

Minutes  
of  
Policy and Advocacy Advisory Council Meeting: 10

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The PAAC meeting was held at the National Center for Disease control and Public Health on August 11, 2017 at 11:00.

**Objectives:**

- To discuss the main strategic scenarios/options for CCM transition
- To discuss the section 4.1 of the draft outline for CCM transition plan developed by the EHG consultants, concerning the future regulatory framework, structure, functions and financial mechanisms of the CCM.

**Attendees:**

<i>Nino Berdzuli</i>	Deputy Minister of Labor, Health and Social Affairs, PAAC Chair
<i>Irma Khonelidze</i>	Deputy General Director, National Center for Disease Control and Public Health
<i>Marina Darakhvelidze</i>	Head of HealthCare Department, Minister of Labor, Health and Social Affairs
<i>Ia Kamarauli</i>	HealthCare Department, Minister of Labor, Health and Social Affairs
<i>Ketevan Goginashvili</i>	HealthCare Department, Minister of Labor, Health and Social Affairs
<i>Ketevan Stvilia</i>	NCDCPH, PIU, HIV Program Manager
<i>Irine Javakhadze</i>	Ministry of Finance of Georgia, Budget department/State and consolidated Budget Formulation Division, Chief Specialist, PAAC member
<i>Nino Lomtadze</i>	Head of Surveillance and Strategic Planning Department, Coordinator of the Global Fund TB Program, National Center of Tuberculosis and Lung Diseases
<i>Natalia Zaqareishvili</i>	UNFPA, Program Analyst, PAAC Member
<i>Khatuna Todadze</i>	Center for Mental Health and Prevention of Addiction
<i>Maka Gogia</i>	HIV program director, Georgia Harm Reduction Network
<i>Tsitsi Surameli</i>	Ministry of Corrections, Medical Department
<i>Nino Darsavelidze</i>	NGO "New Vector", Advocacy Officer
<i>Giorgi Magradze</i>	Georgia Health Promotion and Education Foundation – TB Coalition member organization, Deputy Board Chairman
<i>Natia Khonelidze</i>	CCM, Administrative Assistant
<i>Tamar Zurashvili</i>	PAAC, Policy and Advocacy Specialist

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The meeting was opened by **Dr. Nino Berdzuli**, Deputy Minister, and PAAC Chair, who welcomed the attendees and introduced the purpose of the meeting: to discuss on (1) the main strategic scenarios/options for CCM transition and (2) the future regulatory framework, structure, functions and financial mechanisms of the CCM. She underlined the fact that there is a lack of documented experience regarding CCMs transitions in other countries, therefore Georgia will be one of the pioneer countries in this direction and the current meeting represents a beginning of this interesting process.

Policy and advocacy specialist Ms. Tamar Zurashvili briefly talked about the main strategic scenarios/options for CCM transition presented by the CCM integration study team at Georgia CCM Integration Study Workshop held on May 17, 2016. She highlighted the fact that the two options out of seven were named as the preferred options: **Option 1**: Maintain the status quo and **Option 3**: Keep CCM as a unique structure, but as a Board (within the MoLHSA) and apply CCM tools and practices. Ms. Zurashvili opened the floor for discussion and suggested the group to once again discuss the main strategic scenarios/options for CCM transition and afterwards the future functions of the CCM.

Discussions on maintaining the format of the Georgia CCM were held mainly around the first and the third strategic scenarios/options for CCM transition.

While discussing the third option of the CCM transition Dr. Berdzuli noted that there are many other boards under the MoLHSA structure (maternal and child health, non-communicable diseases, immunization and etc.), these boards are multisectoral and their members include non-governmental representatives as well, but differs from the CCM in the way that they don't apply the same tools as the CCM. The MoLHSA HealthCare Department represents the secretariat for these boards.

Discussion was held about to whom will the CCM be accountable when the GF eventually exits from Georgia. If the CCM becomes a board under the MoLHSA structure it will be accountable to the Ministry and the Minister as in the case of other existing boards. **Ms. Marina Darakhvelidze**, Head of the HealthCare Department of MoLHSA, stated that the general form of accountability like accountability to country-level stakeholders and the society that is presented in the CCM governance manual and the resolution #220, should remain and the post GF accountability on technical issues should be defined. She thinks that due to the fact that CCM should remain as a multisectoral board coordinated by multiple Ministries it would be better to maintain status quo and the board should be accountable to the government. Such format eases the process of issuing tasks from one government structure to another. Ms. Nino Berdzuli noted that this is the format in which the board is currently functioning and in this case it would be recommended to maintain the status quo.

Per the group initiative the discussion were held around the fifth (**Option 5**: Become an Oversight body to oversee transition process and ensure implementation of the transition plan, oversee national programs – it was noted that these are the functions currently carried out by the board and it will be important to keep them in the future) and the sixth options (**Option 6**: Merge with some existing body – it was noted that the current CCM is a highly organized body and on the contrary some other bodies could be integrated in it; merging with other bodies may weaken the CCM functionality) of the CCM transition.

Dr. Nino Berdzuli summarized and suggested, that if there was no differing opinion within the group (no differing opinion was expressed), to continue the discussions around the first and the third options of the CCM transition and addressed the committee members to talk about their preferences.

**Ms. Irine Javakhadze**, Chief Specialist at the Budget department/State and consolidated Budget Formulation Division at the Ministry of Finance of Georgia, stated that the first option would be the preferred one, the political decisions to be adopted by the board would be better implemented at governmental level rather than at the level of Ministry where the problems with communication might also occur.

Ms. Marina Darakhvelidze noted that the gradation of authority of those seven options seems to be in the reducing order and therefore it would be better to keep the best option possible.

