

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE MEETING (OPEN SESSION) HELD AT 09:00HRS ON WEDNESDAY, 7 OCTOBER 2020, IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE HEALTH DIRECTORATE

Present:	Hon. Derek Thomas	Chairman	
	Hon. Anthony Green	Member	
	Hon. Russell Yon	"	
	Hon. Jeffrey Ellick	"	
	Dr. Roland Fasol	Chief Medical Officer/Interim Director	
	Miss. Janet Lawrence	Interim Director of Health	
	Mrs. Helen Lawrence	Deputy Director of Health	
	Mrs. Peta M Henry	Secretary	
Apologies:	Hon. Brian Isaac	Deputy Chairman (offshore)	
Invited:	Mr. Kevin Ryder	Community Psychiatric Nurse	(item 36.03)
	Mr. Geoffrey Day	Locum Lab. Mgr/Snr. Bio. Sci.	(item 36.03)
	Mr. Abraha Amanuel	Locum Snr. Food Microbiologist	(item 36.03)
	Mr. John Woollacott	Pharmacist	(item 36.03)
	Miss. Kate Heneghan	HP & Social Marketing Lead	(item 36.06)

OPEN AGENDA

36.01 Welcome & Apologies

The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming all present. A special welcome was extended to Dr Roland Fasol, newly appointed Chief Medical Officer/Interim Director of Health. The Chairman advised that it was extremely good to have been able to recruit Dr Roland at such short notice; the Committee looked forward to working with him. Apologies were extended on behalf of Cllr Brian Isaac.

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

36.02 Declaration(s) of Interest

There were no 'declarations of interest'.

36.03 Introduction(s) to New Staff

Dr Roland Fasol (Chief Medical Officer/Interim Director of Health)

Dr Roland was introduced to Committee and vice versa. In an extensive overview of his background, it was noted that Dr Roland was a qualified Cardiac Surgeon with 20+ years' experience as a Medical Director. He had also been involved in a number of set-up projects throughout his career, which included a Cardiac Centre in Papua New Guinea. Following much discussion, Dr Roland was thanked for an informative overview of his background. The Chairman advised that with a wealth of experience it was anticipated Dr Roland would add much value and develop the health service in St Helena; and looked forward to working with him for the duration of his six-month contract.

Mr Kevin Ryder (Community Psychiatric Nurse)

Mr Ryder was welcomed. Following an introduction to Committee, Mr Ryder informed Committee that he had been a qualified Mental Health Worker for 40+ years, had worked as a Coast Guard, on the Falkland Islands and with the Ministry of Defence (MoD) in the UK. He confirmed having managed both GP Practicing Surgeries and Dispensing/Pharmacy services. An overview of his role in St Helena, generated much discussion. Mr Ryder was thereafter wished well in his role, thanked for his attendance and left the meeting at 09:20hrs.

Mr. Geoffrey Day (Locum Laboratory Manager/Senior Biomedical Scientist)

Mr Day was welcomed to the meeting. Committee noted that he had been employed as a Locum by SHG on previous occasions and in light of this, had met Mr Day already. Mr Day gave an overview of his work experiences since his last employment in St Helena and advised that the duration of his current contract would coincide with return of the substantive Senior Biomedical Scientist, from overseas. Mr Day was wished well in his role and left the meeting at 09:25hrs.

Mr. Abraha Amanuel (Locum Senior Food Microbiologist)

Following an introduction to Committee, Mr Amanuel gave an overview of his background. He confirmed having studied for his Masters in Microbiology & Infection at the University of Birmingham; and was employment in St Helena on a six-month fixed term contract. On behalf of Committee Mr Amanuel was wished well, thanked for his attendance and left the meeting at 09:30hrs.

Mr. John Woollacott (Pharmacist)

Mr Woollacott was welcomed to the meeting. It was noted that he had been employed by SHG on a previous occasion and in light of this, had met members of the Committee albeit in different roles at the time. Mr Woollacott informed Committee that he was extremely pleased to have had an opportunity to return to St Helena, following a period of employment on the Falklands Islands. In an update on the Pharmacy, he advised that there had been a number of challenges associated with stock control. Workload within the Pharmacy had also increased with +/- 10,000 items being dispensed on a monthly basis. Mr Woollacott further explained that these issues were compounded by the fact that staff levels within the Pharmacy were well below that as recommended by UK standards. The need for an additional Dispenser was therefore considered important. Following much discussion, Mr Woollacott was thanked for his attendance left the meeting at 09:55hrs.

