

Minutes
of
Policy and Advocacy Advisory Council Meeting: 2

The PAAC meeting was held at the NCDCPH on May 16, 2016 at 16:00.

Objectives:

Election of the PAAC chair; presentation of transition plan outline.

Attendees:

Tamar Gabunia - CCM Vice-Chair, USAID funded Georgia Tuberculosis Prevention Project
Nino Berdzuli – Deputy Minister of Labor, Health and Social Affairs
Konstantine (Koka) Labartkava – GeNPUD, “New Vector
Tamar Borstvadze – MdM
Irine Javakhadze – Ministry of Fianance
Giorgia Magradze – Georgian Health Promotion Education Foundation (GHPEF)
David Alkhazashvili – Patients’ Union
Natalia Zakareishvili – UNFPA, Program Analyst
Khatuna Todadze – Center for mental Healrh and Prevention of Addiction, Deputy Director General
Ketevan Stvilia – NCDC, PIU, HIV Program Manager
Giorgi Soselia – NCDC PIU, HIV M&E
Maka Danelia – USAID Fuded Georgia Tuberculosis Prevention Project, M&E Advisor
Nino Badridze – AIDS Center
Tea Jibuti – CIF, TB expert
Ana Zhulina – CIF, Project Coordinator
Irma Khonelidze – NCDC, Deputy Director
Ekaterine Kavtaradze – NCDC, Deputy Director
Akaki Zoidze – CIF
Ketevan Chkhatarashvili – CIF, President
Mzia Tabatadze – CIF, Consultant
Natia Khonelide – CCM, Administrative Assistant

The meeting was opened by Dr. Tamar Gabunia who presented the second meeting agenda and objectives and suggested to elect a deputy minister Nino Berdzuli as a chair of the group. The group voted for the chair.

Dr. Akaki Zoidze presented the draft outline describing objectives and key activities of the transition plan. He briefed the audience on the process of document development and reviewed in details each component of the outline. Dr. Zoidze underlined that the document shall serve as a roadmap for transition, so it shall be comprehensive and include all needed interventions, including those that eventually will be covered by the GF projects. Another important step is prioritization of implementable activities that are most important for sustainability.

Each component of the outline was discussed by the group members. Dr. Nino Berdzuli pointed at a number of activities, such as decriminalization to reduce stigma go beyond the authority of MoLHSA. The Ministry can only advocate for it. It was agreed that due to significance of the issue, it is reasonable initiate consultations and use a momentum as the National Drug Policy is under development. The more so that internationally the countries are advised to move into this direction.

Dr. Nata Zakareishvili inquired if youth is considered as a target group as it is not clearly seen in the outline. Dr. Gabunia explained that the transition plan outline does not revise activities or target groups identified in the corresponding strategies.

Dr. Khatuna Todadze - this is a three year plan but for some areas the time is more limited, for instance methadone substitution programs have to be transferred in a year. So she suggested to prioritize activities that shall be completed earlier. Dr. Zoidze - the plan has to be finalized by November, but this does not mean that certain actions cannot be initiated in parallel. Besides, the transition plan will require revision by the end of 2017, when the GF projects become fully functional. Dr. Irma Khonelidze mentioned that as part of transition phase integration of some activities into state programs has already been initiated.

Special attention was paid to monitoring. The monitoring indicators are not presented in the draft outline, but will be added when the objectives and activities are agreed. It was also mentioned that certain technical issues have to be considered for data availability. MoLHSA already uses separate budget lines for TB and HIV, but these figures are not seen in BDD thus, narrative will be needed to describe the content.

Dr. Tamar Gabunia raised the issue of procurement and supply chain management and quality improvement as important but missing areas in the proposed outline. Dr. Khonelidze supported this suggestion focusing on the necessity to include procurement and supply chain management as an issue requiring justification of the most effective and efficient approaches. The more so that the current practice poses a number of challenges to be addressed. She also suggested consideration of pharmacovigilance topic. Dr. Zoidze agreed that although quality maybe reviewed under the overall umbrella of health care system, these issues may be included in the transition plan.

Dr. Gabunia summarized the meeting and thanked the participants.

Decision points:

Dr. Nino Berdzuli is elected as a Chair of PAAC.

The objectives presented in the outline are accepted.

Procurement and supply chain management and quality improvement components will be added to the outline.

The group members have one week so send additional comments and remarks. After that the draft outline will be revised and distributed to PAAC.

Minutes prepared by Maka Danelia

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