : Miss Odelia LEUNG
Assistant Secretary General 2

Ms Maisie LAM
Senior Council Secretary (2) 5

Ms Priscilla LAU
Council Secretary (2) 5

Ms Sandy HAU
Legislative Assistant (2) 5

Miss Liza LAM
Clerical Assistant (2) 5

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I. Election of the Chairman and Deputy Chairman for the 2011-2012 session

Election of Chairman

Dr LEUNG Ka-lau, the incumbent Chairman, called for nominations for the chairmanship of the Panel for the 2011-2012 session.

2. Dr LEUNG Ka-lau was nominated by Mr CHAN Kin-por and the nomination was seconded by Mr CHAN Hak-kan, Ms Cyd HO, Dr Joseph LEE, Ms LI Fung-ying and Mr WONG Ting-kwong. Dr LEUNG accepted the nomination.

3. Dr Joseph LEE, the incumbent Deputy Chairman, took over from Dr LEUNG Ka-lau to preside over the election. As there was no other nomination, Dr Joseph LEE declared Dr LEUNG Ka-lau elected as the Chairman of the Panel for the 2011-2012 session. Dr LEUNG then took the chair.

Election of Deputy Chairman

4. The Chairman called for nominations for the deputy chairmanship of the Panel for the 2011-2012 session.

5. Dr Joseph LEE was nominated by Ms Cyd HO and the nomination was seconded by Mr CHAN Hak-kan, Mr CHAN Kin-por, Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che, Ms LI Fung-ying and Mr WONG Ting-kwong. Dr LEE accepted the nomination.

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6. As there was no other nomination, the Chairman declared Dr Joseph LEE elected as the Deputy Chairman of the Panel for the 2011-2012 session.

II. Schedule of meetings for the 2011-2012 session

7. Members agreed to hold the regular meetings of the Panel on the second Monday of each month at 8:30 am. As the second Monday of April 2012 fell on a public holiday, members agreed that the regular meeting in April 2012 would be rescheduled to 16 April 2012 at 8:30 am.

(Post-meeting note: The schedule of regular meetings was issued to members vide LC Paper No. CB(2)53/11-12 on 13 October 2011.)

III. Items for discussion at the next meeting

(Appendices V and VI to LC Paper No. CB(2)9/11-12)

Regular meeting on 14 November 2011

8. Members agreed to discuss the subject of "Proposal for setting up a Health and Medical Research Fund" proposed by the Administration at the next regular meeting on 14 November 2011.

9. The Chairman invited members' views on any other items for discussion.

Support for demented elders and their carers

10. Referring to Dr PAN Pey-chyou's letter dated 11 October 2011 requesting the Panel to hold a joint meeting with the Panel on Welfare Services to discuss issues relating to the support for demented elders and their carers, the Chairman sought the views of members as to whether the subject should be discussed at the regular meeting in November 2011. Members of the Panel on Welfare Services could be invited to attend the meeting for discussion of the item.

11. Mr CHEUNG kwok-che and Dr Joseph LEE were of the view that a joint meeting should be convened for discussion of the subject. Mr CHEUNG suggested inviting deputations to give views on the subject. Dr PAN Pey-chyou remarked that the meeting might need to last longer than two hours to allow sufficient time for discussion, as a number of

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deputations had indicated interest to express views on the subject. Members agreed that a joint Panel meeting should be held to discuss the matter and the Clerk would liaise with the Clerk to the Panel on Welfare Services on the appropriate meeting arrangements. Members would be notified of the meeting date in due course.

Monitoring of charging policy of private hospitals for obstetric services

12. Expressing concern that some private hospitals had increased their charges for obstetric services on admission, Ms Cyd HO suggested that the Panel should discuss the monitoring of charging policy of private hospitals for obstetric services. To facilitate members' discussion, the Panel should invite views from the concern groups and the affected persons and request private hospitals providing obstetric services to provide information on their charging policies.

13. The Chairman invited members to inform the Clerk if they were aware of any parties including organizations and individuals who might be interested in providing views on the subject. The Chairman suggested and members agreed that subject to the number of deputations and the readiness of the Administration, the subject would be discussed at the regular meeting in November 2011.

Items for discussion at future meetings

Financial assistance to needy patients to meet expenses on privately purchased drugs

14. Mr Albert HO suggested that the Administration should be invited to brief members on the two medical assistance programmes under the Community Care Fund, as well as other assistance schemes available in the community to assist needy patients to purchase drugs not covered by standard fees and charges of public hospitals/clinics.

15. Mr CHEUNG kwok-che suggested that the discussion should also cover the financial assistance provided by the Samaritan Fund.

16. The Chairman suggested and members agreed that subject to the readiness of the Administration, the subject would be discussed at the regular meeting in December 2011.

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Public and private hospital development

17. Dr Joseph LEE considered that the Administration should brief the Panel on its plans for the development or redevelopment of public hospitals. He also proposed that the Panel should follow up on issues relating to the development of the medical services industry, including the disposal of the four pieces of land reserved for private hospital development (at Wong Chuk Hang, Tseung Kwan O, Lantau and Tai Po respectively), as highlighted in the 2011-2012 Policy Address.

18. The Chairman said that the subject would be included in the list of outstanding items for discussion of the Panel. Members raised no objection.

19. Dr Joseph LEE noted with concern that the Administration had yet to provide its follow-up actions taken in respect of items 2, 8, 9 and 10 of the Panel's list of follow-up actions to be taken by the Administration (Appendix VI to LC Paper No. CB(2)9/11-12). Dr LEE considered it necessary for the Panel to revisit these issues if the Administration did not provide the requisite information to the Panel.

IV. Any other business

Subcommittee on Registration of Proprietary Chinese Medicines

20. The Chairman said that the work of the Subcommittee on Registration of Proprietary Chinese Medicines, which had been formed under the Panel, had not yet been completed. The Chairman invited members' views on whether the Subcommittee should continue with its work in the 2011-2012 session. Members raised no objection.

21. The Chairman added that the membership of the Subcommittee would be re-opened to Panel members and it would be for the Subcommittee to decide whether re-election of its Chairman was necessary at its first meeting in the 2011-2012 session.

Subcommittee on Health Protection Scheme

22. The Chairman said that at the meeting on 11 July 2011, members agreed that the Panel should set up a subcommittee to study the Health Protection Scheme. Members then agreed at the meeting on 8 August 2011 on the terms of reference, work plan and time frame for completion

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of work of the Subcommittee. The House Committee would consider the proposal of the Panel for activation of the Subcommittee at its meeting to be held on 21 October 2011. The Chairman said that as more than eight subcommittees on policy issues were currently in operation, the Subcommittee had been put on the waiting list.

23. The Chairman said that when considering the proposal for the appointment of the Subcommittee at the meetings of the Panel on 11 July and 8 August 2011, members had agreed that the Panel would continue to follow up the subject pending the approval of the House Committee for the activation of the Subcommittee. The Chairman said that the Administration had proposed to discuss the subject in the fourth quarter of 2011 or the first quarter of 2012. The Chairman suggested that the Panel should hold special meetings to discuss the subject. Members agreed that the Clerk should liaise with the Administration on the date for holding the special meetings.

Policy briefing on the 2011-2012 Policy Address

24. The Chairman reminded members that the Panel would hold a special meeting on 20 October 2011 from 9:30 am to 10:30 am to receive briefings from the Secretary for Food and Health on the Chief Executive's 2011-2012 Policy Address in respect of the portfolio of healthcare services.

25. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 8:50 am.