



Commonwealth Association for Health and Disability
Commonwealth Association for Paediatric Gastroenterology and Nutrition
Commonwealth Dental Association
Commonwealth HIV and AIDS Action Group
Commonwealth Medical Association
Commonwealth Nurses and Midwives Federation
Commonwealth Pharmacists Association

Sunday 21 May 2017 11:30 hours Starling Hotel Geneva

MEETING MINUTES

Attendance: Anton Ofield-Kerr (AOK, Commonwealth HIV and AIDS Action Group), Tony Nelson (TN, Commonwealth Association for Paediatric Gastroenterology and Nutrition), Jill Iliffe (JI, Commonwealth Nurses and Midwives Federation), Victoria Rutter (VR, Commonwealth Pharmacists Association), Raymond Anderson (RA, Commonwealth Pharmacists Association), Vajira Dissanayake (VD, Commonwealth Medical Association), Sundaram Arulraj (SA, Commonwealth Medical Association), Sam Lingham (SL, Commonwealth Association for Health and Disability), Kathleen McCourt (KM, Commonwealth Nurses and Midwives Federation), Anoop Singh (AS, Commonwealth Institute for Infrastructure Development), Greg Munro (GM, Commonwealth Local Government Forum)

1. Minutes of last meeting dated 21 May 2016 confirmed without amendment.
2. Results of election of Office bearers for period JAN 2017 - DEC 2018 reported:

Chairperson:	Solaiman Juman
Deputy Chairperson:	Anton Ofield-Kerr
Secretary:	Tony Nelson
Treasurer:	Jill Iliffe
3. Noted there have been substantial changes to the Health and Education Section at Commonwealth Secretariat with drastic budget cuts and reduction of staff. Currently there is only one full time Health Advisor. A letter of concern was sent by JI to High Commissioners on behalf of the CHPA but no feedback has been received. Similar correspondence was sent to High Commissioners by Commonwealth accredited education organisations. It is not clear what the changes means in terms of future Commonwealth Health Ministers Meetings (CHMM) or the Commonwealth Advisory Committee on Health (CACH). It is possible that CHMM (and consequently CACH) may continue but these may be managed by a separate section within the Secretariat. However if there are no further CHMM, then CHPA will need to review its role. It was suggested that one role could be a greater involvement in the Peoples Forum held during the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting (CHOGM) / Commonwealth Summit. The next CHOGM and CPF will be in the London in April 2018. It was suggested that CHPA could lobby through the Secretariat to have a UHC goal/target as priority topic at CHOGM. A key focal point is Tim Hitchens (ex ambassador to Japan). Suggest that AOK, VR and GM meet in London to see what opportunities there are for the inclusion of UHC on the CHOGM agenda.

Post meeting note: Commonwealth Secretariat has confirmed that a Commonwealth Health Ministers Meeting is planned for 2018

4. The CACH report for JUL 2016 - JUN 2017 was presented at CHMM and will be circulated to CHPA members. Anton Ofield-Kerr was elected as the CHPA representative on CACH for the next twelve months.
5. The rotation chart for Civil Society representation on CACH allocates a position for the Commonwealth Dental Association (CDA) for the period JUL 2017 - JUN 2018. However since CDA is currently inactive the Commonwealth Medical Association was advanced in the rotation and Vajira Dissanayake was proposed as the CACH representative for CMA.
6. JI reported that, as agreed at AGM in 2016, no subscriptions from CHPA members would be sought since costs are currently covered by the overhead allocated in the budget for the Commonwealth Civil Society Forum.

Potential new members were discussed. It was agreed that AOK would approach Sight Savers to assess their interest. Other potential members are Sound Seekers and COMMAT. GM inquired if the Commonwealth Local Government Forum could be a potential member. JI will check the constitution to see if this possible however the CHPA constitution does specific Commonwealth health accredited organisations and it would need to be determined whether CLGF has a sufficient health focus to qualify despite the obvious synergies.

7. The Commonwealth Civil Society Forum 2017 was reviewed and assessed to have been successful in terms of format, content and attendance. It was noted that the Commonwealth Foundation had controlled the process this year by establishing a Working Group involving CHPA, Third World Network and the International Community of Women Living with HIV Eastern Africa. McKinsey and Company who have supported previous events were not involved this year. It was noted that it was difficult at times to reach consensus between the groups however a positive aspect was the apparent increased involvement and support from the Commonwealth Secretariat that was likely the result of the increased involvement of the Commonwealth Foundation.
8. In terms of plans for a Commonwealth Civil Society Forum in 2018, it will be necessary to see whether there will be a CHMM in 2018. If yes, it is likely that the organisation and working arrangement of the Forum would be similar to those of the CCSF 2017. However it will be important to be firm about CHPA's role. It will be necessary to identify partners and have clear plan at an early stage so as to work effectively with the Commonwealth Foundation and Commonwealth Health Ministers.

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9. There was brief discussion of other potential CHPA activities such as what role can the Commonwealth Secretariat play to support Commonwealth countries deliver on the SDG commitments; the use of new treatment options for eradicating viral hepatitis in the Commonwealth; how to ensure that equitable access to health is a priority focus for the next CHOGM; anti-Microbial Resistance; CPD resources across the Commonwealth; The Colombo Declaration; and how CHPA member associations can partner with the CMA on digital health activities. It was agreed that capacity of CHPA was limited and such activities would need to be led by the respective organisation. There is a need for a formal mechanism by which "CHPA support" could be given to any such activities. It was agreed that funding models of UHC had been a successful focus of CHPA and that this should be followed up with a formal letter to the Secretary General suggesting a Commonwealth Task Force to assess best practices of UHC in the Commonwealth.
10. AOB. JI asked members whether they are submitting their Annual Returns of accredited Commonwealth organisation to the Commonwealth Secretariat. As there was some uncertainty, JI will circulate the information to CHPA members and follow-up with the Commonwealth Secretariat.
11. AOB. The CMA circulated information about their forthcoming conference and encouraged CHPA members to consider attending and participating.