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Poster Exhibition

Track E - Leadership and Advocacy

MOPE0965 - Initiative to support community participation towards development of a comprehensive HIV strategy in Hong Kong

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Issues: A community assessment and evaluation (CAE) exercise was designed to support community participation towards the development of a comprehensive HIV strategy.

Description: CAE was one of the 5 key processes towards development of a new 5-year strategy document by the Hong Kong Advisory Council on AIDS (ACA). A structured framework was used: pooling frontline workers, community leaders and experts to form working groups (WG) for various community groups; adopting a common assessment approach and identifying and prioritizing themes. The common assessment approach comprised reviewing epidemiological situation; examining current response/service; reviewing relevant overseas guidelines or recommendations; and developing locally relevant recommendations.

Lessons learned: Seven WGs were formed focusing on commercial sex workers and clients, injecting drug users, men who have sex with men (MSM), women and children, at-risk youths, cross-border travellers and people living with HIV/AIDS. Over 80 community members from about 40 agencies have participated. Using different methods including questionnaire surveys, focus groups and correspondence, 7 WG reports were completed in 28 WG meetings over a 9-month period. Findings and recommendations were communicated to concerned agencies for consideration. The community assessment exercise facilitated the drawing up of the Special Project Fund by the Council for AIDS Trust Fund to support HIV prevention activities in MSM. The findings of the community assessment group were incorporated in the ACA's "Recommended HIV/AIDS strategies for Hong Kong 2007-2011."

Next steps: CAE framework is practical for drawing input from all stakeholders for development of an overarching HIV strategy. This community-based process has served to forge partnership, facilitate communication and build capacity. Presenting author email: rlmho@dhspp.net