

**立法會**  
**Legislative Council**

LC Paper No. CB(2)113/13-14

(These minutes have been  
cleared with the Chairman)

Ref : CB2/PL/HS

**Panel on Health Services**

**Minutes of meeting**  
**held on Thursday, 10 October 2013, at 9:20 am**  
**in Conference Room 3 of the Legislative Council Complex**

- Members present** : Dr Hon LEUNG Ka-lau (Chairman)  
Prof Hon Joseph LEE Kok-long, SBS, JP, PhD, RN (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, SBS, JP  
Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che  
Hon Mrs Regina IP LAU Suk-ye, GBS, JP  
Hon Albert CHAN Wai-yip  
Hon Charles Peter MOK  
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
- Member absent** : Hon CHAN Han-pan

**Clerk in attendance** : Ms Maisie LAM  
Chief Council Secretary (2) 5

**Staff in attendance** : Miss Flora TAI  
Assistant Secretary General 2

Ms Mina CHAN  
Senior Council Secretary (2) 5

Ms Priscilla LAU  
Council Secretary (2) 5

Ms Michelle LEE  
Legislative Assistant (2) 5

Ms Louisa YU  
Clerical Assistant (2) 5

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**I. Election of Chairman and Deputy Chairman for the 2013-2014 session**

Election of Chairman

Dr LEUNG Ka-lau, the incumbent Chairman, called for nominations for the chairmanship of the Panel for the 2013-2014 session. Dr LEUNG Ka-lau was nominated by Prof Joseph LEE and the nomination was seconded by Dr Priscilla LEUNG and Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che. Dr LEUNG accepted the nomination.

2. As the incumbent Chairman was nominated for the office, Prof Joseph LEE, the incumbent Deputy Chairman, took over from Dr LEUNG Ka-lau to preside over the election of the Chairman. As there was no other nomination, Prof Joseph LEE declared Dr LEUNG Ka-lau elected as the Chairman of the Panel for the 2013-2014 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 2013-2014 session. Prof Joseph LEE was nominated by Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che and the nomination was seconded by

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Mr Vincent FANG, Mrs Regina IP, Dr KWOK Ka-ki, Dr Fernando CHEUNG and Mr POON Siu-ping. Prof LEE accepted the nomination.

4. As there was no other nomination, the Chairman declared Prof Joseph LEE elected as the Deputy Chairman of the Panel for the 2013-2014 session.

## **II. Schedule of meetings for the 2013-2014 session**

5. Members agreed that future regular meetings of the Panel would be held on the third Monday of each month at 4:30 pm. Members also agreed that the regular meeting in October 2013 would be rescheduled to 28 October 2013 at 4:30 pm to facilitate the attendance of the Secretary for Food and Health. As the third Monday of April 2014 fell on a public holiday, members agreed to reschedule the regular meeting in April 2014 to 14 April 2014 at 4:30 pm.

*(Post-meeting note: The schedule of regular meetings was issued to members vide LC Paper No. CB(2)32/13-14 on 10 October 2013.)*

## **III. Items for discussion at the next meeting**

[Appendixes V and VI to LC Paper No. CB(2)10/13-14 and LC Paper No. CB(2)35/13-14(01)]

### Regular meeting on 28 October 2013

6. Members agreed that the following items proposed by the Administration be discussed at the next regular meeting on 28 October 2013 -

- (a) One-off grant to the Hospital Authority for minor works projects; and
- (b) Injection to the AIDS Trust Fund.

7. Dr KWOK Ka-ki suggested that the Administration should brief the Panel on the rising trend of Vancomycin Resistant Enterococci ("VRE") carriers screened in the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in recent months as soon as possible. Prof Joseph LEE was of the view that the scope of discussion should be broadened to cover the Administration's measures to prevent and control Multidrug Resistant Organisms ("MDROs") in different healthcare

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settings (including public and private hospitals, as well as long-term care facilities such as residential care homes for the elderly) and the community setting. In view of the large number of visitors travelling between the Mainland and Hong Kong, the Panel should also be briefed on the exchange of information between the health authorities of the Mainland and Hong Kong in monitoring the development of VRE, or other MDRO, cases, in the Mainland.

8. The Chairman suggested that apart from items (a) and (b) above, the Panel would also discuss the prevention and control of MDROs at the next regular meeting. Members agreed.

Issues raised by members for future discussion

*Regulation of medical beauty treatments or procedures*

9. Noting that the Working Group on Differentiation between Medical Procedures and Beauty Services had completed its study on procedures that should be performed by registered medical practitioners, Dr Helena WONG considered that the Panel should follow up on the subject of regulation of medical beauty treatments or procedures. The Chairman advised that the Administration had proposed that the subject be discussed at the regular meeting in November 2013.

*Review on the operation of the Hospital Authority*

10. Dr KWOK Ka-ki considered that the Panel should have a discussion with the incoming Chairman of the Hospital Authority ("HA"), who would assume office on 1 December 2013, on issues relating to the operation of HA. Noting that a Hospital Authority Review Steering Committee had been set up by the Food and Health Bureau ("FHB") to conduct a comprehensive review of the operation of HA, Dr Helena WONG proposed to discuss the review at a future meeting. Apart from representatives of the Administration, the incoming Chairman of HA should also be invited to attend the meeting.

