



Hong Kong Paediatric Foundation

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Newsletter

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HKPF website:
www.hkpf.org.hk

20 YEARS REVIEW AND SURVEY ON HEALTH STATUS OF CHILDREN AND PARENTS – PRESS CONFERENCE on 11 June 2017

There is always a question whether our children are growing healthily and happily in Hong Kong. Recent statistics showed that the mental health problems in child and adolescent were escalating. A survey conducted by Hong Kong Paediatric Foundation (HKPF) in 2016 reviewed that 27% of secondary students have ever the thought of self harm or the thought of committed suicide in the past 6 months. The 33 incidents of student suicide in 2016 were alarming.

The Surveillance Group of the Child Health Policy conducted a Survey on the “**Health Status of Students and Parents**” in kindergartens and primary schools in May 2017. It was a continuum of the advocacy work of HKPS and HKPF on the promotion of the “Child Health Policy for Hong Kong” since its first launch in 2015.

A Press Conference was held on 11 Jun 2017 at Duke of Windsor Social Service Building, Wan Chai to reveal the results and review the child health situation in Hong Kong in the past 20 years.

Survey result showed that among 1,327 parents of kindergarten and primary school students, 65% of them opined that the current education policy was worse than those before 1997. 88% reviewed that the support from the government to parents was inadequate. Stress level of students raised 60% when students entered primary school from Kindergarten. High stress level of primary school students came from the worry about their own academic achievement and parents’ expectation. 94% of parents experienced stress symptoms in the past 6 months. 67% lost emotional self control while caring of their children. Stress rooted from the worry about their children’s academic achievement and/or their behavioral problems.

In the past 20 years, the education policy and system emphasized on academic achievement have imposed undue pressure to the students and parents. Moreover, the government paid much attention and support to the elderly but least to children’s welfare. Even the very minimal support to children and adolescent were reactive, fragmented, replicated and lack of coordination. There was an imminent need to have a comprehensive child health policy and a children commissioner who reported directly to the CE of HKSAR Government, to plan, coordinate, implement, monitor and evaluate all the child health measures. Clear timeline and roadmap should be set.



The Child Health Panel meeting was held regularly at the Legislative Council chaired by Dr. Hon. Cheung Chiu Hung, Fernando. It provided a good platform for the public to express the children's views and expectations to the Hong Kong Government. (Session I of the Panel meeting has been reported in Issue 6 of HKPF newsletter)

Session II – Children's Commissioner on 20 April 2017

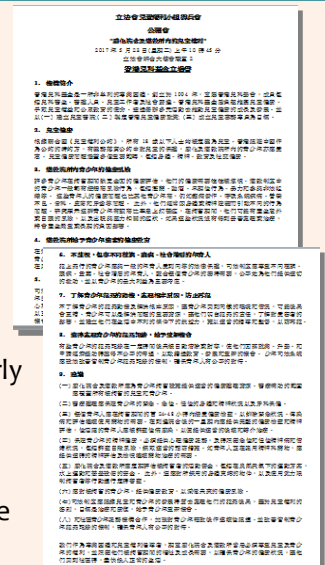
The Youth Group of Hong Kong Paediatric Foundation (HKPF) represented by Ms. Maria Fatima Cheng and Ms. Rachel Tong (nursing students), and Ms. Gloria Luk (Exco. Member and Youth Group) have attended the meeting. In the meeting, they voiced out their opinions and expectations to Hong Kong Government on the imminent needs for a Comprehensive Child Health Policy and for a Children Commissioner for Hong Kong.



Session III - Rights of children in Correctional Home and Correctional Institution on 23 May 2017

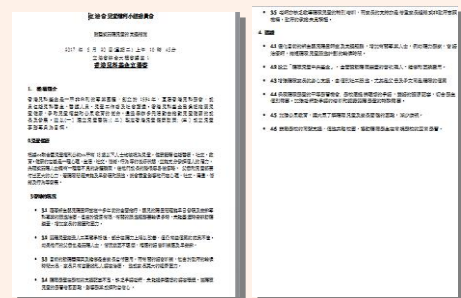
Dr. Lilian Wong and Ms. Gloria Luk representing HKPF attended the meeting and showed the position statement on the Rights of Children in Correctional Home and Correction Institution. Recommendations included:

