



THE INFORMER



Volume 3, Issue 2

A MOTHER AND CHILD IS THE REASON WE EXIST

March 2014

WHPHA

A monthly newsletter of the Western Highlands Provincial Health Authority

WHPHA 2013 ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REVIEW

Health facilities in the Western Highlands Province have been told under no uncertain terms to start implementing their planned programs as of April this year.

Chief Executive Officer of the Western Highlands Provincial Health Authority (WHPHA), Dr. James Kintwa said the planning and monitoring function of the WHPHA had not been performing to expectation due to lack of adequate manpower, resulting in many of the plans not being implemented and effectively monitored.

The Chief Executive Officer said this when officially opening the Western Highlands Provincial Health Authority's 2013 Annual Performance Review Workshop at Hotel Kimininga in Mt Hagen

The week-long workshop which started on 31st March and ended on 4th April was the first of two performance review workshops to be held this year. The other is to be held towards the end of the year.

Last week's workshop was attended by more than 30 participants including members of the Executive Management Team, Program Managers, Sectional Heads, District Health Officers, facility OICs, Sisters-In-Charge, Church Health Secretaries, NGO partners and others involved in the management and delivery of health services in the province.

Outlining programs for this year, Dr. Kintwa said the priority area which the WHPHA Board of Governance had approved for implementation was the Healthy Lifestyle



Senior staff of the WHPHA as well as Church Health Secretaries and NGOs in attendance at the 2013 Annual Performance Review workshop at Hotel Kimininga in Mt Hagen.

Project which included health-promoting school, healthy village, healthy lifestyle, health promotion and disease prevention.

He said these programs must be carried out as part of WHPHA's health promotion activities to educate people and children to be change agents for health in the families and communities and for people to be responsible for their own health and live healthy lives.

Dr. Kintwa said another area was the water supply project to have water connected to all the rural health facilities, particularly for birthing facilities to allow mothers to deliver in health facilities and reduce the maternal, mortality and morbidity rates as reflected in WHPHA's motto of "no mother or child should die during pregnancy, childbirth or the post partum period".

He said medical equipment had also been procured and delivered to all rural health facilities to ensure necessary services were provided, adding that if any facilities had not received theirs, they should contact the Deputy Director Curative Health Services (Districts), Dr. Madison Dat to pick up theirs.

Routine immunization is another area which the CEO is concerned about and wants all facilities to organize themselves and carry out these programs on a regular basis as routine activities to produce the results instead of waiting for supplementary

immunization activities.

He told his senior staff that the WHPHA has started the facility based budgeting and funding this year and managers had a big responsibility of managing their own funds at the district and facility level and must be accountable for how they spent the money.

Dr. Kintwa also told participants that the Government's Free Primary Health Care Policy had been implemented in the province as of mid-March and all facilities including those run by churches should by now be providing free health care to all.

The funding that has been given by the Government would be dispersed to all the facilities including church-run facilities, he said.

On infrastructure development, the CEO said work on the new Kotna District Hospital would start in April with Tambul District Hospital starting in June and Togoba, Tinsley and Lumusa to be next to have their infrastructure built.

He said Kagamuga Health Centre would soon be built with funding from Australian Aid and work on the redevelopment of Mt Hagen Hospital should commence in October this year.

Dr. Kintwa concluded by encouraging staff to serve the people from their hearts as if clients coming to see them were their own parents, children or relatives.

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Improving service delivery to rural constituents



Dr. James Kintwa

We have set out on a course to improve service delivery to our rural population this year and I'd like us to commit ourselves to doing this.

Our core business is patient care and as such we must help our people whenever they need us in terms of treatment.

We must also remember that "prevention is better than cure" and I would like us to take it upon ourselves to encourage and promote healthy lifestyles in villages and communities so that there are less health problems to deal with.

With the introduction and implementation of the Government's Free Primary Health Care Policy, we can now expect more patients to visit our rural facilities than ever before. This is why promotion of healthy lifestyle is very important to help reduce health issues.

