

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

Present:	Hon. Derek Thomas Hon. Anthony Green Hon. Cruyff Buckley Mr. Edward Rayment Mrs. Helen Lawrence Mrs. Peta M Henry	Chairman Member " Interim Director of Health Assistant Director of Health Secretary
Apologies:	Hon. Brian Isaac	Deputy Chairman (Offshore)
Invited:	Mrs Georgina Young	Senior Env. Health Officer (item 24.05)

OPEN AGENDA

24.01 Welcome & Apologies

The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming all present. He extended a special welcome to the ADoH, who had recently returned from overseas leave; and apologies on behalf of Cllr Isaac, who was offshore for reasons of a personal/family nature. Cllr Hercules' resignation from Council was noted as was the fact that there were no members of the public present for the 'open' session of this meeting.

24.02 Confirmation of Minutes (Open Meeting)

Minutes of the Public Health Committee meeting held on Monday, 12 August 2019, were confirmed.

**24.03 Matters Arising
Health & Safety**

The Chairman undertook to provide an update on progress shortly.

Action: Chairman

Primary Care Facility (Sundale)

The IDoH advised that the Public Health & Community Services Manager (Kingsley Osarenren) was working with ENRD on both the design and cost-related work necessary, to move the project forward. It was agreed Committee be kept up-to-date on progress.

Action: IDoH

National Health Insurance Scheme Project

The Chairman advised that whilst there was nothing of significance to report by way of progress (i.e. drafting of ToR's and costings etc.), His Excellency the Governor had expressed his desire for the project to be progressed as soon as possible.

Proposed Amendment to Mental Health & Mental Capacity Ordinance

Cllr Green undertook to follow up on progress (i.e. proposed amendment relating to deprivation of liberty), and report back at the next scheduled meeting.

Action: Cllr Green

Proposals for Tobacco Taxation

It was noted that the proposal(s) had been endorsed and would take effect from 1 October 2019. Committee agreed that this was extremely pleasing to note.

Port & Aerodrome (Health) Regulations/Draft Operational Policy

Committee noted that the Policy being drafted in liaison with the Emergency Planning Department, would be presented to Committee for information in due course.

Action: SEHO

Update - Draft Tobacco Control Legislation/E-Cigarette Policy

The IDoH informed Committee that feedback from discussion the last PHC meeting had been communicated to the AG's Chambers as agreed.

Operational Guidance Policy for Storage of Flammable Liquids (Petroleum)

It was reported that the Policy had physically been signed off for implementation.

Update - Mental Health Unit

Committee noted that the original concept had now been removed from the Capital Programme. In discussing this, it was agreed that the relevant documents for the new concept, inclusive of both the design and costing, be pulled together as soon as possible. The IDoH advised that this work was being done by the Chartered Civil Engineer at ENRD and would be kept-in-view.

Action: IDoH

Chairman's Update (Nora March Trophy & Staffing)

The Chairman commented that all would be aware that the Nora March Trophy had now been formally handed over to the Museum of St Helena for safe-keeping.

The issue of staffing raised at the last PHC meeting, generated much discussion. Clarification was given on the Human Resources position within the Health Directorate and how this would be covered until the physical transfer to Corporate HR in April 2020.

24.04 Update - Draft Tobacco Control Legislation/E-Cigarette Policy

Committee was informed that due to other commitments of equal importance, the HP&SML had been unable to attend the meeting at the time allocated. The IDoH conveyed apologies on behalf of the HP&SML for the inconvenience. An update on the draft Tobacco Control Legislation/E-Cigarette Policy was subsequently given under Agenda Item 24.15 of the closed session of this meeting.

24.05 Update – Port & Aerodrome (Health) Regulations

The SEHO was welcomed to the meeting. The Chairman advised that whilst he was aware that work in relation to the relevant fee structure was in progress, priority would need to be given to ensure the legislation is progressed without undue delay. In discussing this, Committee agreed there was a need for the fee structure to be both proportionate and justifiable. The SEHO gave an overview of discussion with the Legislative Draftsman regarding various elements that would need to be considered, should different scenarios present themselves; and the additional work to be done by way of offshore consultation(s) with the likes of WHO, for example, to ensure the resources required to deal with specific situations are in place. She explained that this would detail composition of the fee structure to be presented. The SEHO undertook to progress this piece of work in liaison with the IDoH, with a view to presenting a proposal at the next scheduled meeting.

On behalf of Committee, the SEHO was thanked for her attendance and left the meeting at 09:40hrs.

Action: SEHO

24.06 Chairman's Update Joint Ministerial Conference

The Chairman advised that he would represent St Helena at the Joint Ministerial Conference (JMC) in November 2019. He commented that Mental Health had been listed as an agenda item for the Conference and in view of this, it would be advantageous to have a bullet point update on the current Mental Health facilities in St Helena. The IDoH undertook to arrange this in liaison with the Mental Health Team Lead.

Action: IDoH

Medical Referrals

The Chairman advised that as his transit to the JMC in November would include a two-day stay in Johannesburg, he would be willing to visit patients on Referral in Pretoria, if necessary. Committee agreed this would be advantageous, given the recent incident. The IDoH undertook to make the necessary arrangements via Medical Services Organisation (MSO).

Action: IDoH

Budget

In an update on budget discussions with Corporate Finance, the Chairman confirmed having noted a significant underspend within the Medical Referrals/Aero-Med budget-lines during the last financial year (i.e. 2018/19). He explained that whilst he was aware of the justification for this and essentially where the savings were hoped to be utilised (i.e. Purchase of Dialysis Machines), he had been alarmed to hear that a significant underspend against this particular budget-line, was envisaged for the current year (i.e. 2019/20) also. He sought clarification on this, having recently been advised by the Health Directorate that there was a high probability of overspend, compounded by the fact that there were still a number of patients awaiting referral.

The discussion that followed, highlighted the fact that whilst the projected overspend had been communicated to Corporate Finance, it had not necessarily been communicated by the Finance Team, to the FS. Committee agreed that as the FS was in the process of identifying potential savings across SHG, it was extremely important he be made aware of the budget position to date, to minimise risk of budget cuts in areas ill-afforded.

Action: IDoH

24.07 Director's Update

The IDoH talked Committee through the content of his report for the month of September 2019. He advised that the CS had indicated her preference for the Mauritius visit to be scheduled for January 2020; and whilst a response from Dr Musango was awaited, the delayed visit would allow ample time to prepare. Committee supported this.


Staffing in relation to visiting specialists, in particular, generated much discussion. Committee was pleased to note the upcoming visit of an Ophthalmologist, Optician, Cardiologist and ENT Specialist. Approval of both the Dietician and School Nurse positions were also noted.

24.08 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 11:20hrs.

Signed: _____



Date: _____

2 Oct 2019