

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(2)1853/18-19

(These minutes have been
seen by the Administration)

Ref : CB2/PS/1/17

Panel on Health Services

Subcommittee on Issues Relating to the Support for Cancer Patients

**Minutes of the second meeting
held on Friday, 26 April 2019, at 11:00 am
in Conference Room 3 of the Legislative Council Complex**

- Members present** : Dr Hon CHIANG Lai-wan, SBS, JP (Chairman)
Dr Hon Elizabeth QUAT, BBS, JP (Deputy Chairman)
Hon Tommy CHEUNG Yu-yan, GBS, JP
Hon WONG Ting-kwong, GBS, JP
Hon CHAN Kin-por, GBS, JP
Hon YIU Si-wing, BBS
Hon Charles Peter MOK, JP
Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki
Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung
Dr Hon Helena WONG Pik-wan
Hon POON Siu-ping, BBS, MH
Hon KWONG Chun-yu
Hon CHAN Hoi-yan
- Member attending** : Hon SHIU Ka-fai
- Members absent** : Prof Hon Joseph LEE Kok-long, SBS, JP
Hon CHAN Han-pan, BBS, JP
Hon SHIU Ka-chun
Dr Hon Pierre CHAN
- Public Officers attending** : Dr CHUI Tak-yi, JP
Under Secretary for Food and Health

Miss Clarissa WAN
Acting Principal Assistant Secretary for Food and Health
(Health) 2
Food and Health Bureau

Dr Rita HO
Consultant Community Medicine (Non-Communicable
Disease)
Department of Health

Dr Tony KO
Director (Cluster Services)
Hospital Authority

Dr Eric ZIEA
Senior Manager (Integrated Programs)
Hospital Authority

Attendance : Happy-Retired Company Limited
by invitation

Mr Ryan YEUNG Ming-yin
Founder and CEO

Cancer Strategy Concern Group

Mr Samuel MAK
Convenor

Mr Leslie CHAN Ka-long

Miss Doris LEUNG

Liberal Party

Mr LEUNG Chun
Chairperson Southern District Office (HK Island)

Health In Action

Mr Anthony LAI Chun-kin
Research and Advocacy Coordinator

Hong Kong Ample Love Society

Ms TSANG Cheuk-yi
Chairperson

Mr CHEUNG Mei-hung

Central and Western Concern Group

Mr FUNG Kar-leung

召集人

Cancer Patient Alliance

Mr CHAN Wai-kit

Chairman

Labour Party

Mr KWOK Wing-kin

Chairperson

Life-Med Foundation Group Ltd

Mr Kenneth WONG Ka-kei

Director

Dr LI Lai-fung

Tseung Kwan O Neighbouring Social Welfare Association

Mr WONG Wai-lung

Community Consultant

WeCareBill Foundation

Miss YIM Hang-wah

Volunteer

Mr Stanley HO Wai-hong

Karen Leung Foundation

Ms Katharina Reimer

Executive Director

Ms TOU Lai-lin

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

Staff in attendance : Ms Priscilla LAU
Council Secretary (2) 5

Miss Maggie CHIU
Legislative Assistant (2) 5

Action

I. Overall strategy for the prevention and treatment of cancers
[LC Paper Nos. CB(2)1247/18-19(01) & IN10/18-19]

The Subcommittee deliberated (index of proceedings attached at **Annex**).

2. The Subcommittee received views from 18 deputations on the overall strategy for the prevention and treatment of cancers, and noted two written submissions from organizations and individuals not attending the meeting.