Our Board of Governance has approved the implementation of the Healthy Lifestyle Project which includes programs such as health-promoting school, healthy village, healthy market, healthy lifestyle and health promotion and disease prevention.

These programs are nationally-driven by the National Department of Health in collaboration with the World Health Organization to encourage everyone to live healthy lives.

In Western Highlands, the health-promoting school program is being encouraged province-wide to enable schools to think health and

promote healthy lifestyles. This is a nationally-driven program by the Departments of Education and Health in collaboration with the World Health Organization. The Australian Department of Foreign Affairs (DFAT) has also made available K140,000 for this program which should be utilized fully to gain maximum benefit.

We have established dialogue with the senior management of the Division of Education in our province to help us implement this program in all schools and the response is overwhelming.

We would also like to encourage homes/villages to keep their environments clean and healthy for healthy living. To do this we will need the support of Local Level Government Council Presidents to encourage their people to live healthy lives.

I would like to see these and other programs carried out as part of our health promotion activities to educate our people and children to be change agents for health in the families and communities and for people to be responsible for their own health.

Routine immunization is another area which I am very much concerned about. I want all facilities to carry out these programs on a regular basis as routine activities to produce the results instead of waiting for supplementary immunization activities. We must ensure that we practice 'opportunistic immunization' whenever we can.

We have renovated most of our rural health facilities and stocked them with basic drugs and equipment and I expect staff in those facilities to be at your respective places and serve our people.

Medical equipment has been procured and

delivered to all these facilities recently but if any of the facilities have not received theirs, they should contact the Deputy Director Curative Health Services (Districts), Dr. Madison Dat to pick up theirs.

This year I want to challenge all our facilities to set their own key targets and indicators to achieve based on the population of the area they cover and not on assumptions. I want you to sign an agreement and say at this facility we will do such and such to achieve these performance targets.

The achievement of these targets or lack of it will determine your performance during the year. You will be held accountable for the final results of your performance targets so I suggest you commit yourselves fully to your jobs and achieve positive results and improve our indicators.

Finally, we had lost a number of our staff in the last twelve months either through death, transfer or resignation. This had impacted greatly on our service delivery to our people, particularly patient care at Mt Hagen Hospital.

With the shortage of staff, those available have been very stressed out but we have been able to recruit some new doctors, nurses and CHWs and this has taken some pressure off them.

I welcome all our new staff to the Western Highlands Provincial Health Authority and wish you all success in your respective areas of responsibility and remember, our core business is "patient care". I want to encourage you all to treat everyone with love and care as you would to your parents, children, spouses and relatives.

Dr. James Kintwa AFCHSM
Chief Executive Officer

Implementation of Free Health Services in Western Highlands

The people of Western Highlands should by now be receiving free primary health care services when visiting respective health facilities in the province.

The Western Highlands Provincial Health Authority (WHPHA) through a circular to all health facilities in the province on 17th March 2014 instructed that effective immediately, the government's Free Health Care Policy be implemented.

Chief Executive Officer of the WHPHA, Dr. James Kintwa told a news conference recently that the Government had issued a directive for primary health care services to be provided free of charge throughout the country and as a government agency, the WHPHA was required to implement it.

Dr. Kintwa said the government had made available funds to all health agencies in the country last year to implement this policy and the WHPHA was now using it to provide free treatment for primary health services such as coughs, headaches, fever etc.

He said however that not all services would be free, adding that patients would still pay for advanced tertiary services such as surgical operations at subsidized costs of between 50 to 75 per cent.

"Services in our rural health facilities are now free. There should be no fees charged at all but if patients are still paying, they should report that to me by calling my executive officer on telephone number 73018397", he said.

Dr. Kintwa said the WHPHA had made available funds for all rural health facilities in the province to implement the free health policy and there should be no fees charged at all by any facility.

He also said that whilst it may be good to provide free health service, it does not make people feel responsible for their health and do not appreciate it.

"When you pay for your health you appreciate it



Chief Executive Officer of WHPHA, Dr. James Kintwa announcing the implementation of the Free Health Care Policy during a press conference.

and when you don't pay, you do not appreciate it. People must be responsible for their own health and should pay.

