

**MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE MEETING (OPEN SESSION) HELD AT 09:00HRS ON
WEDNESDAY, 4 DECEMBER 2019, IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE HEALTH DIRECTORATE**

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| Present: | Hon. Derek Thomas | Chairman | |
| | Hon. Anthony Green | Member | |
| | Hon. Cruyff Buckley | " | |
| | Hon. Jeffrey Ellick | " | |
| | Dr. Kamar Tanyan | Acting Director of Health | |
| | Mrs. Peta M Henry | Secretary | |
| Apologies: | Hon. Brian Isaac | Deputy Chairman (Offshore) | |
| | Mr. Edward Rayment | Interim Director of Health (Offshore) | |
| | Mrs. Helen Lawrence | Assistant Director of Health | |
| Invited: | Mrs. Anne Colclough | Occupational Therapist | (item 27.03) |
| | Miss. Samantha Williams | Community Psychiatric Nurse | (item 27.03) |
| | Dr. Mohamed Elnagar | Locum GP | (item 27.03) |
| | Mrs. Georgina Young | Snr. Env. Health Officer | (item 27.06) |

OPEN AGENDA

27.01 Welcome & Apologies

The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming all present and extended a special welcome to Cllr Jeffrey Ellick, who had newly been elected to Council. It was noted that Cllr Ellick would serve as a member of both the Public Health and Social & Community Development Committee's. The Chairman conveyed apologies on behalf of Cllr Isaac who was offshore on Medical Referral in South Africa. He commented that Cllr Isaac was wished well with a view to a speedy recovery and return to St Helena.

It was noted that there were no members of the public present for the 'open' session of the meeting.

27.02 Declaration(s) of Interest

There were no 'declarations of interest' in respect of items on the agenda for this meeting.

27.03 Introduction to New Staff

Anne Colclough (Occupational Therapist)

Mrs Colclough was welcomed to the meeting, introduced to Committee and vice versa. In an overview of her background, she informed Committee that she had worked in the United Kingdom (in Adults & Social Care) for the past 24 years; and had obtained a Bachelor of Science Degree in 2000. She advised that prior to this, she had worked with Paediatrics and children for +/- 38 years. Mrs Colclough informed Committee that given the diversity of her current role, her experience would almost certainly be beneficial. She confirmed having settled well and looked forward to the challenges ahead. Following much discussion, Mrs Colclough was wished well and left the meeting at 09:25hrs.

Samantha Williams (Community Psychiatric Nurse)

Miss Williams was welcomed to the meeting and introduced to Committee. In an overview of her background, she confirmed having undertaken her initial training in St Helena and then in Belfast (UK), having departed St Helena in 2004. She is now employed in the capacity of Community Psychiatric Nurse, where she explained, she would work closely with the Educational Psychologist and School Nurse. Miss Williams informed Committee that as a St Helenian she was extremely pleased to be 'giving back' to the island and hoped to be an inspiration to others. Following much discussion, Miss Williams was wished well in her role and left the meeting at 09:45hrs. She is employed on a two-year fixed-term contract.

Dr Mohamad Elnager (Locum GP)

Dr Elnager was welcomed to the meeting. Following an introduction to Committee, he gave an overview of his background and confirmed having graduated in 2008. He commented on his background in General Medicine/Infectious Disease and confirmed having worked in both the

United Kingdom and Capital City of Zambia. Dr Elnager informed Committee that he was extremely pleased with the work environment within the Health Directorate and confirmed having settled well; despite the demand on the islands medical service, which he explained, was primarily due to the prevalence of chronic disease. On behalf of Committee, Dr Elnager wished well in his role and left the meeting at 09:40hrs.

27.04 Confirmation of Minutes

Minutes of the 'open' session of the Public Health Committee meeting held on Wednesday, 6 November 2019, were confirmed and signed.

**27.05 Matters Arising
Health & Safety**

It was noted that it would be the responsibility of Council to prioritise this bid (i.e. short-term TC Consultant) alongside others. An update to be provided in due course.

Primary Care Facility (Sundale)

Committee was informed that the Technical Services team at ENRP was working with the Health Directorate in an effort to progress this. The Acting DoH gave an overview of progress to date, aided by use of both aerial photographs and floor plans of the property in question. Committee agreed this eliminated the need for a walk-through as agreed at the last PHC meeting and was pleased with progress being made.

National Health Insurance Scheme Project

There was nothing further to report by way of progress to date.

Proposed Amendment to Mental Health & Mental Capacity Ordinance

Cllr Green informed Committee that he was pleased to report that the relevant 'draft' was being progressed with a view to presentation to Committee shortly.

Update – Mental Health Unit/PICU

Committee noted that a site visit had been arranged and would follow the 'closed' session of this meeting.

Update – Port & Aerodrome (Health) Regulations

See 'note' at 27.06 below.