Follow-up actions required of the Administration

Admin

3. The Administration was requested to provide the following information in writing:

- (a) in respect of cancer prevention and screening,
 - (i) advise the membership, frequency of meetings, operation and work plan of the Cancer Expert Working Group on Cancer Prevention and Screening ("the Expert Working Group") set up under the Cancer Coordinating Committee;
 - (ii) provide the recommendations made by the Expert Working Group on prevention and screening for the nine selected cancers, namely cervical, colorectal, breast, prostate, lung, liver, nasopharyngeal, thyroid and ovarian cancers; and
 - (iii) provide for reference of the Subcommittee screening programmes to detect early cancers or identify precancerous disease implemented in places outside Hong Kong, including information on the screening

Action

tests as well as the levels of subsidy provided by the governments and co-payment paid by individuals under the programmes;

- (b) provide the lower quartile (25th percentile), median (50th percentile), upper quartile (75th percentile) and the longest (90th percentile) waiting time for patients of the Hospital Authority ("HA") to receive (i) diagnostic imaging tests and (ii) first treatment after diagnosis, with a breakdown by different types of cancers; and
- (c) in respect of the \$5 billion earmarked in the 2019-2020 Budget for expediting the upgrading and acquisition of medical equipment of HA, advise the amount of funding to be used by HA for the introduction of advanced medical equipment items for detecting, diagnosing and treating cancers and the items involved.

II. Any other business

4. Members agreed that the next meeting would be scheduled for Monday, 20 May 2019, from 2:45 pm to 4:30 pm to discuss cancer prevention and screening.

(Post-meeting note: Members were informed vide LC Paper No. CB(2)1365/18-19 issued on 6 May 2019 that on the instruction of the Chairman, relevant deputations would be invited to make oral representations to the Subcommittee at the above meeting.)

5. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 1:07 pm.

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
6 August 2019

**Proceedings of the second meeting of the
Subcommittee on Issues Relating to the Support for Cancer Patients
on Friday, 26 April 2019, at 11:00 am
in Conference Room 3 of the Legislative Council Complex**

Time marker	Speaker	Subject(s)/Discussion	Action required
<i>Agenda item I: Overall strategy for the prevention and treatment of cancer</i>			
000724 - 001039	Chairman	Opening remarks	
001040 - 001529	Chairman Admin	Briefing by the Administration (LC Paper No. CB(2)1247/18-19(01))	
001530 - 001846	Happy-Retired Company Limited	Presentation of views (LC Paper No. CB(2)1247/18-19(02))	
001847 - 002202	Mr Leslie CHAN Ka-long	Presentation of views (LC Paper No. CB(2)1293/18-19(02))	
002203 - 002524	Miss Doris LEUNG	Presentation of views (LC Paper No. CB(2)1247/18-19(03))	
002525 - 002824	Liberal Party	Presentation of views	
002825 - 003256	Ms TOU Lai-lin	Presentation of views	
003257 - 003554	Hong Kong Ample Love Society	Presentation of views	
003555 - 003957	Mr CHEUNG Mei-hung	Presentation of views	
003958 - 004305	Central and Western Concern Group	Presentation of views	
004306 - 004632	Cancer Patient Alliance	Presentation of views (LC Paper No. CB(2)1247/18-19(04))	
004633 - 004947	Labour Party	Presentation of views	
004948 - 005312	Life-Med Foundation Group Ltd	Presentation of views	
005313 - 005626	Dr LI Lai-fung	Presentation of views (LC Paper No. CB(2)1247/18-19(05))	
005627 - 005952	Tseung Kwan O Neighbouring Social Welfare Association	Presentation of views	
005953 - 010306	WeCareBill Foundation	Presentation of views (LC Paper No. CB(2)1317/18-19(02))	