"When they know that it will cost them something to keep themselves healthy, they will look after themselves and avoid getting sick. We must all share the responsibility for our health as nothing is free", Dr. Kintwa said adding that there was always a cost involved in everything.

HAGEN CENTRAL FAMILY HEALTH SERVICES RECEIVES NEW VEHICLE



Above - Mt Hagen Family Health Services and other WHPHA staff gathered to witness the handing over of the new vehicle. Below right - The new 10-seater Toyota Landcruiser vehicle.

Mt Hagen Urban Clinic's Family Health Services will now be able to reach out to more schools and communities to carry out its outreach programs.

This follows the purchase of a brand new Toyota Landcruiser 10-seater vehicle by the Western Highlands Provincial Health Authority (WHPHA) to assist the clinic carry out its programs.

In the past, maternal and child health clinics had been limited to the clinic only and school health outreach programs could not be carried

out frequently as there was no vehicle.

According to the management of WHPHA, the clinic contributed more to the health indicators in Western Highlands Province and the use of the vehicle would further enhance it.

The Sister-In-Charge of Family Health Services in

Hagen Central, Sr. Doris Kaiwa said the purchase of this vehicle was long overdue and she was happy her team would now be able to reach out to more schools, villages and communities.

She said most of the routine immunization programs had been carried out within Mt Hagen City, resulting in many children in nearby villages not being immunized and her team would now start visiting these places on a daily basis.

Chief Executive Officer of WHPHA, Dr. James Kintwa when handing over the vehicle to the clinic said this was an occasion for children and mothers with whom all the resources of the WHPHA were directed towards and what was happening was important.

He urged his staff to forget about carrying out the Supplementary Immunization Activity (SIA) and concentrate more on the routine immunization activities because it defeated the whole purpose of the latter and made staff lazy.

Dr. Kintwa said all vehicles must be used to the fullest to carry out these routine activities, adding that if a program could not be carried out because of lack of transport, his official vehicle was available.

He said the fleet manager was responsible for all WHPHA vehicles and all requests for transport should be made to his office for allocation of vehicles for specific programs to be carried out.



DAEWON TRADING DONATES TO WHPHA



Dr. James Kintwa (right) receiving the cheque of more than K87,500 from the owner of Daewon Trading, Mr. Danny Kang.

Daewon Trading, a major wholesale grocery company operating in Mt Hagen has donated a total of K87,579 to the Western Highlands Provincial Health Authority (WHPHA) to purchase much needed medical equipment for patient care.

Owner and Managing Director, Mr. Danny Kang presented the money to the Chief Executive Officer of WHPHA, Dr. James Kintwa during a brief ceremony at the CEO's office recently.

Mr. Kang said Daewon has been operating in Mt Hagen for many years and he felt obliged to give to an organization such as the Western Highlands Provincial Health Authority where more people would benefit from

Dr. Kintwa said when accepting the donation that the WHPHA could not buy some things it wanted to buy due to lack of funds and Daewon's assistance would greatly help meet some of these needs.

He said Daewon Trading has been providing similar assistance to the WHPHA in the past but this was the biggest donation ever and it would be used to procure much needed bio-chemistry analysers for Mt Hagen Hospital.

The analysers would include one for investigation and management of diabetic patients, another, a coagulation analyser to test functions of blood and the last one, a blood gas analyser to be used in the Intensive Care Unit.

Dr. Kintwa said these analysers would help the hospital to manage critically ill patients and give them appropriate attention and treatment. They would cost in excess of K87,500 to purchase.

Dr. Kintwa said Mt Hagen was a referral hospital for the Highlands region and the analysers would also benefit patients from the neighbouring provinces. He hoped other individuals or organizations would help as well.

Ulga Primary School to be venue for launching of School Health Program

St Mary's Ulga Primary School in the Nebilyer area of Western Highlands will be the school in the province to have a province-wide health-promoting school program launched.

