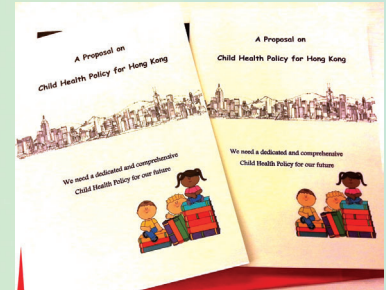




Special Issue on Child Health Advocacy: Activities at the time of CE Election Campaign 2017

Editorial Board: Dr. Sylvia SIU, Dr. Lilian WONG, Dr. CHAN Chok Wan

Hong Kong, a vibrant city with advanced medical knowledge, has no long term planning for child health issues. All the government actions are just reactive to the health crisis that has occurred. Hence, the Hong Kong Paediatric Society and Hong Kong Paediatric Foundation together with over 100 child health professionals have formulated a "Proposal on Child Health Policy for Hong Kong" and submitted to the HKSAR Chief Executive and all the Bureau officials in Sep 2015. Since then, we have continued to promote child health policy to the government and yet there are still no active responses. During the Chief Executive (CE) Election earlier this year, we have tried to re-launch the Child Health Policy to the CE candidates with the following actions:



Meeting Mrs. Regina IP, CE Candidate on 15 February 2017

Dr. Lilian Wong, Dr. Daniel Chiu, Ms. Dorothy Yung and Dr. Hon Cheung Chiu Hung, Fernando met with Mrs. Regina IP on 15 Feb 2017. Mrs. IP changed her definition of children from 0 to 18 years old and included the Child Health Policy in her policy platform.



Meeting Mr. WOO Kwok Hing, CE Candidate on 28 February 2017

Dr. Chan Chok Wan, Dr. Lilian Wong, Dr. Daniel Chiu, Ms. Dorothy Yung and Dr. Hon Cheung Chiu Hung, Fernando met with Mr. Woo Kwok Hing and introduced to him the background and the need for establishment of a comprehensive Child Health Policy and a Children Commissioner for Hong Kong. Mr. Woo concurred with our views that the Children Commissioner should be positioned above the Bureaus and report directly to the Chief Executive of HKSAR government.



Meeting Professor WANG Zhenmin 王振民教授 on 4 March 2017

The Surveillance Group and the Legal Group of the Child Health Policy met with Professor WANG Zhenmin, the Dean of the Tsinghua University School of Law and Minister of Law of the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the HKSAR (中聯辦法律部部長). The goal of the meeting was to seek his expert legal advice on initiating legislation to protect children's right in Hong Kong. Prof. WANG also agreed to have a Child Health Policy for Hong Kong as a long term strategy for child health issues.



Professional Forum on Child Health Policy 2017

During the Chief Executive (CE) Election Campaign, the Legal Sectoral Group and the Action Committee of the Child Health Policy Surveillance Group had organized a "Forum on Child Health Policy" on 9 March 2017 at Room 607, 3 Lockhart Road, Wan Chai. Speakers included Dr. Chan Chok Wan, Dr. Lilian Wong, Ms. Sylvia Siu, Legal Group Convenor and Mr. Richard Yip, Barrister and member of Legal Group to review the health and legal perspectives of formulating a Child Health Policy and setting up a Children's Commission in Hong Kong. All the CE candidates have been invited but only Mr. Woo Kwok Hing and Mr. Hon. Cheung Chi Hung Fernando, legislative councillor have joined. The Forum was very well attended by academics, professionals from medical, nursing, allied health, social, education, legal, members of



Election Committee, parent groups as well as social media. The advocacy towards having a Child Health Policy and a Children Commissioner in Hong Kong were unanimously supported by all attendees and their corresponding professional Societies. Besides, Ms Sylvia Siu conveyed the supportive messages from the legal community including Ms. Elsie Leung, former Secretary for Justice of Hong Kong (1997 to 2005); Mr. Thomas So, The President of the Law Society of Hong Kong and Mr. Hon. Dennis Kwok, LegCo member of Legal Constituency on the establishment of child health policy and the Children's Commissioner. Strategic action plans in further promoting the Child Health Policy to the general public was also discussed in the forum. The Forum had demonstrated the consensus from the professional community and general public in urging the HKSAR government to set up the Child Health Policy and Children's Commission in Hong Kong.

Media Interview on Alcohol Survey and Child Health Policy on 21 March 2017

A survey on 1957 secondary school students on alcohol consumption was conducted from 17 March to 5 May 2016. The objective was to understand the current state of the youth in taking alcohol. Result showed that the average age of children taking alcohol for the first time was 10.6; 16% of children taking alcohol the first time were less than 6 years old. Young age to start alcohol may lead to alcohol addiction. Parental allowance of drinking at young age was concerning. A media interview was held for this survey to reflect the public's misconception and the need of establishment of Child Health Policy and the Children Commissioner to take care of all the child health issues. The survey result was published on Ming Pao, Oriental Daily and am730 on 23 March 2017.



Youth Voice at Legislative Council "Child Health Panel" Meeting

A Child Health Panel was set up at the Legislative Council and chaired by Dr. Hon. Cheung Chiu Hung, Fernando to invite children, youth, professional bodies and community organizations to discuss on the Child Health related Issues.

(i) Child Health Panel on Child Health Policy on 25 March 2017

The Youth Ambassadors of Hong Kong Paediatric Foundation have joined this meeting and voiced out our opinions and expectations through two young professionals in training (Mr. Kaiser Chow and Ms. Cecilia Chow, OT Students) together with Ms. Sanne Fong. They also reminded the government that "Children represent 20% of our population now but 100% of our Future".



(ii) Child Health Panel on the Children's Commission on 20 April 2017

Another team of the Youth Ambassadors of the HKPF (Ms. Maria Fatima Cheng and Ms. Rachel Tong, Nursing students) together with Ms. Gloria Luk have joint the meeting to express our views on setting up a Children's Commissioner to supervise the implementation of the Child Health Policy and direct the Children's Commission which should work above the Bureaus and directly reporting to the Chief Executive of HKSAR government.

(iii) Child Health Panel on Rights of children in Correctional Home and Correctional Institution on 23 May 2017

Dr. Lilian Wong and Ms. Gloria Luk presented the concerns and suggestions from the Hong Kong Paediatric Foundation on health status especially the mental health wellbeing of young inmates in Hong Kong.

(iv) Child Health Panel on Support measures for Deaf and hard-of-hearing children on 20 June 2017

Ms. Gloria Luk and Mr. Zachary Tien presented the specific health care needs for those children with hearing impairments and the in-coordinated follow up services provided to them and their families.

(v) Child Health Panel on Rights of refugee children on 24 July 2017

Youth Ambassadors Mr. Kaiser Chow, Mr. Lo Cheuk Long, Ms. Maggie Lo, Ms. Sarish Khan and Ms. Gloria Luk have reviewed the health situations of refugee children in Hong Kong and recommended the supportive services to ensure their normal growth and development.

All these activities were organized by the joint efforts of all the child health professionals together with young people and parents. We hope the HKSAR government and the Chief Executive Elect could put child health in the top of their policy agenda. Children represent 20% of our current population but 100% of our future. Let's have a comprehensive child health policy and a Children's Commissioner to prepare a healthy environment for our children to grow and develop.