



**Minutes of the Eighth Meeting of the Seychelles Medical and Dental Council held on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2017 at 1.00 pm in the PS Meeting Room, Red Roof**

**Members Present**

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|-----|------------------------|-----------|
| 1.  | Dr Bernard Valentin    | Chairman  |
| 2.  | Dr Susan Fock Tave     | Registrar |
| 3.  | Dr Harold Pothin       | Member    |
| 4.  | Dr Dereck Samsoodin    | Member    |
| 5.  | Father Danny Elizabeth | Member    |
| 6.  | Dr Winnie Low Wah      | Member    |
| 7.  | Dr Joachim Bistoquet   | Member    |
| 8.  | Mr Victor Pool         | Member    |
| 9.  | Ms Josie Chetty        | Member    |
| 10. | Dr Kenneth Henriette   | Member    |

**Absent with Apologies**

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|-----|----------------------|--------|
| 11. | Dr Valentina Seth    | Member |
| 12. | Dr Velmurugan Chetty | Member |

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Welcome and introductions</b>	
	The Chairman welcomed members present.	
<b>2.0</b>	<b>List of Registered Doctors and Dentists</b>	<b>Chairman</b>
	The Chairman informed the members that as per the Medical Practitioners and Dentists Act 1994, the list of Doctors and Dentists with valid registration as at 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2016 is ready for publication and would be sent to the Attorney General for publication in the Official Gazette before 15 <sup>th</sup> February 2017  There are 368 medical practitioners and dentists on the list as at 31 December 2016 – 47 dentists and 321 doctors.	

<b>3.0</b>	<b>Financial Matters</b>	
<b>3.1</b>	<p><b>Balance in Nouvobanq Account</b></p> <p>a) The Chairman reported that the balance in the Account held at Nouvobanq at the end of 2016 was SR 966.000.00</p> <p>b) This is much above the SR 850 000.00 forecast for 2016.</p> <p>c) This balance was achieved despite paying significant membership contributions (SR 50 000.00) to IAMRA and AMCOA.</p> <p>d) Members acknowledged the information and the financial success of SMDC.</p> <p>e) Although the Council to invest in Treasury Bills, this had not happened because further reflection is needed on the implications with regards to the financial assistance the Council receives from the Government.</p>	<b>Chairman</b>
<b>3.2</b>	<p><b>Ministry of Finance Allocation To SMDC</b></p> <p>a) The registrar updated the membership on financing support from the Ministry of Finance.</p> <p>b) A budget of SR 751 000.00 will be granted by MOF</p> <p>c) The allocation is earmarked for staff support and Board Director fees.</p> <p>d) SR 25,000 will remain for some other expenses</p>	<b>Registrar</b>
<b>3.3</b>	<p><b>Audit</b></p> <p>a) Documents have been forwarded to the auditor for the auditing process.</p> <p>b) For the third year running, Audit is being done by Ramani</p> <p>c) In the past Ramani has charged only SR1000 for the audit.</p>	<b><u>Chairman</u></b>
<b>3.4</b>	<p><b>Token Allowance for the Registrar</b></p> <p>The Chairman proposed that the token allowance for the Registrar, agreed upon by the Council last year, be renewed.</p> <p>All members agreed to this proposal.</p> <p>The Chairman explained that the Board member allowances are regulated by the Ministry of Finance, Trade and Blue Economy. Any request for increase has to be well substantiated.</p>	

4.0	<b>Overview of 2016</b>	<b>Registrar</b>
4.1	<p><b>IAMRA and AMCOA Membership</b></p> <p>a) The Chairman explained that the Council needs to draw tangible benefits from membership in the organisations. One benefit would be the exposure gained by bringing the organisations' meeting to Seychelles.</p> <p>b) Members agreed that an IAMRA meeting would be too ambitious, but an AMCOA meeting would be worth considering in the near future.</p>	<b><u>Chairman</u></b>
4.2	<p><b>Surge in number of complaints</b></p> <p>2016 saw a surge in the number of complaints lodged with the Council</p> <p>a) 14 complaints recorded in 2016 - 9 doctors and 5 dentists,</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. 1 case was withdrawn by complainant</li> <li>ii. 1 case was dismissed without further investigation after review of the facts</li> <li>iii. 9 cases were completed</li> </ol> <p>b) Outcomes</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Dismissal 2</li> <li>ii. Reprimand 1</li> <li>iii. Reprimand and fine 3</li> <li>iv. Reprimand and mandatory training 1</li> <li>v. Suspension and mandatory training</li> </ol> <p>All decisions are being uploaded to website.</p> <p>Surge in the number of complaints is probably due to greater public awareness of the workings of SMDC.</p> <p>This may also indicate system failure, lack of standards and guidelines. The Council should be looking at producing guidelines and guidance on a variety of issues. The work of the Council should not be seen to be reactive only, i.e. dealing with complaints, but also proactive, providing guidelines and training to prevent practice that gives rise to complaints. The main challenge is that the Council was designed to function on a part time basis. The reality however demands that there is full-time staff on the ground to do everything a medical regulatory authority should be doing. This why the Council is seeking to recruit a full-time Deputy Registrar, a degree holder, who can take over a lot, if not most, of what the Registrar is actually doing.</p> <p>The Chairman informed the Council that the Council is currently waiting for approval from Ministry of Employment to employ a foreign national in the post after the ideal candidate for the job had declined.</p>	<b>Registrar</b>

