

立法會
Legislative Council

Ref : CB2/PL/HS

LC Paper No. CB(2)164/12-13
(These minutes have been
cleared with the Chairman)

Panel on Health Services

Minutes of meeting
held on Tuesday, 16 October 2012, at 9:00 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 Vincent FANG Kang, SBS, JP
Hon WONG Ting-kwong, SBS, JP
Hon CHAN Kin-por, BBS, JP
Dr Hon Priscilla LEUNG Mei-fun, JP
Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che
Hon Mrs Regina IP LAU Suk-yee, GBS, JP
Hon Albert CHAN Wai-yip
Hon Charles Peter MOK
Hon CHAN Han-pan
Hon Alice MAK Mei-kuen, JP
Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki
Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung
Dr Hon Helena WONG Pik-wan
Dr Hon Elizabeth QUAT, JP
Hon POON Siu-ping, BBS, MH
Dr Hon CHIANG Lai-wan, JP
- Member attending** : Hon IP Kwok-him, GBS, JP
- Clerk in attendance** : Ms Elyssa WONG
Chief Council Secretary (2) 5

Staff in attendance : Miss Flora TAI
Assistant Secretary General 2

Ms Maisie LAM
Senior Council Secretary (2) 5

Mr Jove CHAN
Senior Council Secretary (2) 6

Ms Priscilla LAU
Council Secretary (2) 5

Ms Michelle LEE
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 2012-2013 session

Election of Chairman

Mr Vincent FANG, the member present who had the highest precedence, presided over the election of the Chairman of the Panel. Mr FANG called for nominations for the chairmanship of the Panel for the 2012-2013 session. Dr LEUNG Ka-lau was nominated by Mrs Regina IP and the nomination was seconded by Mr CHAN Kin-por. Dr LEUNG Ka-lau accepted the nomination.

2. As there was no other nomination, Mr Vincent FANG declared Dr LEUNG Ka-lau elected as the Chairman of the Panel for the 2012-2013 session. Dr LEUNG then took the chair.

Election of Deputy Chairman

3. The Chairman called for nominations for the deputy chairmanship of the Panel for the 2012-2013 session. Dr Joseph LEE was nominated by Dr KWOK Ka-ki and the nomination was seconded by Mr Vincent FANG, Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che and Mr CHAN Han-pan. Dr Joseph LEE accepted the nomination.

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4. As there was no other nomination, the Chairman declared Dr Joseph LEE elected as the Deputy Chairman of the Panel for the 2012-2013 session.

II. Schedule of meetings for the 2012-2013 session

5. The Chairman informed members that in the last session, the regular meetings of the Panel were held on the second Monday of each month at 8:30 am. He invited members' views on whether the Panel should follow the meeting arrangement in the last session.

6. Mr Albert CHAN considered that given the large membership of the Panel, the arrangement to have the regular meetings held on Monday at 8:30 am might not be conducive to ensuring satisfactory attendance of members. Dr CHIANG Lai-wan echoed Mr CHAN's view, adding that the regular meetings of the Democratic Alliance for the Betterment and Progress of Hong Kong which she belonged to were also scheduled for Monday morning. She suggested that the regular meetings of the Panel could start at 9:30 am or take place on other days of the week to facilitate members' attendance. Dr Priscilla LEUNG said that the weekly meetings of 香港經濟民生聯盟 which she belonged to were scheduled for Monday morning.

7. Dr KWOK Ka-ki said that members of the Panel would all have busy schedules. Members who wished to attend the regular meetings of the Panel should adjust their schedules as appropriate. Noting that one-third of the membership of the Panel and that of the Panel on Welfare Services ("the WS Panel") was overlapped, he considered that the past practice to have the regular meetings of the Panel and the WS Panel be held on the second Monday of each month at 8:30 am and 10:45 am respectively could facilitate members' attendance. Dr KWOK Ka-ki sought information on whether it was difficult for the Panel to form a quorum in the last session. The Chairman advised that in the last session, there had not been any case that the regular meetings of the Panel had to be cancelled due to a lack of quorum, and the attendance rate of members had generally been very high. Dr Joseph LEE said that in the light of this, he did not see the reason why the Panel should not follow the meeting arrangement of the last session.

8. In response to the Chairman's enquiry on the availability of other time slots for holding the regular meetings of the Panel, the Clerk said that to avoid clashing with the regular meetings of other Panels, other time slots available for the purpose included the third Monday of each month at 4:30 pm; the first, second and fourth Thursday of each month at 2:30 pm or

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4:30 pm; and the first Friday of each month at 8:30 am or 10:45 am. Assistant Secretary General 2 supplemented that as Council meetings might resume on Thursdays for the continuation of the unfinished business on the agenda, it was not advisable to consider timeslots on Thursdays.

