



"CHOW Chun-bong"

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cc "Dr. CB Chow"

bcc

13/06/2008 10:02

Please respond to "CHOW Chun-bong"

Subject Your Health Your Life - comments

Urgent

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Dear Sir,

While Government should be congratulated in putting up a strong voice that Health Care Services are for improving HEALTH and LIVELIHOOD of the people of Hong Kong but it failed to address how. The main emphasis is on in-sustainability of the present system if allowed to continue but NOT on the achievement of the present system in maintaining sense of security, equity, enhanced health and hence productivity etc etc. As usual there is little information over arching policy AIMS or OBJECTIVES of the reform e.g. improve health for all, equity etc except for financial sustainability.

It also failed to address the needs of the vulnerable groups especially **CHILDREN**, elderly and those with chronic illness especially mental problems. By introducing the insurance system the existing problems in child health services will be even more exaggerated:-

- YPI Services are fragmented and poorly coordinated
- YPI Support is poorly targeted
- YPI Support often not catered for the true needs – needs assessment poorly coordinated
- YPI Support often comes too late to make significant improvement and
- YPI Services for most vulnerable children are stigmatized
- YPI Mainly remedial rather than preventive or protective and building on strength of families
- YPI Training to front-line staff inadequate
- YPI Lack definition of good practice and evaluation
- YPI Lack of accountability, good management and strong leadership
- YPI Some children and families are not getting the help they need when they need it
- YPI Some children are not adequately protected
- YPI The needs of children often lose out to the needs of the system or adults
- YPI Piecemeal approach to incorporating the provision of Convention of Right of the Child into law
- YPI Inability to specify what resources are spent on children with what outcome

It would thus a dire need to ensure that the Financial Reform will not be counter productive but should be conducive to

1. Ensure equity, equal access and not discriminated against in services received
2. Improved coordination along care path and life course
3. Preventive services and health promotion are ensured of high quality, relevant,

appropriate and timely

4. Training, research and development are keys to services rather than just good to have

As one likes it or not, financial return is still one important incentives!

Service in Hong Kong will need

- More radical approach rather than incremental process
- We need an overarching aim, which is both visionary and relevant for all agencies and enable each organization and professionals to understand their contribution to achieve the shared vision rather than a separated role and responsibility.
- We need a continuum of responsibilities from all agencies to promote health and prevent diseases and manage disorders. All services have a contribution to make a child and adolescent healthy along this continuum of promotion, prevention and care and no one agency has a monopoly on helping children and youths to achieve good health.
- Need strong leadership to ensure implementation of strategy

Joint Future for HEALTH AND OPTIMAL DEVELOPMENT OF CHILDREN

- To develop a whole child approach and children are being seen in the context of their families and wider social cultural and/or spiritual grouping
 - Focus on needs of children and their families - determine what children need rather than reacting to their problems
 - Cross-sectoral approach – services integrated across education, social care, health and youth justice
 - Clear accountability at all levels
- Contain a clearer shared vision for integrated working to create a framework of broad support
- Set out core responsibilities of each of the key partners and how they should contribute to the larger shared vision
- Describe models of integrated/joined-up working
- Explicitly set out a framework of activity to support implementation
- Set timescales for agencies to put joint structure in place
- Establish a network of local champions to drive the agenda forward
- Emphasize the contribution of voluntary organizations

Government structure

- Establishment of central structure within Government that ensures that children's interests are routinely considered and protected – Commissioner for Children
- Development of a comprehensive policy for children that cuts across traditional sectors boundaries to include education, health, development, social support, housing etc
- To establish an independent “Children's Media Group” to be pro-active on media issues impacting on children
- Establish an organization that will continuously monitor the impact of Government policies on children
- Annual reporting on the state of children using a range of indicators backed by an active programme of research and data collection.
- Collaboration at local level to develop plans and strategies ensure a healthy

- Collaboration at local level to develop plans and strategies ensure a healthy community for children

WHILE THIS MAY NOT BE THE KEY TO THIS CONSULTATION PAPER BUT HEALTH CARE FINANCE REFORM MUST, BESIDES GETTING MORE MONEY, BE ABLE TO ENABLE SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT RATHER THAN MAKING THE SYSTEM MORE COMPLICATED AND NOT IN LINE WITH VALUE OF SOCIETY, PROFESSIONALS AND THOSE RECEIVING THE SERVICE.

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