

Project Brief on Professional Training Programme for Family Doctors

BACKGROUND

This project brief calls for an application for –

- (a) the organisation of a professional training programme for family doctors to enhance their awareness and knowledge of drug abuse, so that they may provide medical advice, screening and referral services to patients who have drug abuse problems; and
- (b) the production of a manual for family doctors to facilitate the provision of such services.

Funding from the Beat Drugs Fund (BDF) will be granted to a suitable applicant who best meets the requirements.

2. In recent years, the rise in the number of young psychotropic substances abusers aged under 21 has caused widespread concern. Many psychotropic substance abusers are “hidden” and/or are not motivated to seek help, and remain out of reach of the conventional help networks. Many of them also have the misconceptions that psychotropic substances are “soft” drugs, not addictive, and not harmful to health. Identification tools and early intervention programmes should hence be useful for avoiding occasional drug use from progressing to addiction, or identifying and motivating abusers to seek treatment and rehabilitation.

OBJECTIVES

3. Family doctors are primary health care providers at the community level. They are often the first point of contact for a person who starts to develop or has developed various symptoms arising from drug abusing behaviour, and hence a powerful tool in identifying drug abuse problems or potential problems, and intervening as appropriate.

4. The training programme shall enhance family doctors’ awareness of the drug problem, equip them with the necessary drug knowledge and skills to screen, advise or refer patients who have drug abuse problems to the relevant treatment services, hence widening the community network for early intervention. The manual shall serve as a handy and useful

reference for family doctors, whether or not they have attended the training programme, to provide such screening and brief intervention services.

5. The ultimate objective shall be mainstreaming drug abuse screening and intervention into the routine practice and healthcare setting of every family doctor.

DELIVERABLES

(1) Training to Family Doctors

6. The successful applicant shall arrange and/or partner with a recognised institution and qualified professionals to conduct a training programme for family doctors. Detailed requirements of the training programme are set out at **Appendix A**.

7. In connection, the successful applicant should be responsible for -

- (a) arranging a suitable venue for conducting the training;
- (b) liaising with the relevant authorities on suitable recognition of the training programme;
- (c) arranging the promotion and enrollment of the training programme;
- (d) preparing suitable documentation of the training materials; and
- (e) producing a CD-ROM containing all training materials for each participant and for distribution to all the registered doctors in Hong Kong and any organisations as specified by the Government.

(2) A Manual for Doctors

8. The successful applicant shall produce a manual to facilitate the provision of screening, intervention and referral services by family doctors. Detailed requirements of the manual are set out at **Appendix B**.

9. The successful applicant should also be responsible for delivering the manuals to all the registered doctors in Hong Kong and any organisations as specified by the Government.

(3) A Web-based Version

10. The successful applicant shall deliver a bilingual web-based version of the training materials and the manual as part of a government website for on-line access and self-learning, which should include an option of downloading the electronic files of the whole set of materials and manual. Useful links to other relevant anti-drug resources and services should also be provided.

11. In connection, the successful applicant should also -

- (a) maintain the web-based version for at least 12 months since its inception and update the information if necessary; and
- (b) submit the electronic files of all relevant deliverables with design and in editable form (e.g. Microsoft Word and Adobe Illustrator Files) to the Government.

APPLICATION

12. The applicant should submit in the proposal an implementation plan of the project. The project should last for two years to be commenced in 2008/09. The training programme should be conducted no later than April 2009.

13. The proposal shall also contain the following -

- (a) contents and structure of the training programme;
- (b) the composition of the project team (including qualified professionals) and manpower resources; and
- (c) a budget of the project, including estimated costs with the breakdowns for providing the required services and materials.

The applicant may consider the charging of reasonable fees on participants of the training programme. Any income of the project should go towards meeting the cost estimates of the project. For reference, an indication of the BDF funding is in the region of \$750,000.

PROJECT EVALUATION

14. The applicant should design an evaluation method with suitable

performance indicators on the deliverables. Feedbacks should be collected from the participating doctors of the training programme as well as users of the manuals. Interim evaluation and final evaluation on the effectiveness of the project should be conducted. Evaluation reports should be presented to the Government and/or any committees so specified by the Government.

MONITORING

15. The successful applicant shall regularly report progress of the project and the results of the interim and final evaluation to the Government or any committees so specified by the Government.

BDF PROCEDURES

16. The successful applicant shall follow all the BDF requirements, including accounting procedures and submission of evaluation report, etc. The standard payment procedures for BDF projects will be followed.

OTHERS

17. The successful applicant is required to attend suitable publicity functions and briefing sessions organised by the Government for the project.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION

18. The proposal shall reach the Narcotics Division at 30/F, High Block, Queensway Government Offices in seal on or before **6:00 p.m. on 17 November 2008 (Monday)**.

Narcotics Division
Security Bureau
September 2008

Professional Training Programme for Family Doctors

Target Participants

- At least 100 doctors registered under section 14 of the Medical Registration Ordinance (Cap. 161)
- Two identical training programmes may be conducted each for around 50 participants

Suggested Course Outline

- Drug abuse trends
- Knowledge on narcotic analgesics, psychotropic substances and drug abuse
- Drug screening skills and the use of drug screening tool to facilitate consideration on the severity of drug abuse for appropriate follow-up assistance or treatment
- Knowledge on drug screening tests (e.g. urine, blood, hair)
- Intervention skills (e.g. motivational interviewing to encourage behavioural change)
- Referral to drug treatment and rehabilitation services in Hong Kong
- Visits to voluntary drug treatment and rehabilitation facilities

Professional Recognition

- Participants of the training programme should be eligible for earning Continuous Medical Education points or equivalent
- A proposal that forms part of a recognised professional training programme of doctors would attract extra credits

Sustainability

- Applicants who demonstrate how the project and the website for on-line access and self-learning can be made sustainable upon expiry of funding from BDF would attract extra credits

Duration

- The mode of the training programme is subject to design by the applicant, but it should comprise at least 16 hours (e.g. lunchtime seminar or workshops), lasting for not more than 4 months. A proposal including small group practical sessions for family doctors will attract extra credits

A Manual for Doctors

Content

- Information on drug treatment and rehabilitation services in Hong Kong
- Information on drug screening tests available in Hong Kong
- A screening tool for drug use (e.g. in the form of standard screening tests and/or evidence-based questionnaires) to facilitate family doctors to screen and learn about whether a patient is at risk for problems related to drug abuse
- Standard form and protocol for referring patients to drug treatment and rehabilitation services in Hong Kong
- A simple reporting form to the Government's Central Registry of Drug Abuse of the basic drug abuse characteristics and personal profile of anonymous drug abusers who are in contact with the family doctor
- Other information/protocols that facilitate family doctors' identification of drug abusers and clinical assessments

Language

- A bilingual version or separate English and Chinese versions

Format

- A handy booklet in paper form and in CD-ROM format
- A downloadable version in electronic files

Production Quantity

- A total of 10 000 sets of the manual and 10 000 CD-ROMs (covering both the manual and the training materials) shall be required