1. Provision of appropriate health care and medical subsidies
2. Medical care should cover emergency, acute, chronic physical, psychological and mental health condition and dental care
3. Health assessment within the first 24-48 hour on admission
4. Provision of mental health services if required including assessment, suicidal precaution and medication management
5. Regular review and assess the safety of the children in various activities particularly under adverse weather
6. Provision of health education
7. Promote recovery and return to normal life
8. Collaborate with community youth services with regular follow up after discharge



Session IV - Support Measures for Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Children on 20 June 2017

The meeting was held on 20 Jun 2017, it was well attended by children with hearing problems, parents, patient support group and related associations. Ms. Gloria Luk representing HKPF to sit in this meeting. The participants expressed that the waiting time for seeing audiologist, ENT specialist and surgery was long. The expenses for maintenance and renewal of hearing devices were not government funded, the support of children with hearing problems in school was extremely inadequate. Financial and psychological support to children was not enough. Information on support to children with hearing problems was not user friendly and not to the need of the parents.



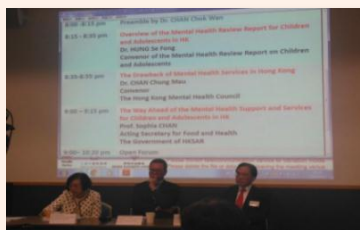
ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION FOR CHILDREN'S RIGHT INVITED BY 民建聯 on 5 June 2017

Dr. Lilian Wong and Ms. Gloria Luk have attended the round table discussion on 5 Jun 2017 as invited by 民建聯. In the round table meeting, Dr. Lilian Wong introduced to participants about the HKPS and HKPF, vision and mission, the past achievement and the past work on Child Health Policy. She also briefed the participants the definition of child health, children's right, current health challenges of children and adolescents and the needs for a Child Health Policy and Children Commissioner in Hong Kong.

Mental Health Challenges of Children and Adolescents in Hong Kong on 23 May 2017

The forum chaired by Dr. Chan Chok Wan was held on 23 May 2017 at QEH. Speakers included Dr. Hung Se Fong, Convenor of the Hong Kong Mental Health Review Report; Dr. Chan Chung Mau, Convenor of the Hong Kong Mental Health Council and Prof. Sophia Chan, Chairman of the Advisory Committee for Promotion of Mental Health in Hong Kong and Acting Secretary for Food and Health, HKSAR. Dr. Hung talked on the “Overview of the Mental Health Review Report for Children and Adolescents in Hong Kong”. He briefed the audience that the report has used life cycle approach to delineate the prevalence of different mental health problems from early childhood to school age and then adolescent. ADHD, ASD are most common problems with mores resources being put on. However service gaps exist, early detection and intervention and support to families are inadequate due to limited resources and manpower. Many community programs had to be discontinued once government funding was finished. The Report did not cover any action plans or long term strategies for the development of mental health services for children and adolescents in Hong Kong. Dr. Chan Chung Mau highlighted that Hong Kong was facing 4 deficits 「四無」 in mental health services: 1) Inadequate mental health professionals 2) Inadequate funding 3) Inadequate resources allocation on preventive measures 4) Inadequate holistic approach. Moreover, there was uneven distribution of services in different areas. There was an urgent needs to provide better mental health services for children and adolescents in Hong Kong. Prof. Sophia Chan noted these issues and mentioned a regular advisory committee would look into it.

To meet the escalated demands, audiences suggested to have tiers of expertise, 1st tier include GP or FM, 2nd tier for uncomplicated cases seen by trained paediatrician, 3rd tier for more complicated cases treated by child psychiatrists. Outreaching services would be helpful to support both students and teachers. School nurse would play a crucial role to support the mental wellbeing of children in school. More education to increase the mental health awareness to the public and building up resilience and healthy environment. Funding and resources were required to sustain the services. In conclusion, establishing a child health policy and children Commissioner were definitely essential.



Professional Indemnity for Practicing Paediatricians (II) on 20 April 2017

The Forum was held on 20 Apr 2017 8pm at QEH. It was well attended by medical professionals.

PROFESSIONAL CME MEETING ON CHILD HEALTH 2017

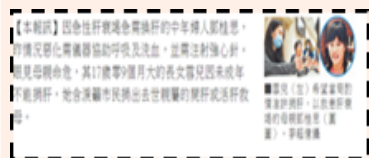
Seminar on Measles, Mumps, Rubella and Varicella Prevention was held on 10 Apr 2017. Speaker was Dr. Chiu Cheung Shing, Daniel (Hong Kong) and Prof. Lu Ching Yi (Taiwan).