	<p>However, members felt that it was probably too early to draw any more conclusions from the above statistics. Observation over time will indicate any trend in the number and pattern of complaints.</p>	
4.3	<p><b>CME</b>  The Council is currently not doing enough to regulate Continuous Professional Development. Although the legislation currently limits what the Council can demand of its registrants, the council should come up with a framework encourage the registrants to do CPD and compile a portfolio on a voluntary basis.</p> <p>One such form of encouragement could be a reduction in fees for accumulating a set amount of CPD credit hours.</p> <p>A general discussion ensued about the limitations imposed on the Council by the current legislation. All members agreed that the Medical Practitioners and Dentists Act of 1994 needs to be amended. Everyone agreed however that this was unlikely to happen in the current political climate, where the Attorney General's Office is occupied with amending other, more important, pieces of legislation.</p>	
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Plans for 2017</b>	<b>Chairman</b>
<b>5.1</b>	<p><b>Recruitment of Deputy Registrar</b>  This was addressed in the discussions pertaining to 4.2 above</p>	
<b>5.2</b>	<p><b>Registration Cards</b>  This has been a longstanding plan of the Council. The Health Professionals Council has bought such a machine. The Council shall come to an agreement with the HPC to issue such registration cards as needed. The benefit will be that doctors can identified as such in different situations e.g. when a doctor is needed on a plane.</p>	
<b>6.0</b>	<p><b>Social Event</b>  The Chairman informed that the Council is still negotiating with H Hotel to organise the event. There was consensus that Saturday January 28<sup>th</sup> at 7pm would be better for everyone. Entertainment is not really a must. Maypaule to resume negotiations with H Hotel.</p>	<b>Chairman</b>

<b>7.0</b>	<b>Any other business</b>	<b><u>All</u></b>
<b>7.1</b>	<p><b>Additional CME (other than the International Symposium)</b></p> <p>The Registrar informed members that a series of seminars on Medical Liability were being planned to explain the implications of a recent Supreme court decision, which will have significant on the way medical negligence cases are handled in future. One meeting was organised end of 2016. However, the health care professional present had a lot of questions, which are best addressed in smaller groups.</p> <p>The plan is to bring the seminar to Praslin for Praslin and La Digue staff.</p> <p>Again, this will be organised in collaboration with the HPC and SNMC.</p> <p><b>July Symposium (International)</b> Day 1-revisit person centred care Day 2-Clinical governance</p> <p><b>October Symposium (International)</b> Palliative Care/End of Life Care</p> <p>Council will consider supporting any proposal for CME from any group of dentists and doctors.</p>	
<b>7.2</b>	The Council to consider meetings with registered doctors and dentists to inform them of the work of Council and of the recent decisions. This in itself would send a message to doctors that the Council is serious and act as a possible deterrent.	
<b>7.3</b>	<p><b>Office space</b></p> <p>One member proposed seeking alternative office space outside the Seychelles Hospital/Health Department premises as a visible sign of autonomy and impartiality.</p> <p>The Chair informed the Council that office space is limited within the Health Department headquarters. This will become more acute with the rollout of the Hospital Masterplan, which requires moving services around to free up space for redevelopment. As a result, the SMDC offices will have to move out. Discussions and negotiations are ongoing to relocate the offices to the rooms vacated by the Ex-Secretary of State in La Ciotat.</p>	
<b>7.4</b>	The Council should look at introducing an introductory pack for all new registrants. This would include standards, guidelines, legislations etc. The Council welcomed this suggestion and will consider this	

	once the new regulations come into force.	
<b>7.5</b>	<p><b>Clarification on Intern log book</b></p> <p>The Log book has been in use for two years now. Interns are requested to submit the end of term appraisals to the Council at the end of their internship, after which they are issued a certificate of internship and the word INTERN is removed from their Registration number.</p> <p>The Council recognises that the current framework is not perfect. Supervision may sometimes be of the desired level. The Council however does not have the necessary resources to supervise the interns and has to rely on the Consultants in Charge to do so.</p> <p>To date this is the case for Medical Interns. However, the dentists have not yet come up with a similar framework for dental interns. Therefore, the Council cannot issue dentists with such a certificate.</p> <p>Registrar to organise a meeting with all stakeholders to see how to move the process forward.</p>	
<b>7.6</b>	<p><b>Professional indemnity insurance</b></p> <p>This is a requirement for registration in many jurisdictions. The Medical Practitioners and Dentists Act 1994 does not provide for this.</p> <p>Practitioners in the Public Sector are covered by the Health Department. Private practitioners should have insurance cover, but the premiums may prove to be too exorbitant.</p>	
<p><b>Meeting was adjourned around 2.30pm after which the Council convened as an Investigating Committee to hear the respondent in the case against TSU-95-20-1-M-28</b></p>		