*Regulation of pesticide residues in Chinese herbal medicines*

11. Dr Helena WONG referred members to her letter dated 10 October 2013 concerning pesticide residues contained in Chinese herbs (LC Paper No. CB(2)35/13-14(01)), which was tabled at the meeting, and proposed that the issue be discussed by the Panel.

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12. The Chairman remarked that some Chinese herbs did not fall under the definition of Chinese herbal medicine under the Chinese Medicine Ordinance (Cap. 549) and were regulated as general food products. He invited members' views on how the subject should be taken forward.

13. Dr KWOK Ka-ki opined that the matter could be followed up at a joint meeting of the Panel on Health Services ("the HS Panel") and the Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene, if necessary. Prof Joseph LEE considered that the Administration's views should be sought on whether the regulation of pesticide residues contained in Chinese herbs fell under the purview of the Health Branch or Food Branch of FHB. The Chairman said that the Secretariat would follow up with the Administration in this regard.

*(Post-meeting note: The subject on "Regulation of pesticide residues in Chinese herbal medicines" has been included in the Panel's list of outstanding items for discussion.)*

*Dental care services for the elderly and people with disabilities*

14. Dr Helena WONG and Dr Fernando CHEUNG proposed that the Panel should continue to follow up the discussion with the Administration on dental care policy and services for the elderly. Dr CHEUNG further suggested that the Panel should also look into the dental care needs of people with disabilities. Noting that the Chief Executive would deliver the 2014 Policy Address on 15 January 2014 and the Financial Secretary would present the 2014-2015 Budget on 26 February 2014, he considered that the subjects should best be discussed by the Panel before the end of 2013 so that where appropriate, additional provision would be earmarked in the coming financial year to strengthen the dental care services for the elderly and people with disabilities.

*Drug Formulary of HA and the Samaritan Fund*

15. Dr Priscilla LEUNG suggested that the Panel should discuss subsidy provided to needy patients to meet their expenses on expensive drugs. Dr Helena WONG was of the view that the Panel should discuss the Drug Formulary of HA and the Samaritan Fund in the session.

*Mental health services*

16. Dr Helena WONG suggested that the Panel should continue to follow up the discussion with the Administration on mental health services in the session. While noting that a review on the existing mental health

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service provision was being conducted by the Review Committee on Mental Health set up under FHB, Dr KWOK Ka-ki considered that the Panel should discuss medical support to children with learning disabilities before the completion of the overall review.

17. In view of the rising number of adolescents committing suicide and the stringent manpower of psychiatric healthcare professionals in public hospitals, Dr Elizabeth QUAT proposed that the Panel should discuss mental health services for adolescents at a future meeting.

*Chinese medicine development*

18. Dr Priscilla LEUNG proposed to discuss the provision of integrated Chinese and Western medical services and clinical training opportunities for students of degree programmes in Chinese medicine at a future meeting.

*Public and private hospital development*

19. The Chairman sought members' views on the Administration's suggestion of removing the subject "Public and private hospital development" from the Panel's list of outstanding items for discussion. The Chairman remarked that at the meeting on 15 July 2013, the Administration was requested to provide supplementary information relating to the re-development and expansion plans of public hospitals. The reply from the Administration was still awaited.

20. Dr KWOK Ka-ki was of the view that the Panel should continue its discussion with the Administration on the blueprint for the long-term development of public and private hospitals. Mr Vincent FANG raised a similar view. Prof Joseph LEE pointed out that the vision of the current term Government was to ensure that the dual-track healthcare system, which encompassed both public and private elements, be developed in a balanced and sustainable manner. In the light of this, he considered that the Administration should brief the Panel on the development of public and private hospitals under the dual-track system.

21. The Chairman concluded that the Panel would continue to follow up with the Administration on the subject in the session.

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**IV. Any other business**

Subcommittee on Health Protection Scheme

22. Members agreed that the membership of the Subcommittee on Health Protection Scheme should be re-opened to members of the Panel.

23. Dr Priscilla LEUNG remarked that the Panel should continue to follow up with the Administration on issues relating to the introduction of the Health Protection Scheme in the session. The Chairman advised that the Subcommittee, which commenced its work in December 2012, would have worked for 12 months by early December 2013. In accordance with House Rule 26(c), if it was necessary for a subcommittee appointed by Panels to work beyond 12 months of its commencement, it should, after obtaining the endorsement of the relevant Panels, report to the House Committee and give justifications for an extension of the 12-month period. The Subcommittee would consider the need to continue its work in the session in due course. Subject to members' views, endorsement would be sought from the Panel on the continuation of the work of the Subcommittee.

*(Post-meeting note: Members of the Subcommittee agreed unanimously vide LC Paper No. CB(2)101/13-14 that there was a need for the Subcommittee to continue its work until 30 September 2014.)*

Joint Subcommittee on Long-term Care Policy

24. Members agreed that, subject to the views of the Panel on Welfare Services ("the WS Panel"), the membership of the Joint Subcommittee on Long-term Care Policy, which was appointed by the HS and WS Panels, should be re-opened to members of the two Panels.

*(Post-meeting note: Members of the WS Panel agreed at its first meeting held later on the same day that the membership of the Joint Subcommittee should be re-opened.)*

25. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 9:40 am.