The Molecular Application of Genetics on Paediatric Therapeutics - Genetic Susceptibility to Adverse Drug Reactions was held on 11 Apr 2017. The talk was delivered by Prof. Wayne Miu Yee Mary.

The Application of Medical Genetics in Community Paediatrics was held on 9 May 2017. Speaker was Dr. Lam Tak Sum, Stephen, Director, Clinical Genetics Service, Hong Kong Sanatorium and Hospital.

Japanese Encephalitis – Impact in Hong Kong and Asia was held on 7 Jun 2017. Speaker was Professor Huang Yhu-Chering, Director, Pediatric Research Center, Chang Gung Memorial Hospital, Taiwan.

Position Statement : LEGAL AGE FOR ORGAN DONATION FROM LIVING DONORS



The recent incidence of an under-aged adolescent <18 years indicated her wish to be the donor for her mother with liver failure has raised the controversy on the **Legal Age for Organ Donation** from a living donor. The hospital organ donation team refused her request for being the living donor because she was not an adult (18 Years old or above) and not supposed to make independent medical decision from the legal perspective.

The HKPF full supported the decision of organ donation team with the Position Statement released on 18 April 2017 based on the following reasons: 1) Medical Ethics 2) Capability of a child to understand the health consequences 3) The maturity and capability of a child to understand the risks as the child may feel obliged to save the life of her beloved sick family member through organ donation. 4) Legal age of an adult as defined by WHO, UNICEF, United Nations, IPA and 5) Children's right in being protected from unnecessary risks and harms. (For details, please visit HKPF website: www.hkpf.org.hk)



PUBLIC FORUM ON CHILD HEALTH 2017 兒童健康論壇

兒童健康論壇 - 「e世代成長，健康e生活」 was held on 8 Apr 2017 at Jordan Valley St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School. Speakers were Dr. Thomas Chung, Consultant Community Medicine, Student Health Services, Department of Health, Hong Kong and Dr. Donna Chu, Asso. Prof., School of Journalism and Communication, The Chinese University of Hong Kong. The forum was informative and welcome by audiences.



兒童健康論壇 - 「貧窮」 hosted by the Social Sectoral Functional Group was held on 10 Jun 2017 at Jordan Valley St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School. Moderators were Dr. Daniel Chiu, Convenor of the Social Group and Dr. Lilian Wong. Invited speakers included 林家輝議員, BBS, JP who talked on 「劏房知多些？」, followed by 周振邦醫生 who talked on 「貧窮與兒童」. Forum was ended by 公眾論壇 - 如何「減少兒童家居意外及提升兒童健康水平？」 In the forum, audiences understood more on the current poor living conditions of the children in poverty and its impact to the child health, growth and development. The forum was fruitful with sound suggestions.



UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

- 4 Jul 2017** **PROFESSIONAL CME MEETING ON CHILD HEALTH 2017 - Managing Severe Atopic Dermatitis in Children: What disease is that?** will be held from 1:30 - 2:30pm at Chairman's Suite and Executive Room, 38th Floor, World Trade Centre Club, 280 Gloucester Road, Causeway Bay, Hong Kong. Speaker will be Prof. Ellis Hon, Department of Paediatrics, The Chinese University of Hong Kong.
- 11 Jul 2017** **PROFESSIONAL FORUM ON CHILD HEALTH 2017 – Fallacies on the Professional Training Curriculum in Hong Kong** will be held at Lecture Theatre, G/F, QEH, 8pm - 10:30 pm. Ms. Cristine Au, Primary School Teacher will talk on “The Challenges for A Young Teacher”, and Ms. Rachel Tong will talk on “Beyond the Curricula – Community Service Experience”.
- 5-6 Aug 2017** **SUMMIT ON THE IMMUNO-SURVEILLANCE AGAINST CHILDHOOD INFECTION IN THE CHINESE SPEAKING COMMUNITIES.** World renowned speakers are invited, please don't miss the chance. Venue: The Mira Hong Kong, Tsimshatsui, Kowloon. (On Line Registration) website: ww.hkpf.org.hk