



香港精神科醫學院

The Hong Kong College of Psychiatrists Ltd.

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Newsletter #7-2007

5 July 2007

Dear Fellows, Members, Inceptors and Affiliates,

Please take note of the following announcements:

I. Meeting with Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food, Dr. York Chow

Members will recall that the College wrote to the Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food in March 2007 to express our views on the future development of mental health service in Hong Kong following a Legco motion debate moved by Dr. Hon Kwok Ka Ki on “A Comprehensive Review on Mental Health Policy” (see Newsletter #2-2007).

A meeting with Dr. York Chow was arranged on 31 May 2007 and the College was represented by the President (Dr. Hung Se-Fong) and the two Vice-Presidents (Prof. Linda Lam and Dr. Ip Yan-Ming). During the meeting, our representatives handed in a submission prepared by the EXCO detailing the College’s view on the future development of mental health service in Hong Kong and exchanged views with Dr. Chow. It was also agreed that the College would nominate a representative for the Central Working Group on Mental Health Service for Dr. Chow’s consideration. Dr. Ip Yan-Ming, Vice-President (General Affairs), was subsequently nominated.

A synopsis of the meeting can be found in Appendix I.

II. College response to Preliminary Report on Development and Financing of Hong Kong’s Future Health Care by the Bauhinia Foundation

The College response to the recently published preliminary report on health care financing in Hong Kong is reproduced for members’ perusal.

Thank you for your attention

Dr. Eric CHEUNG
Honourary Secretary
The Hong Kong College of Psychiatrists

Appendix I

A report on the meeting with Dr. York Chow, Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food Bureau on 31 May 2007

Background:

In January 2007, Dr. Hon KK Kwok initiated a discussion at the Legislative Council concerning development of mental health services in Hong Kong. Dr. York Chow presented the governmental direction over this issue. The Hong Kong College of Psychiatrists wrote to Dr. Chow addressing our concern about the policy for mental health services and its development. In response to our request, a meeting with Dr. Chow was arranged on 31 May 2007. The President and two Vice-Presidents represented the College to attend the meeting.

Objectives of meeting:

A submission and a short presentation have been arranged for the meeting. As the only professionally trained psychiatric specialist body in Hong Kong, we aimed to inform Dr. Chow that:

1. There was a need for a coherent and comprehensive mental health policy in Hong Kong.
2. Any development in mental health service should be considered from multi-dimensional perspectives and be client-centred.
3. Additional resources for community based programmes are required for development of new models of psychiatric care.

Discussion points:

1. The development towards a more comprehensive model of community psychiatric care was agreed upon by both parties.
2. Dr. Chow was interested in further discussion of an epidemiological study on the prevalence of psychiatric morbidity in Hong Kong.
3. Concerning different levels of psychiatric care for severe mental illness, prevalent psychiatric disorders and community mental health education, only basic directions were touched upon. Dr. Chow suggested the College to forward further submission on models of community care with special concern on difficulties on interface between different disciplines. He emphasised the idea of engaging family practitioners in the care of patients. The College representatives discussed feasibility, current limitations, and expressed concerns about professional expertise of existing service structure.
4. The College strongly highlighted a need to inject new ring-fenced resources for development. The significance of expanding training for psychiatrists was raised.
5. The President emphasised the need for College representative to be present in the working group on future mental health policy. Dr. York Chow suggested the College to submit a nomination for his consideration.

Subjects for follow-up by the College:

After this initial discussion, a few issues will be followed-up by the College:

1. Prepare a proposal to explore the possibility of further preparation for an epidemiological survey for psychiatric morbidity in Hong Kong.
2. Prepare submission about new models of psychiatric services emphasising on community oriented management with cross disciplinary collaborations.
3. Nominate a representative for the working group on mental health policy and development.

The meeting adjourned at 12:20 pm.

Prepared by Linda Lam



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28 June 2007

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A Constituent College of the
Hong Kong Academy of Medicine

Dear Sir,

Development and Financing of Hong Kong's Future Health Care

The College would like to thank you for inviting our President to the Health Care Reform Forum on 23 June 2007 and sending us a copy of your preliminary report.

We note the "Three-Pillar Framework" in your proposed model of health care financing and that Pillar One include Essential Services, which "address the basic health care needs of Hong Kong residents, to provide cost effective interventions to safeguard and promote individual and population health, to provide for early detection and screening of diseases and disabilities, and to give Hong Kong residents the assurance of accessing essential services without financial worries".

We wish to draw your attention to mental disorders, especially serious mental disorders, which tend to be chronic and longstanding conditions with significant disabilities. People with serious mental disorders are among the least resourceful in society and have very limited health care options apart from the public sector. We believe that the provision of mental health service should remain in Pillar One in your proposed model.

Thank you for your attention.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Eric Cheung,
Honourary Secretary,
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