After active discussions the group agreed on the recommendation to maintain CCM status quo.

Dr. Berdzuli noted that if the first version (status quo) is maintained, there also should be discussions concerning the future functions of the CCM and advised the group to also consider the expansion of the CCM functions.

Prior to discussing the future functions of the CCM **Ms. Irma Khonelidze**, Deputy General Director of the National Center for Disease Control and Public Health, provided the group with the information concerning the periods of GF current and future grant programs:

- The current grant programs are planned through the end of 2019 and in this format the CCM continues functioning.
- The next allocation period for Georgia is defined through 2020-2022 (Georgia is invited to submit the Program Continuation Request). Programs will be updated, but radical changes are not expected. Hence it will be necessary to communicate with the Global Fund till 2022 and to maintain the current CCM format to ensure this communication.
- If the current format of the GF is maintained, as it is defined for other countries, it is expected to receive a 2-3 year funding for the full transition period after 2022.

Dr. Berdzuli noted that depending on Georgia's choice of the CCM transition option there would definitely be the need for technical assistance and asked where it could be reflected in the plan, before or after 2022.

Ms. Khonelidze responded that there probably is no particular borderline for these periods; the same was true for the programmatic transition plan when Georgia though not yet been in a full transition period, has developed this plan and received funding from the GF for its elaboration as well as for the implementation of certain activities. She underlined the fact that countries are encouraged to start preparations for the transition period as soon as possible, and not when the time already comes.

Ms. Tamar Zurashvili briefly informed the group about the current regulatory framework, the structure, functions and financing mechanisms of the CCM and opened the floor for discussion on the above issues for the future CCM.

As a result of active discussions, the following **PAAC initial recommendations** were presented by the group:

- It is important that the CCM continues functioning after the GF exits the country
- It is recommended to maintain CCM status quo
- It is important to maintain CCM existing tools
- One of the main future functions of the CCM should be defined as - coordinate the development and implementation of national strategic plans and corresponding programs for HIV/AIDS and TB.
- It is recommended to expand the mandate of CCM and consider addition of coordination of the development and implementation of national strategic plan for Hepatitis C. Mr. Khonelidze suggested that discussions on adding Hepatitis C in the mandate of the CCM may be initiated within the current grant programs. Ms. Maka Gogia, HIV program Director at Georgia Harm Reduction Network, pointed out that GHRN implements a significant component of hepatitis C program along with the HIV program and it would be better for them if Hepatitis C is integrated in the CCM.
- It is possible to even further expand CCM mandate in the future and include the coordination functions for STI and Anti-Drug strategies and state programs. So that the coordination of all related state programs are included in the CCM mandate.
- There may be need of additional expertise due to the expansion of CCM mandate. For this reason the group suggested to keep the PAAC format and invite technical expertise depending on the thematic needs.
- Keep the oversight function of the CCM and oversee state programs under the relevant strategic plans that will be coordinated under the expanded mandate of the CCM (relevant indicator will be defined and dashboards developed)
- Funding for the oversight functions may be considered under the monitoring section of the relevant programs.
- Future structure of the CCM should be defined as follows: permanent - secretariat and oversight committee and additional temporary committees that will be set up as needs arise, for example PAAC.
- The functions of the secretariat / Secretariat of the multisectoral board can be integrated under any Ministry / structure represented at the CCM and might be funded by that Ministry / structure.
- Except for routine activities (organizing meetings, discussing topic, making decisions, preparing meeting minutes, which is accomplished by the CCM and the Secretariat), the oversight functions and mobilization of technical expertise may be set programmatically and granted the appropriate implementer or may be funded through mobilizing other relevant funds
- There is no need for reflecting future formal linkages (for example Memorandums of Understanding) with other coordination platforms.
- There is no need for discussing the formal legal power of the CCM to enforce its decisions. The CCM is a coordinating, collegial body, its decisions are advisory/recommended and per the Resolution #220 can facilitate discussions of important issues at the governmental level.

At the end of the meeting Ms. Irma Khonelidze briefly informed the group about the future activities of the PAAC regarding the development of Program Continuation Request: per the CCM decision made on the CCM meeting held on August 7, 2017, the Program Continuation Request will be developed within the PAAC format, the process will be transparent, documented and ensure the involvement of all

stakeholders (representatives of governmental and non-governmental sectors, SCOs and KAPs). Detailed work plan including timelines will be developed and circulated among PAAC members; discussions will be held around two major issues and rational recommendations will be presented to the CCM – (1) program split and (2) descriptive document – applicant self-assessment to inform program continuation. In order to ensure the engagement of all stakeholders in the process of developing Program Continuation Request, CCM secretariat will circulate information on involvement of additional members in PAAC among CCM members who will then disseminate the information among their constituencies.

At the conclusion Dr. Nino Berdzuli summarized the meeting and thanked the participants.

**Next Steps:**

*CCM transition plan*

- The initial recommendations will be reflected in the minutes of the meeting and disseminated among committee members; additional recommendation and comments from PAAC members will be shared in electronic format; PAAC recommendations will be disseminated among CCM members to get the feedback from the full CCM.
- Minutes of the meeting and initial recommendations will be shared with EHG consultants and based on their feedback discussion points will be defined and planned for the next PAAC meeting.

*Program Continuation Request*

- To ensure the engagement of all stakeholders in the process of developing Program Continuation Request, CCM secretariat will circulate information on involvement of additional members in PAAC among CCM members who will then disseminate the information among their constituencies;
- Detailed work plan for the development of Program Continuation Request will be developed and circulated among PAAC members.

**Minutes prepared by Tamar Zurashvili**

Policy and Advocacy Specialist, PAAC

Tamar Zurashvili



Policy and Advocacy Specialist