Time marker	Speaker	Subject(s)/Discussion	Action required
010307 - 010634	Mr Stanley HO Wai-hong	Presentation of views	
010635 - 010954	Karen Leung Foundation	Presentation of views (LC Paper No. CB(2)1247/18-19(06))	
010955 - 011326	Cancer Strategy Concern Group	Presentation of views (LC Paper No. CB(2)1293/18-19(01))	
011327 - 011640	Health In Action	Presentation of views (LC Paper No. CB(2)1317/18-19(01))	
011641 - 013311	Chairman Admin The Hospital Authority ("HA")	<p>The Administration and HA made the following responses to the views and concerns expressed by the deputations:</p> <p>(a) the Administration had stepped up its efforts to promote adoption of healthy lifestyles, such as avoiding smoking and alcohol consumption, for the prevention of cancers. A case in point was the introduction of the Smoking (Public Health) (Amendment) Bill 2019 into the Legislative Council in February 2019 to ban the import, manufacture, sale, distribution and advertisement of alternative smoking products;</p> <p>(b) the Cancer Expert Working Group on Cancer Prevention and Screening ("the Expert Working Group") set up under the Cancer Coordinating Committee had so far made recommendations on prevention and screening for nine selected cancers applicable to the local situations. As regards whether population-based mammography screening should be introduced for the prevention of breast cancer, the Administration had commissioned the University of Hong Kong to conduct a study on risk factors associated with breast cancer for local women so as to help formulate the future strategies for breast cancer screening in Hong Kong. It should be noted that Human Papilloma Virus ("HPV") vaccination for prevention of cervical cancer had been introduced into the Hong Kong Childhood Immunisation Programme as a public health strategy for implementation starting from the 2019-2020 school year;</p> <p>(c) the Administration would shortly promulgate a Cancer Strategy setting priorities and direction on actions to prevent and control of cancer as well as to provide more timely and appropriate intervention for cancer patients and support for cancer survivors;</p> <p>(d) the means test mechanism for the Samaritan Fund and the Community Care Fund Medical Assistance Programmes ("the Medical Assistance Programmes") had been enhanced in early 2019 to alleviate the financial burden of patients (including cancer patients) and their families arising from drug expenditure; and</p>	

Time marker	Speaker	Subject(s)/Discussion	Action required
		<p>(e) HA would continue to collaborate with drug companies to provide affordable, sustainable and appropriate support for patients.</p>	
013312 - 013937	<p>Chairman Dr Helena WONG Admin</p>	<p>Dr Helena WONG requested the Administration to provide the following information:</p> <p>(a) the recommendations made by the Expert Working Group on prevention and screening for the nine selected cancers;</p> <p>(b) screening programmes to detect early cancers or identify precancerous disease implemented in places outside Hong Kong as well as the levels of subsidy provided by the governments and co-payment paid by individuals under the programmes; and</p> <p>(c) the waiting time for patients of HA to receive (i) diagnostic imaging tests and (ii) first treatment after diagnosis, with a breakdown by different types of cancers.</p> <p>On Dr Helena WONG's concern about the variance in waiting time for patients with colorectal cancer, breast cancer and nasopharyngeal cancer to receive their first treatment after diagnosis, HA advised that the timing required for identification, diagnosis, treatment and staging varied among different types of cancers.</p>	Admin
013938 - 014313	<p>Chairman Mr POON Siu-ping Admin</p>	<p>Mr POON Siu-ping's view that the Cancer Strategy should cover, among others, the role of Chinese medicine in cancer treatment provided by public hospitals as well as support for cancer survivors; and that the Administration should address the shortage of healthcare manpower in the public healthcare system.</p> <p>The Administration advised that the Cancer Coordinating Committee would map out the Cancer Strategy in 2019. Separately, application of Chinese medicine in cancer treatment would be developed under the initiatives to promote the development of Chinese medicine through the implementation of the Integrated Chinese-Western Medicine Programme and the establishment of the Chinese Medicine Hospital.</p>	
014314 - 014905	<p>Chairman Dr Fernando CHEUNG</p>	<p>Sharing the deputations' views, Dr Fernando CHEUNG expressed concern that cancer patients who were lack of means were unable to access expensive cancer drugs and treatments. He urged the Administration to expedite the promulgation of the Cancer Strategy, which should cover the prevention and control of cancer. In his view, the transparency of the Cancer Coordinating Committee should be enhanced by inviting patient representatives to sit on the Committee.</p>	