The program is aimed at encouraging all schools in the province to think health and promote healthy lifestyles. It is nationally-driven by the Departments of Education and Health in collaboration with the World Health Organization to encourage everyone to live healthy lives.

The program which has been endorsed by the Western Highlands Provincial Health Authority Board of Governance is part of the Healthy Island concept and also includes healthy home/village, healthy market and healthy workplace.

Western Highlands Provincial Health Authority Chief Executive Officer, Dr. James Kintwa announced that the launching of the school health program would take place at Ulga Primary School when accepting vegetables donated by the school recently to feed in-patients at Mt Hagen Hospital.

Staff from the WHPHA would spend time at the Ulga Primary School to assess on set criterias and help the school meet all the healthy school criterias before it is recognized formally as a healthy school during the launching of this province-wide Health-promoting School program.

The students and teachers gathered garden produce such as kaukau, bananas, pineapples, cabbages, onions and other vegetables to donate to Mt Hagen Hospital. In return for free treatment for the children.

Headmaster, Mr. James Lyando said the idea was to have an arrangement in place between his school and the hospital, similar to the ones currently in place between certain city schools and the hospital for children to show their identification cards and receive prepaid treatment.



Dr. James Kintwa addressing the children and teachers with the donated food in front.

Dr. Kintwa said such arrangement was no longer necessary as the Government's Free Primary Health Care Policy had been implemented in the province as of March, meaning all rural health facilities including church-run facilities would now provide free treatment to everyone.

He said however that not all health services would be free, adding that people would still pay some fees for secondary health services provided in hospitals such as advanced surgery but at a reduced cost.

Dr. Kintwa said all health facilities such as aid-posts, community health posts, health sub-centres and health centres including church-run facilities should by now be treating people free of charge as directed by the government. He said if any facility was not doing so, his office should be notified on telephone number 73018397 so that this facility would be asked to explain.

"You are close to Togoba Health Centre so go there for treatment unless you are referred to Mt Hagen Hospital for specialist treatment. Mt Hagen is now a regional referral hospital for the Highlands region and if you go there without being referred, you will be sent back to Togoba."

"I am honoured to come to your school and talk to you about health today. You children can be change agents for health in your families and communities and I want you to say to yourselves that one day you could become a doctor like me or an accountant or engineer so have high goals and work hard in your study to achieve these dreams", he said.

Dr. Kintwa thanked the teachers and children for donating the food to the Hospital and announced that Ulga Primary School would be the school to have the province-wide health-promoting school program launched when it kicks off in the coming weeks.

DEI DISTRICT HEALTH OFFICER DIES

District Health Officer (DHO) for Dei, Saiglon Wimp passed away in late March after a short illness.

Late Saiglon was admitted to the Intensive Care Unit of Mt Hagen Hospital after complaining of abdominal pain but died a few days later. Doctors tried desperately to resuscitate him but without success.

He was an experienced Nursing Officer, serving in various health facilities in the Western Highlands and other provinces for 30 years before succumbing to his death. He spent the last seven years of his career as DHO for Dei.

Late Saiglon who was from Maip village in Hagen Central District is survived by his wife Melcy Maria and children Sharoney, Stanley, Loreen and Shelwtney.

His death is a big blow to the Western Highlands Provincial Health Authority (WHPHA) which had only two months earlier lost another senior officer in late Daniel Seri and five others in the last year and a half.

The late Saiglon's body after arriving back from the funeral home in Goroka was taken to Dei District where a funeral service was held at the Kotna Health Centre for his colleagues to pay their last respects before it was delivered to his family for burial.

The Executive Management of the WHPHA has

expressed shock at the loss of a senior officer, saying it would not be easy to replace some-one like him or any other health worker for that

matter.

It has expressed its deepest sorrow and condolences to his wife, children and his immediate family members on behalf of the Board and staff.



Staff of the WHPHA, friends and colleagues mourn the death of the late DHO for Dei, Saiglon Wimp at Mt Hagen Hospital after his body arrived back from the funeral home in Goroka.