9. After discussion, the Chairman put the following two options to vote -
- (a) second Monday of each month at 8:30 am; and
 - (b) third Monday of each month at 4:30 pm.

The results were: six members voted in favour of option (a); and eight members voted in favour of option (b). The Chairman declared that the regular meetings of the Panel for the 2012-2013 session would be held on the third Monday of each month at 4:30 pm.

(Post-meeting note: The schedule of the regular meetings of the Panel for the 2012-2013 session was issued to members vide LC Paper No. CB(2)42/12-13 on 16 October 2012.)

10. The Chairman advised members that in the last session, the regular meetings of the Panel on Constitutional Affairs ("the CA Panel") would be held on the third Monday of each month from 2:30 pm to 4:30 pm. In case of a heavy agenda, the duration of the regular meetings of the CA Panel would be extended for another hour to allow sufficient time for discussion. If the CA Panel followed the meeting arrangement of the last session, the regular meetings of the Panel might clash with those of the CA Panel for one hour when the meeting time of the latter was to be extended to three hours from 2:30 pm to 5:30 pm due to a heavy agenda. Members raised no enquiry.

III. Items for discussion at the next meeting

[LC Paper Nos. CB(2)32/12-13(01) and (02)]

11. Members noted the "List of issues suggested to be considered" and the "List of follow-up actions" which were tabled at the meeting.

Regular meeting in November 2012

12. The Chairman referred members to the list of issues suggested to be considered and advised that the Administration had proposed to discuss the following items at the November regular meeting -

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- (a) Review on the regulation of high-risk medical treatments/procedures;
- (b) Enhancements to the Elderly Health Care Voucher Pilot Scheme; and
- (c) Construction of Tin Shui Wai Hospital.

13. Members agreed to discuss the items referred to in paragraph 12 (b) and (c) at the regular meeting of the Panel in November 2012. Regarding item (a), Dr KWOK Ka-ki considered that in view of the wide public concern over the recent incident concerning the treatment provided by a beauty treatment centre called DR, the Panel should hold a special meeting to discuss the matter urgently. Dr Helena WONG said that she would move a motion for debate at the Council meeting of 31 October 2012 urging the Government to expeditiously enact legislation to regulate the conduct and services of the beauty industry.

14. The Chairman suggested and members agreed to convene a special meeting in late October 2012 to discuss the subject. Members would be informed of the meeting date in due course.

(Post-meeting note: The special meeting has subsequently been scheduled for 26 October 2012 at 10:45 am. On the instruction of the Chairman, the relevant agenda item has been renamed to "Review on the regulation of medical beauty treatments/procedures".)

Items for discussion at future meetings

15. Mr Albert CHAN was concerned about the handling of used syringes disposed of at beaches, which in his view, would pose a significant health risk to members of the public. He was, however, uncertain whether the issue should be followed up by the Panel. The Chairman responded that he would relay the issue to the Secretary for Food and Health ("SFH") at the informal meeting to discuss the work plan of the Panel for the 2012-2013 session.

16. Dr Elizabeth QUAT suggested that the Panel should discuss the provision of obstetric services in the Tseung Kwan O Hospital.

17. Mr CHAN Han-pan considered that the waiting time for public Specialist Outpatient Clinics should be discussed at a future meeting.

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18. Dr Fernando CHEUNG suggested that the Panel should discuss the Drug Formulary of the Hospital Authority at a future meeting.

19. Dr KWOK Ka-ki considered that the development of mental health services should be discussed by the Panel. The Chairman advised that the item "Mental health services" had been included in the list of issues suggested to be considered by the Panel.

20. Mr Albert CHAN said that the Administration should be requested to brief members on the commissioning of the North Lantau Hospital, phase 1.

21. Dr Joseph LEE noted with concern that the Administration had yet to provide its follow-up actions taken in respect of items 1, 2, 3, 5, 6 and 7 of the Panel's list of follow-up actions to be taken by the Administration.

22. Concluding the discussion, the Chairman said that the issues raised by members would be included in the list of outstanding items for discussion by the Panel. He would also bring the issues to the attention of SFH at the informal meeting to discuss the work plan for the 2012-2013 session.

Item on the list of issues suggested to be considered

23. Members agreed to the Administration's proposal of deleting the item on "Closure arrangement of private hospitals" from the Panel's list of issues suggested to be considered.

24. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 9:21 am.