36.04 Confirmation of Minutes

Minutes of the 'open' session of the Public Health Committee meeting held on Wednesday, 16 September 2020, were confirmed and signed.

**36.05 Matters Arising
Health & Safety**

It was noted that the Health & Safety Working Group had been reinstated and had met during the previous week.

Primary Care Facility (Sundale)

The Chairman advised that a discussion with HE had highlighted problems within the Island's social care facilities, relating specifically to the demand for space. A meeting with both the Health and Children & Adults Social Care Directorates had therefore been considered necessary to determine what could be introduced as a short-term measure. The Chairman advised that Dr Roland's experience would almost certainly benefit this discussion.

National Health Insurance Scheme

It was confirmed that this was being progressed.

Proposed Amendment to Mental Health & Mental Capacity Ordinance

Cllr Green advised that a meeting with the AG's Chambers had been agreed. He undertook to provide an update on the outcome at the next PHC meeting.

Update - Visiting Delegation from Mauritius

The Chairman gave an overview of the background of discussion(s) with the Government of Mauritius, for the benefit of the CMO/IDoH. He advised, however, that an agreed MoU had not been able to be progressed due to the outbreak of Covid-19. In light of this, it was anticipated discussion(s) would resume following return to a state of normality.

Medical Referrals Data

The IDoH undertook to follow this up, with a view to presenting an information paper in due course.

Action: IDoH

Psychiatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU)

The Chairman advised that work in relation to the PICU was progressing well.

Medical Fees & Charges

Committee's decision for relevant changes to take retrospective effect from 1 September 2020, was noted.

Drivers Licence for Over 70's

Committee agreed feedback from the SMO would be deferred to the PHC meeting to be held in November 2020.

Action: SMO

36.06 Tobacco Control Legislation (Registered Dealers)

The HP&SML was welcomed to the meeting. She gave an overview of progress to date and advised that all efforts were being made for implementation at 1 January 2020, as agreed. In discussing this, she informed Committee that a meeting for holders of Liquor Licences would be hosted by the Police Directorate shortly; and would be used as an opportunity to give an update on Tobacco Control and essentially what this would mean for dealers, moving forward. The HP&SML undertook to obtain a date for this meeting to ensure there was adequate publicity. She was thereafter thanked for the work she had done in progressing the Tobacco Control Legislation/Regulations and left the meeting at 11:00hrs.

Action: HP&SML

36.07 Chairman's Update

The Chairman advised that there was nothing significant to report in addition to agenda items already discussed.

36.08 Director's Update

The IDoH commented on the recent Health Promotion award and advised that the HP&SML and her team were to be commended on this achievement. She informed Committee that there had been a number of challenges at the hospital during the past three-week period due specifically to an increase in patient/case numbers. It was therefore considered advantageous to have additional staff in post, recruited as part of the Islands Covid-19 preparedness. In discussing this, the IDoH commented on her remit to undertake a gap analysis on Covid-19 resources, which had highlighted the need for a Covid-19 Coordinator. She explained that this position would be funded from finances allocated specifically to Covid-19, for a six-month period in the first instance; as this resource might not be one that would be required in the long-term.

The IDoH informed Committee that it had been extremely good to have the CMO/IDoH in place with a medical background such as his. She commented on the Health Directorate as a whole, the teamwork that existed and the good work that had been done; and the fact that there remained still much to be done, moving forward. It was also noted that the SMO had become an 'advisor' within the new command structure for SHG.

36.09 Any Other Urgent Business Spectacles

A member sought confirmation as to whether spectacles had arrived on the last voyage of the MV Helena or Charter Flight. Committee was informed that whilst a consignment of spectacles had been expected, these had not arrived due to a number of packages having been bumped. Irrespective of this, however, the Secretary was asked to liaise with the Optician on whether or not the waiting period for arrival of spectacles could be reduced, moving forward.

Action: Secretary

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: _____



Date: _____

4 Nov 2020