Joint Ministerial Conference

It was confirmed that the JMC had been postponed to March 2019. The presentation on Mental Health was being reviewed in preparation for this.

27.06 Port & Aerodrome (Health) Regulations

The SEHO was welcomed to the meeting. The Chairman commented on the now urgent need to finalise a fee structure to enable the Regulations to be put in place. In discussing this, provision within the Ordinance for charging at cost recovery only, was noted. By way of next steps, the Chairman undertook to seek legal advice to ensure correct interpretation of the Ordinance and report back in due course. The SEHO was thereafter thanked for her attendance and left the meeting at 10:40hrs.

27.07 Chairman's Update

The Chairman advised that all would be aware of the likelihood of challenges associated with the budget. He commented that the budget for the Health Directorate did not reflect 'needs' of the service and in view of this, associated risks would have to be taken up with FAM. In noting this, Committee was of the view that if serious about taking the Islands Health Service forward, support of the wider Council would be crucial in securing funding for critical projects (i.e. Sundale/Primary Care Facility, PICU and Parking in and around the Hospital Grounds).

27.08 Director's Update

The Acting DoH thanked the Committee for their support throughout the period she had acted in the capacity of Director of Health. She advised that as the substantive Director was scheduled to return to the island on or about 4 January 2020, this would essentially be the last PHC meeting she would attend in this capacity. On behalf of Committee, the Chairman returned thanks and

commented that it had been a pleasure working with her. He commented that it was a credit to her for having undertaken the role during a difficult time; amidst budget preparations, staff shortages etc. It was noted that Dr Kamar would undertake the role of Acting Senior Medical Officer during the months of January and February 2020.

Visiting Delegation from Mauritius

The Acting DoH gave an update on preparations for the upcoming visit and advised that she would follow-up a response from Dr Musango on her most recent correspondence. She gave an overview of composition of the draft programme and advised that this would be finalised with a view to being shared with Committee shortly.

Action: Acting DoH

Staffing

An overview of staffing-related issues and ongoing recruitment campaigns included the following:

- The Acting HNO (Mrs. Daniella Marlow) had been successful in securing the post in a substantive capacity.
- The post of Theatre Nurse had become vacant and would be advertised on a 1 year fixed-term contract, given the fact that succession planning was in place.
- The ENT specialist was on-island and the relevant appointments/surgeries were progressing well. The Acting DoH advised that recommendations for continuous ENT care would be obtained prior to the specialist's departure from the Island.
- Publicity following promotion of a local Staff Nurse had been arranged via the SHG Press Office.
- Whilst the Post of Public Health & Community Services Manager (PH&CSM) had become vacant and was to be advertised, it might become necessary for the relevant funding to be utilised elsewhere. The specifics of this, were discussed at length.

Theatre Door

Committee was informed of problems with the door leading to Theatre and the fact that arrangement were in place for a replacement (via ENRP) prior to end of the financial year.

Anaesthetic Machine

An incident that had occurred with one of the Anaesthetic Machines in Theatre, was reported. The Acting DoH informed Committee that as a result of this, contingencies had been put in place. A new purchase was also being processed.

Patient Source

In an update on Patient Source, the Acting DoH informed Committee that the decision had been taken to proceed 'as is' and essentially 'go-live' with Patient Source as soon as all modules are complete.

Swimming Pool

It was reported that the Swimming Pool had been closed due to poor visibility in the water. The Acting DoH advised that there were a number of recommendations from a health perspective that would need to be followed through, with a view to the Pool being re-opened shortly.

First Responders Training Centre.

Committee was informed that work was progressing well and would enable internationally recognised qualifications/certificates to be awarded to those trained under the Centre. It was noted that the Health Directorate was already in liaison with the Attorney General's Chambers and Corporate Procurement, to ensure all relating to set-up of the Centre, was being processed according to requirement.

Budget

The Acting DoH gave an overview of the Directorates budgetary status and outlined significant areas of over/underspend (i.e. Medical Referrals and Aero-Medical Evacuation budget-lines respectively). In discussing this, Cllr Buckley commented on the Acting DoH's commitment to the Health Service which he felt had been demonstrated by the overview she had given at the

previous day's budget-related meeting. He further commented that her contribution to discussions had also been such that enabled Members to get a better understanding of the risks associated with an inadequate budget within the Health Directorate/Medical Field. The wider Committee echoed these sentiments.

Major Incident Exercise

Committee was informed that a large-scale exercise was being developed with a view to being run in February 2020. It was noted that this exercise was being done at the request of HE.

27.09 Any Other Urgent Business

There were no items for discussion under this classification.

There being no further business for discussion, the Chairman thanked all for attending and closed the 'open' session of the meeting at 11:15hrs.

Signed: _____

A handwritten signature in dark ink, consisting of several loops and a long diagonal stroke extending downwards and to the left.

Date: _____

15 Jan 2020