

Consensus on Integrated Child Health – from Hospital to Community

Executive Summary

Nowadays, with modern medical advances, many children survive from complex medical conditions and live with chronic illnesses extending into adulthood. It is the common goal of all healthcare modalities to provide the best quality care to these children and their families. The focus is no longer on treatment only but more and more demand have put on long term rehabilitation, service satisfaction, cost effectiveness, support to care takers and the quality of life of children in needs. The first Children’s Hospital in Hong Kong will commence into service in 2018 to provide tertiary to quaternary care to children with medical complexities. In addition to the service commitment, it also takes up the tasks on training, research and integration with the community.

The Hong Kong Paediatric Society (HKPS) and the Hong Kong Paediatric Foundation (HKPF) have jointly organized the meeting themed **“Consensus on Integrated Child Health – from Hospital to Community”** with the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) at the Mira Hong Kong, on 7-8 Nov 2015 in the presence of renowned world speakers Dr. Jane FOY and Dr. Thomas KLITZNER representing AAP, Dr. Zulkifli ISMAIL, President of Asia Pacific Pediatric Association (APPA) and Professor SHEN Kun Ling, President of the Chinese Pediatric Society (CPS) to share with us on the concepts of “Medical Home” and “Integrated Care”, with the objective to bridge up the gap in child healthcare between hospital and community so as to provide child-centered, user-friendly, family-focused, seamless (among medical, social and education sectors), favourable ecology (family, school, playground and community) as well as comprehensive healthcare to the children with medical complexities we serve.

The meeting was well attended by more than 300 local delegates with wide representation from healthcare professionals including paediatricians, nurses and allied health professionals and service providers, policy-makers, politicians, educators, community partners, parent groups and all those interested in child health. Through the two-days meeting, we have assembled, discussed, shared and exchanged experiences and knowledge converged onto good consensus on integrated and coordinated quality care on child health from hospital to community.

“Hospital” here not specifically limits to the Hong Kong Children’s Hospital but cited in a more broad sense to include ALL hospital settings with paediatric departments in the public system (under the Hospital Authority of Hong Kong) as well as those under the private sector. Interfacing between hospital and community care, between the public and private is the gold standard for child healthcare in Hong Kong and should be safeguarded at all times. The integration should be seamless, effective and bi-directional to allow patients and families smoothly transit from different phases of the life cycle into another without interruption, duplication and omission in the growth and development of our beloved children. Case managers and community nursing care are essential to ensure attainment of these targets.



Patient health passport (individualized electronic medical record) summarizing all the medical conditions, treatments and medications should go with the patient wherever he/she goes.

Both local and international experts and delegates concluded unanimously on the urgent need of formulating a comprehensive Child Health Policy to realize Integrated Child Health and establishing a Children's Commission under a powerful Children's Commissioner so as to supervise, implement, evaluate, and monitor the progress currently and for surveillance in the future addressing their physical, mental, social, behavioural and spiritual well-beings proactively and providing with a fertile and safe environment for them to grow and develop to reach their highest potentials in life.

Children make up 20% of our population but represent 100% of our future! Integrated Child Health is essential for their attainment of highest potential in life. We need a joint powerful voice for our Children to achieve the IPA (International Pediatric Association) target objective of safeguarding *“Child Survival, Child Health and Child Development”*; *“Healthy Children for Healthy World”*; and *“One Child , One Dream”*. This should be common goals for all healthcare professionals to strive for the health and advocacy of the children we care!

Appendix – Snapshots of the Consensus Meeting on 7-8 Nov 2015



The Consensus on Integrated Child Health was officiated by international guests (from left to right), Prof. SHEN Kun Ling (President of Chinese Pediatric Society), Dr. Zulkifi ISMAIL (President of Asia Pacific Pediatric Association), Dr. Jane FOY (Board Director of American Academy of Pediatrics) and Dr. Thomas Klitzner (Founder and Executive Director of the Pediatric Medical Home Program at UCLA) accompanied by Dr. Lilian WONG (President of the Hong Kong Paediatric Society), Dr. CHAN Chok Wan (Board Chairman of the Hong Kong Paediatric Foundation).



Round-table discussion with renowned guest speakers, local paediatricians, child health leaders, administrators and politicians.



The guests and participants were listening to the “Voice of Children” articulating their wishes and needs at the “Policy” Night which was dedicated to the launching of the first “Proposal on Child Health Policy for Hong Kong”.



All the guest and delegates including paediatricians, nurses, allied health professionals, educators, policy-makers, politicians, community partners and parent groups gave their blessing to Hong Kong and supported the development of integrated and coordinated child health from hospital to community in Hong Kong.