



Meeting Minutes

Date: September 14, 2023

Time: 11:00 AM

Location: Avari Towers

Attendees:

1. Dr. Khawaja Laeeq Ahmed (NPO TB WHO Pakistan)
2. Dr. Salman Khan (TB Consultant Sindh WHO)
3. Dr. Zulfiqar Ali Dharejo (Deputy Director General CDC)
4. Dr. Salim Hasan Kazmi (SPPO Sindh CDC)
5. Dr. Samreen Ashraf (Deputy Director CDC)
6. Dr. Iftikhar Ahmed (Director OICD, Dean of Medicine, DUHS)
7. Dr. Farzana Batool (Assistant Prof. ID, OICD, DUHS)
8. Dr. Sana Siddiqui (Research Associate, OICD, DUHS)
9. Dr. Hassan Raza (Chief Pharmacist, OICD, DUHS)
10. Dr. Nadeem Ahmed (SMO, OICD Clinic, Liyari General Hospital)

Minutes:

1. WHO Collaboration Center

Dr. Salman briefed the quorum about WHO's offer to Dow University to become the first WHO collaboration centre in Pakistan. Dow University is currently in the pre-designation phase, and in order to be designated as the **first WHO collaboration centre in Pakistan**, it must actively engage in various activities with WHO for a mandatory period of two years.

Dr. Salim introduced everyone to Dr. Dharejo and informed them regarding trainings for TB program held at OICD, DOW.

Dr. Sana informed the quorum that a committee has been formed to facilitate this collaboration, and Dow University is actively involved in different activities, including research, training, and various physical and virtual meetings.

Dr. Iftikhar proposed that the pre-designation phase should be reduced to one year instead of two, a suggestion supported by Dr. Laeeq Ahmed. Dr. Laeeq Ahmed also emphasized the need for all activities to be planned and time framed.

Dr. Laeeq proposed of an executive meeting to be held for the Vice Chancellor, Dr. Dharejo, Dr. Iftekhar, Dr. Salim as well as the health minister so as to brief them accordingly. He further advised the quorum to involve CDC and engage with WHO in all activities, from research to trainings.

Dr. Nadeem emphasized the importance of documenting even small virtual calls and minor meetings which are being made as record keeping and a file should be maintained.

2. MOTT Treatment

Dr. Iftikhar and Dr. Farzana discussed the treatment of Mycobacteria other than tuberculosis (MOTT). While MOTT patients were initially treated alongside DR TB patients, a recent decision was made to separate MOTT patients and establish a new facility for their treatment. Dr. Iftikhar mentioned that an email had been sent to CDC requesting MOTT medicines, injectable as well as NTP medicines but had not yet received them. Dr. Dharejo advised that a tender should be issued for MOTT medicines, and proper requirement log should be maintained. Dr. Nadeem also suggested a retrospective study on already enrolled MOTT cases.

3. CDC Clinic in DUHS for the treatment of Hepatitis B & C and HIV

Dr. Iftikhar further informed the quorum about the upcoming Pulmonology ICU, which will be free of cost. He also mentioned renovations in progress to create separate facilities for the treatment of Active Tuberculosis patients to reduce the spread of TB. Currently, TB patients are treated in IYCC clinics alongside other pulmonary disease patients. Dr. Dharejo suggested adopting national as well as global guidelines in establishing an integrated site for the treatment of Hepatitis B, C, HIV, and TB to minimize the spread of these diseases and reduce transfer out. Dr. Farzana mentioned patients were having trouble with confirmatory PCR tests at OICD and it had to be outsourced. Dr. Samreen agreed to treat HIV, Hepatitis B & C patients along with TB and emphasized the importance of early diagnosis and screening. Dr. Dharejo also offered to provide free screening kits and confirmatory test PCR machines for Hepatitis B and C, as well as the necessary logistics.

4. Integration of DUHS HIMS with CDC and DIHS2

Dr. Hassan Raza briefed the quorum regarding paperless environment at OICD and the updates on HIMS.

Dr. Nadeem emphasized on the importance of implementing the integrated Health Information Management System (HIMS) with CDC and DIHS2.

Dr. Laeeq praised the integration of DIHS2, a global Information system, highlighting its unique interoperability.

Dr. Samreen informed the quorum about the ongoing training of Tracker for the IT Department and participants from OICD being enrolled.

Dr. Iftikhar requested a review of the list of Dow University employees participating in this training.

5. Future Trainings

Dr. Salman suggested not involving retired or near-retirement employees in future training programs.

Lastly, Dr. Iftikhar suggested that a quarterly planner should be made with dates for fortnight meetings to maintain availability and coordination among the committee, CDC as well as WHO to maintain regular communication upon which everyone agreed.

Minutes prepared by: Hassan Raza

Date: 18th September 2023