

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE MEETING (OPEN SESSION) HELD AT 09:00HRS ON WEDNESDAY, 15 JANUARY 2020, IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE HEALTH DIRECTORATE

Present:	Hon. Derek Thomas	Chairman
	Hon. Anthony Green	Member
	Hon. Cruyff Buckley	"
	Hon. Jeffrey Ellick	"
	Mr. Edward Rayment	Director of Health
	Mrs. Helen Lawrence	Assistant Director of Health
	Mrs. Peta M Henry	Secretary
Apologies:	Hon. Brian Isaac	Deputy Chairman
Invited:	Dr. Francisco Milian	Medical Officer/Obs. & Gynae. (item 28.03)

OPEN AGENDA

28.01 Welcome & Apologies

The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming all present and extended a special welcome to Mr Edward Rayment who had recently returned to St Helena in the substantive capacity of Director of Health. Apologies were conveyed on behalf of Cllr Isaac who had returned from Referral but undergoing medical treatment.

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

28.02 Declaration(s) of Interest

There were no 'declarations of interest'.

28.03 Introduction to New Staff

Dr. Francisco Milian

Dr Francisco Milian was welcomed to the meeting, introduced to Committee and vice versa. It was noted that he had been successful in securing a position (Medical Officer/Obs. & Gynae.) he had previously held in St Helena and in light of this, was invited to give an overview of the training with which he had been involved, since this employment. Dr Francisco informed Committee that he had undertaken training in various hospitals within the United Kingdom, which included risk management and essentially how to process this to improve quality of care. He commented on the importance of this and advised that he would work with the DoH to ensure implementation within the Health Directorate. Training for local midwives was discussed at length and the need for exposure due to the relatively small workload within this specialist area on the island. Committee supported this.

Following much discussion, the Chairman thanked Dr Francisco for his attendance and commented that it was extremely good to have him back. Dr Francisco left the meeting at 09:20hrs.

28.04 Confirmation of Minutes

Minutes of the 'open' session of the Public Health Committee meeting held on Wednesday, 4 December 2019, were confirmed and signed.

28.05 Matters Arising
Health & Safety

It was noted that a meeting of the Working Group had been scheduled for the coming week.

Primary Care Facility (Sundale)

Committee was informed that the design/cost related work was progressing well, aided by data supplied by the Health Directorate's Senior Management Team. Due to the importance of the project, Committee asked that progress be kept-in-view.

Action: DoH

National Health Insurance Scheme Project

The Chairman advised that whilst there was nothing significant to report by way of progress, he was aware that there was an even greater appetite to move the project forward in light of the significant increase in cost of pharmaceutical drugs. Committee was of the view that implementation of a NHIS would ease the pressure of rising costs and essentially be a good step forward.

Proposed Amendment to Mental Health & Mental Capacity Ordinance

In the absence of a 'draft' document for presentation to Committee, concern was expressed regarding the delay in visible progress to date. Cllr Green was subsequently asked to communicate this to the Director of Adults & Social Care (DoA&SC) with a view to a presentation at the next PHC meeting. Cllr Green undertook to arrange this and advised that he was aware the DoA&SC had scheduled a meeting with the Attorney General's Chambers to discuss the document in question.

Action: Cllr Green

Update – Mental Health Unit/PICU

The Chairman advised that costs associated with this project was expected to be in the region of £20,000.00. He commented that as this project was a priority under the Capital Programme, he hoped the costing could be finalised with a view to submission to the Programme Management Unit (PMU) within the coming week.

Action: Chairman

Port & Aerodrome (Health) Regulations

The Chairman confirmed having written to the AG's Chambers but was yet to receive a response. He undertook to follow-up with a view to an update at the next scheduled PHC meeting.

Action: Chairman

28.06 Consultation Plan (Tobacco Control Legislation)

It was anticipated the relevant consultation would be undertaken in February 2020. The Chairman advised that he would ensure the Wider Council was updated on composition of the Tobacco Control Legislation in good time prior to this. It was agreed the incoming Health Promotion & Social Marketing Lead (HP&SML) and DoH would join the consultation, along with other Members of the PHC. It was also agreed a Consultation Plan would be compiled in liaison with the DoH, for circulation within the week ahead.

Action: Chairman

28.07 Update - Visiting Delegation from Mauritius

It was noted that the delegation was scheduled to arrive on Tuesday 21st as opposed Saturday, 18 January 2020, as previously anticipated. The Visit Programme had been adjusted accordingly. In discussing this, the DoH commented on the Chronic Disease Management Conference and what this would aim to achieve. Committee was content with the preparations made thus far.

28.08 Chairman's Update

The Chairman commented on discussion at the last PHC meeting around the need to secure funding for critical projects (i.e. Sundale/Primary Care Facility, PICU and Parking in and around the Hospital Grounds). He advised that whilst SHG had sought an increase in financial aid he was unaware of exactly what this would look like, if indeed entertained. He advised, however that there had been some indication that the outcome of the budget submission would be known by month-end.

28.09 Director's Update

The DoH informed Committee that whilst he had just recently returned to the Island, he had kept abreast with operations of the Health Directorate whilst offshore, which had ensured a smooth transition on his return. He commented that Dr Kamar Tanyan had done a sterling job as Acting Director of Health in his absence.

Committee was informed that a total of three patients had been medevac'd to South Africa on Saturday, 11 January 2020. It was noted that whilst there were 'lessons to be learnt', all had gone relatively well.

The Cardiologist's visit was discussed at length and highlighted the need for a clear link between referrals (made by attending doctors) and the patient list for visiting specialists. It was reported that a number of patients had been recommended for overseas referral as a result of the Cardiologists visit.

The DoH was of the view that it was extremely important, particularly in the environment of litigation, that the Health Directorate does everything possible to support patients as soon as possible as opposed placing them on a Waiting List. The increased risk of deteriorating health was noted. Committee asked that a paper be compiled around Medical Referrals, inclusive of comparative figures between the current Financial Year and the last; and projections moving forward. The DoH undertook to arrange this.

Action: DoH

The DoH informed Committee of his upcoming visit to New Orleans on or about 7 March 2020, associated with Tobacco Control. He advised that he would take advantage of the opportunity to catch up with Medical Services Organisation (MSO) whilst in transit, via Johannesburg.

Swimming Pool

It was reported that the Swimming Pool had been reopened to the public and would be closely monitored by the Environmental Health Section. Committee agreed this was extremely pleasing to note.

First Responders Training Centre

The DoH advised that the AG's Chambers was in the process of liaising with South Africa on composition of a formal Contract. The Centre would not be deemed 'accredited' until the relevant contract is in place.

28.10 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 11:05hrs.

Signed: _____



Date: _____

5 Feb 2020