Time marker	Speaker	Subject(s)/Discussion	Action required
014906 - 015548	Chairman Ms CHAN Hoi-yan Admin	<p>Ms CHAN Hoi-yan's view that population-based screening programmes for different types of cancer should be introduced and concrete measures should be put in place to facilitate early diagnosis and treatment of cancer. In particular, population-based prostate-specific antigen blood test for prostate cancer should be provided at primary healthcare setting such as the community health centres and district health centre.</p> <p>The Administration advised that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) it had launched Towards 2025: Strategy and Action Plan to Prevent and Control Non-communicable Diseases in Hong Kong as an initiative to prevent cancer; (b) all screening tests had their limitations and there was possibility of over-diagnosis and over-treatment. The Administration would give due regard to a basket of factors in the consideration of whether population-based screening test should be introduced for a specific cancer; and (c) the Kwai Tsing District Health Centre would accord priority to the handling of chronic diseases and health risk factors. Its services would include health promotion which might cover breast self-examination for early detection of breast cancer. <p>Ms CHAN Hoi-yan requested the Administration to advise in writing the amount of funding to be used by HA for the introduction of advanced medical equipment items for detecting, diagnosing and treating cancers and the items involved in the \$5 billion earmarked in the 2019-2020 Budget for expediting the upgrading and acquisition of medical equipment of HA.</p>	Admin
015549 - 020052	Chairman Dr Elizabeth QUAT	<p>Dr Elizabeth QUAT's request that the Administration should advise in writing the membership, frequency of meetings, operation and work plan of the Expert Working Group set up under the Cancer Coordinating Committee; and her view that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the Administration should step up its effort on cancer prevention by implementing population-based mammography screening and an HPV vaccination catch-up programme; (b) with the \$500 million earmarked in the 2018-2019 Budget to improve patient's co-payment mechanism under the Medical Assistance Programmes, more financial assistance should be provided to needy patients for the purchase of ultra-expensive drugs; (c) more resources should be allocated to cancer patient support groups and relevant non-governmental organizations; and 	Admin

Time marker	Speaker	Subject(s)/Discussion	Action required
		(d) HA should put in place measures to address the healthcare manpower shortage problem so as to improve its cancer treatment services.	
020053 - 020530	Chairman Mr KWONG Chun-yu Admin	<p>Mr KWONG Chun-yu's concern about cancer patients' access to new and/or expensive drugs as well as the financial and emotional burdens of patients and their families arising from drug expenditure; and his view that the Administration should conduct a comprehensive review on the Drug Formulary of HA with a view to facilitating the incorporation of more new cancer drugs into the Drug Formulary.</p> <p>The Administration advised that HA had an established mechanism to regularly review its Drug Formulary to include new cancer drugs or reposition existing drugs into a different category, as well as the coverage of the safety net. With the implementation of the enhancement measures for the means test mechanism of the safety net in early 2019, the Administration had undertaken to carry out an interim review and revert to the Panel on Health Services the progress of and feedback received on the implementation of the enhancement measures after 12 months of implementation.</p>	
020531 - 021006	Chairman Mr Tommy CHEUNG Admin	<p>Mr Tommy CHEUNG expressed grave concern about the lead time required for the appraisal of a new drug by the Drug Advisory Committee, the inclusion of new drugs in the Drug Formulary of HA, and the listing of new drugs in the drug formulary of individual hospital cluster or hospital.</p> <p>The Administration explained that the Drug and Therapeutics Committees of individual hospital clusters or hospitals would select appropriate drugs from the Drug Formulary of HA for inclusion into their own drug formularies to suit their service needs. Mechanism was in place to enable inter-hospital transfer of patient and inter-hospital dispensing of drugs as and when necessary.</p>	
<i>Agenda item II: Any other business</i>			
021007 - 021048	Chairman	<p>Closing remarks</p> <p>Arrangement for the next meeting</p>	